A Handful of 19th Century American Books

1. ADAMS, Francis Colburn. Manuel Pereira; or, The Sovereign Rule of South Carolina, With views of Southern laws, life, and hospitality... Written in Charleston, South Carolina. Washington, D.C.: Buell & Blanchard, 1853. 8vo, original front wrapper (detached), printed spine (rear wrapper lacking). Pp. 302, [1, ad], uncut. Wrapper and spine chipped, corners missing; light stains; a good, uncut copy. $200.00

First edition. A novel by a Southern author which critically addresses states' rights and slavery. "It is our object to show the reader how many gross abuses of power exist in Charleston ... In doing this, the task becomes a delicate one, for there are so many things we could wish were not so, because we know there are many good people in the community whose feelings are enlisted in the right, but their power is not coequal..." - p. 138. Adams was born in South Carolina, and wrote several novels.

2. [BENJAMIN, Park, Jr.]. Shakings . Etchings from the Naval Academy. By a Member of the Class of '67. Engraved by John Andrew. Boston: Lee & Shepard, [1867]. Oblong 8vo, bevelled gilt pictorial blue cloth. [61] leaves; illus. Cloth rubbed at extremities, occasional soiling. $250.00


First edition, scarce. Inscribed "Presented to Pliny Lyman, Esqr. by the author." Inserted is a contemporary broadside "Genealogy of David Boies, who was the first settler of that name in Blandford, Mass. Arranged by James Boies."

First edition. Brewster was a Philadelphia born novelist who lived in Rome for many years. The present work is an autobiographical travel novel set in Naples. Wright II 362.

5. Du HAYS, Charles. *The Percheron Horse.* [Baltimore:] Privately Printed, 1886. Large 4to, original japan vellum boards, printed in gilt and red. Pp. 128, uncut. With 34 mounted japan proof gravure portraits of horses. Repairs to spine, top of front hinge just starting to split, otherwise a very good, unopened copy. $475.00

An elegant production on hand-made paper, privately printed by Baltimore merchant and art collector William Thompson Walters some twenty years after he first translated the work and had it published by Orange Judd. Walters was the first to import the Percheron to America for breeding purposes, and the breed was a lifelong enthusiasm. He wrote a new introduction and notes for the present edition, and provided handsome illustrations of horses from his stable.

6. GARDNER, F[ranklin] B. *How to Paint. The Complete Compendium of the Art. Designed for the use of the tradesman, mechanic, merchant, and farmer, and to guide the professional painter, containing a plain common-sense statement of the methods employed by painters to produce satisfactory results in plain and fancy painting of every description, including gilding, bronzing, staining, graining, marbling, varnishing, polishing, kalsomining, paper-hanging, striping, lettering, copying, and ornamenting, with formulas for mixing paint in oil or water; descriptions of the various pigments used, their average cost, and the tools required.*

New-York: Samuel R. Wells, 1875.

12mo, orig blue cloth, gilt. Pp. 126 + 18pp ads. Ownership signature on fly leaf. A very good copy. $150.00

By the author of *The Carriage Painter’s Manual.*

7. [GRIFFITH, Mary.] *Our Neighbourhood: Or, Letters on Horticulture and Natural Phenomena, Interspersed with Opinions on Domestic and Moral Economy.* New York: E. Bliss, 1831. 8vo, contemporary tree calf, leather label. Pp. 332. Binding rubbed, a bit foxed, but a very good, tight copy. $400.00

First edition of the author’s first major publication, a novel taking place in Franklin Township, New Jersey, where Griffith had bought a farm. AI 7368; Wright I, 1072.


Windsor [Vt]: Preston Merrifield, 1809. 12mo, contemp calf, morocco label, spine ruled in gilt. Pp. 264. Top of spine worn, label chipped, otherwise a very good, sound copy; with the ticket of Charleston SC bookseller John Mill. $350.00

Austin 932; McCorison 1083; Imprints 17771.
9. MURRAY, W[illiam] H[enry] H[arrison]. *Daylight Land: The Experiences, Incidents, and Adventures, Humorous and Other-wise, which Befell Judge John Doe, Tourist, of San Francisco; Mr Cephas Pepperell, Capitalist, of Boston; Colonel Goffe, the Man from New Hampshire, and Divers Others, in Their Parlor-Car Excursion over Prairies and Mountain All of Which I Saw, and One of Whom I Was.* Illustrated with one hundred and forty designs in colors under the supervision of J.B. Millet. Boston: Cupples & Hurd, 1888. Lg. 8vo, orig publisher’s pictorial cloth, stamped in gilt. Pp. 338 + 4pp ads. Original color pictorial wrappers bound in. Minor rubbing to edges and corners; inner hinge tender; a very good, bright copy. $100.00

First edition. 150 illustrations in various tones.


New York: Orange Judd, 1882.


A very bright, near fine copy. $175.00


"Second edition - improved." A succinct handbook for arguing the abolition cause. Sunderland, a Methodist preacher who later renounced his faith, presided over the first Methodist anti-slavery convention in 1834. See Appleton's. Imprints 46961. $175.00


First edition. European travels for the Christian reader, with particular attention to places of worship, individual preachers, church demographics, etc., along with the usual tourist anecdotes. Imprints 35376.

13. STANHOPE. Colonel Leicester. *Greece in 1823 and 1824; Being a Series of Letters, and Other Documents, on the Greek Revolution, Written During a Visit to that Country. To which is added The Life of Mustafa Ali.* Philadelphia: A, Small, E. Parker, et al, 1825. Lg 8vo, orig. plain boards, paper label. Pp. X [xi], 308, uncut. Binding soiled, top of spine frayed; occasional foxing and staining, but overall a decent, uncut copy. $250.00

First American edition.

14. STEARNS, Samuel. *The American Herbal, or Materia Medica. Wherein the virtues of the mineral, vegetable, and animal productions of North and South America are laid open, as far as they are known; and their uses in the practice of physic and surgery exhibited.* Walpole: Printed by David Carlisle, for Thomas & Thomas., 1801. 12mo, contemp. tree calf, gilt morocco label. Extremities of spine worn, hinges
cracked, front cover nearly detached; generally fresh and sound internally. With the contemp. bookplate "John Randall's Property." $3,000.00

First edition of the first herbal compiled in America.

15. STEWART, James. The Lungs; Their Uses and the Prevention of Their Diseases; with practical remarks on the use of remedies by inhalation. New York: W. H. Graham, 1848. 12mo, orig, cloth stamped gilt. Pp. 139. A fine copy. $175.00

First edition. A presentation copy, inscribed to the noted Maine poet, journalist and critic John Neal. Dr. Stewart (1799-1864) was a noted specialist in pulmonary diseases in children, and did much charitable work in New York City. See Appleton's.

16. THAXTER, Celia. An Island Garden. With pictures and illustrations by Childe Hassam. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin and Co, 1894. Lg 8vo; cream-colored cloth, decorated in gilt by Sarah Wyman Whitman. Pp. ix, 3, 126; t.e.g., other edges untrimmed. 12 tissue-guarded color plates, and 10 heading illustrations in color. Covers soiled, parts of spine discolored; internally a very good bright copy. $1,800.00

First edition. Inscribed on the endpaper to Thaxter's closest friend and executrix, "To Rose Lamb with faithful love from Celia Thaxter. March 1894."

17. THORBURN, Grant. Sketches From the Note-Book of Laurie Todd. Dedicated to the Young Men's Mercantile Association. New York: Printed by D. Fanshaw, 1847. 8vo, plain wrappers with printed title label, stitched. Pp. 32. Engraved frontis. port. Soiled and browned, some wear to wrappers; a good copy in original state. In a green cloth slipcase. $200.00

First edition. A scarce collection of articles by the noted Scots-American seedsman, with avuncular advice for a happy life in a series of "Hints to Young Merchants and Their Clerks," as titled on the front wrapper label. Includes the separately titled "History of Cardeus and Carver, or the Christian and Infidel Family," where Thorburn takes characteristic swipes at former associate Thomas Paine, Paine's friend William Carver, and all like free-thinking deists. See the DAB, where these articles are noted for their "mixture of naïveté, keen observation and whimsical or bitter humor."