

RARE GEMS IN BOOKS.

LITERARY TREASURES IN THE ASTOR LIBRARY IN NEW YORK.

Volumes That Are Storehouses of Scholarship and Are Worth Small Fortunes. Ancient Illustrations in Priceless Manuscripts.

Even many otherwise well informed people are not aware that the public libraries of this city contain some of the choicest literary gems extant—books for which wealthy bibliophiles have offered fabulous sums. If New York is not the literary center of America, then books immense in number, rare in antiquity and almost priceless in value are not factors in the competition.

There are thirty-four public libraries in New York, and the number and value of the volumes within their walls have grown so rapidly that Paris, Munich and even London will be surpassed in their library collections if the present growth continues.

The day when the citizen of New Amsterdam was content to sit outside his door, drink beer, smoke, grow fat and die in the firm belief that he had enjoyed life, has given way to an entirely different state of affairs.

Twenty-five years ago one public library collection was considered sufficient to meet the demands of every class, calling or profession. Today nine institutions can be picked out, each one of which is patronized by a single class. The Astor is the richest of all our libraries. One million dollars' worth of books repose upon its shelves, but not without frequent disturbance. From fifty to 100 students men and women are delving into the enchanting mysteries of some favorite theme every day that the reading rooms are open to the public.

The library contains nearly 300,000 worth of rare books and manuscripts, which are seldom allowed to go into the hands of the public. Perhaps the largest and finest single volume in New York may be found there. If any one thinks that the contemporaries of Shakespeare and Milton would marvel at the superb product of modern illustrators he is very much mistaken. Nothing has been produced in the last century that can equal, much less rival, the illustrations in a Seventeenth century manuscript entitled "Antiphonale." It contains 228 pages of vellum, adorned by 272 small and 53 large miniatures in the highest style of the French art of that day. Some of its illustrations have been attributed to Le Brun, the great painter of the time of Louis XIV. The larger paintings for the most part are scenes from the Scriptures appropriate to the various church festivals, and many of the initial letters which accompany the stanzas are illuminated in a style wholly unknown at the present day.

This volume, bound in purple morocco, with gilt mountings and ornamented with the flower-de-luce, was designed for the coronation of Charles V. At a public sale it would easily command several thousand dollars.

Another valuable work is Sylvester's "Universal Paleography," in two volumes, containing upward of 300 finely executed facsimiles of medieval works of art. This sumptuous work is said to have cost the sum of £20,000 for its execution alone. Among other rarities is a copy of the first letter written by Christopher Columbus after he discovered America. There are only six copies of these in existence. The letter consists of only four leaves, but at a London auction sale in 1872 it brought \$700.

Another rare volume to be found only in this library is Lloyd's "History of Columbia, Now Called Wales," published in 1654. It contains the legendary narrative of the expedition of Prince Modoc and a Welsh company that voyaged to America prior to Columbus, but never returned. Many foreigners have sent to this country for abstracts from this rare volume.

The earliest known editions of Ptolemy's geography repose on the shelves of the Astor. The dates on their title pages range from 1478 to 1621. There is also a superb specimen of the "Biblia Sacra Latina" of 1462, the first edition of the Bible bound in old crimson morocco, with gilt edges, which is worth \$10,000. Inside the covers are the names of those "immortal printers," Johann Faust and Peter Schaeffer. The oldest polyglot edition of the Scriptures, executed at the order of Cardinal Ximenes, which cost 50,000 ducats in gold and fifteen years for its preparation, is also at the Astor.

The oldest manuscript of all is the "Lectones Evangelii," printed on vellum and containing whole pages of illuminations. This manuscript was executed by the monks in A. D. 1170, and is almost priceless in value. No other library in America possesses such a treasure. Next in point of antiquity is John Wyclif's English version of the New Testament, written in 1380, and containing the autobiography of Humphrey, duke of Gloucester. There are also two rich Persian manuscripts of the Fifteenth century, besides manuscripts of more recent date.

Several competent Egyptologists, among them the late Miss Amelia B. Edwards, who inspected the collection during her visit to this city, have pronounced the library especially rich in oriental works. The great work of James Audubon on the "Birds of America," consisting of four volumes, would probably bring \$5,000. Elliott's Indian Bible, dated 1661, the first Bible printed in America; the Geneva, or the Breeches Bible of 1560; a copy of the papal bull against Luther, 1520; rare Siamese manuscripts, and the valuable and interesting collection of autograph letters from emperors, poets, statesmen, presidents, soldiers and authors are included in this collection.—New York Herald.

A Sunday Suit.
Mr. Constant Squabbler—What kind of a suit do you think I had better get for Sundays?
Mrs. C. S.—Well, if you want one to match your usual Sunday disposition, you had better get a pepper and salt suit.—Exchange.

A TREASURED COAT.

IT WAS SLASHED BY WILKES BOOTH WHILE RUNNING AWAY.

The Coat Was Worn by the Leader of the Orchestra the Night Lincoln Was Assassinated—A New Story About an Historic Tragedy.

William Withers, Jr., is the quiet man who leads the orchestra at the California theater, and when not marshaling his musicians is writing music in his room at the Brooklyn hotel. He is so retiring that few can claim to know him well, although his musical genius has for thirty-five years given him standing among the composers and leaders of the country.

Mr. Withers is fifty-five years old now, yet looks to be not more than forty, and would appear even younger except for an episode that occurred on the evening of April 14, 1865, at Fort's theater in Washington. That evening Withers almost had the unpleasant distinction of being murdered by Wilkes Booth after the latter had fired the fatal shot at President Lincoln and was rushing madly from the stage to an entrance where a confederate had a horse in waiting.

Mr. Withers' most valued treasure is a dress coat, now in part destroyed by the moth that corrupts all wool, but on the back of the coat can be plainly seen two clean cut slits, made with a sharp edge. One, high up, as though a stroke for the wearer's neck, had missed it by a little and descended upon the garment. The other cut, nearly over the center of the space under which the wearer's right shoulder blade would be, is longer but equally well defined, and made with the same sharp steel.

Wilkes Booth made both these slits, and the wonder is that his victim was not fatally slashed, instead of being only nicked through the upper cut.

The coat was new when Mr. Withers put it on to lead the orchestra on the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's visit to the play, but the coat has never been worn since, so great was the sentimental devotion of the musician to the great man who won for friends all who came to know him.

Every one knows the story of Lincoln's assassination while sitting in an upper box of Ford's theater enjoying "Our American Cousin," but few have learned what occurred just after Booth had fired the cowardly shot, because William Withers is the only man who can tell the story, and he does not often do it.

"When the fatal shot was fired," he says, "I thought some property man had fired a pistol. Just then I heard a heavy fall on the stage and the people began to yell: 'Hang him! Lynch him! Stop him!' and I saw a man running across the stage toward me. When he got near I saw his eyes were almost starting from his head and there was the most fearful expression on his face I ever saw.

"I recognized Wilkes Booth and at that instant he put down his head and came rushing on, saying: 'Let me pass! let me pass!'

"I was standing where I could not move much, the passage was so narrow. He came on and when he got near struck me with a bowie knife and kept saying, 'Let me pass! I felt the cut and turned a little. Then he struck the knife into me again near the back of my neck and I fell. When I was down he rushed to the stage door, grasped the knob with both hands and dragged the door open. I saw 'Peanut' John standing outside holding a bay horse. Then Booth pulled the door shut.

"Very soon Detective Stewart ran over me and out of the door after Booth. The crowd came upon the stage and grabbed me and wanted to hang me right there, but some who knew me shouted that I was not the man. I was arrested, however, and taken to jail, when Mayor Wallace examined me.

"I thought I was severely cut, but when I took off my clothes I found that the knife had only pierced my clothing and cut the skin a little. The cuts were as clean as though a razor had made them, and I have never understood how I escaped. The knife was found in front of the patent office, where Booth had dropped it as he rode away after the murder.

"I had seen Booth before the show standing near the Tenth street entrance to the theater, and after the performance began saw him again standing against the rear wall of the parquet circle, and then noted that he had gone into the balcony. After President Lincoln came in Booth stole down the balcony until he could look through a hole that had been bored in the box door and locate the president exactly. Then he had opened the door a little, taken careful aim and fired the fatal shot. He burst through the box and jumped fourteen feet to the stage.

"It was such an experience as I never wish to have again. It made me sick for weeks, and I get excited now when I think of it. I taught little 'Tad' Lincoln to play the drum, and was always kindly treated by the president. The whole shooting and escape were done in a few seconds and unexpectedly. Booth had evidently made his plan carefully, and was prepared to resort to any means to avoid arrest. I keep that old coat now, and value it more than anything else I have."—San Francisco Examiner.

PLEASURE CALENDAR.

December 30—Eleventh annual ball of St. Ann's T. A. B. Pioneer Corps at Freeland opera house. Admission, 50 cents.

December 31—Ball of Kosciusko Beneficial Society, at Freeland opera house. Music by Polish orchestra. Admission, 50 cents.

January 1—First Slavonian masquerade ball, at Freeland opera house. Admission, 50 cents.

January 18 and 19—Tea party and oyster supper, under the auspices of Owena Council, No. 47, Degree of Pocohontas, at Cottage hotel hall. Tickets, 25 cents.

January 21—Ball of Assembly No. 5, National Slavonian Society, at Freeland opera house. Admission, 25 cents.

January 23—Fourth annual ball of the Tigers Athletic Club, at Freeland opera house. Admission, 50 cents.

The Echo Organ and Electricity. The echo organ is something that the most unmusical can appreciate. It is part of the great organ, and still removed from it. Sometimes it is put in the loft between the ceiling and the roof, but the best authorities recommend that it be kept in a room built expressly for it well up toward the ceiling, with openings to permit the sound to reach the auditorium, but always higher than the main organ, because its voice follows the dying notes of the great organ like an echo, and the best effect is given when the echo descends, as though it were the answering voice of angels.

There is such an echo organ in Grace church, and a great one is building in this city for All Saints Catholic church, at One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street and Fourth avenue.

The beautiful idea of the echo organ is not new, for there is one in the great Harlem organ, which was built in 1735, but the use of electricity for playing the echo organ is new, and it is the only way in which the echo organ can be used to perfection without an entirely separate organ and organist. With the electrical keyboard the organist plays the echo organ from the keyboard of the great organ, both together if desired, but usually separately. One of the first electric action organs built in this country was exhibited at the American institute fair in 1869. It was made in this city.—New York Times.

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

BETHEL BAPTIST. Ridge and Walnut Streets. Rev. C. A. Spaulding, Pastor. Sunday School.....10:00 A M Gospel Temperance.....2:30 P M Preaching.....6:00 P M

HEAVENLY RECRUITS. Centre Street, above Chestnut. Rev. Charles Brown, Pastor. Morning Service.....10:00 A M Sunday School.....2:00 P M Love Feast.....3:15 P M Preaching.....7:30 P M

JEDDO METHODIST EPISCOPAL. In charge of Rev. E. M. Chilcoat. Sunday School.....2:00 P M Preaching.....7:00 P M

ST. ANN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC. Rev. M. J. Fallis, Pastor; Rev. F. P. McNally, Curate. Low Mass.....8:00 A M High Mass.....10:30 A M Sunday School.....2:00 P M Vespers.....4:00 P M Mass on Weekdays.....7:00 A M

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL. South and Washington Streets. Rev. A. J. Kuehn, Pastor. Sunday School.....1:30 P M Prayer and Sermon.....7:00 P M

ST. JOHN'S REFORMED. Walnut and Washington Streets. Rev. H. A. Benner, Pastor. Sunday School.....9:00 A M German Service.....10:30 A M English Sermon.....7:00 P M Prayer and teachers' meeting every Saturday evening at 7:45 o'clock.

ST. KASIMER'S POLISH CATHOLIC. Ridge Street, above Carbon. Rev. Joseph Mazotas, Pastor. Mass.....9:00 A M Vespers.....4:00 P M Mass on Weekdays.....7:30 A M

ST. LUKE'S GERMAN LUTHERAN. Main and Washington Streets. Rev. A. Heimuller, Pastor. Sunday School.....9:00 A M German Service.....10:30 A M Catechism instruction.....5:00 P M

ST. MARY'S GREEK CATHOLIC. Rev. Cyril Gulovich, Pastor. Low Mass.....8:00 A M High Mass.....10:30 A M Vespers.....2:00 P M

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL. Birkbeck Street, South Heberton. Rev. E. M. Chilcoat, Pastor. Preaching.....10:00 A M Sunday School.....2:00 P M Prayer and Class Meeting.....7:00 P M Epworth League meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 o'clock.

WELSH BAPTIST. (Donop's Hall) Walnut and Ridge Streets. Sunday School.....10:30 A M Prayer Meeting.....6:00 P M

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.
FOR CONSTABLE—
CHARLES SAULT, of Five Points. Subject to the decision of the Democratic nominating convention of Foster township.

FOR SUPERVISOR—
JOHN METZGER, of East Foster. Subject to the decision of the Democratic nominating convention of Foster township.

FOR SUPERVISOR—
JOHN O'DONNELL, of Eckley. Subject to the decision of the Democratic nominating convention of Foster township.

FOR TAX COLLECTOR—
CONRAD BREHM, of Upper Lehigh. Subject to the decision of the Democratic nominating convention of Foster township.

FOR SALE—One house, 24x34 feet; stable, 30x20 feet; lot, 25 feet front; also good wood and fixtures of saloon. Michael Welsh, Five Points, Freeland.

FOR SALE—Two lots situated on east side of Washington street, between Luzerne and Carbon streets, Five Points. Apply to Patrick McFadden, Eckley, or T. A. Buckley, Freeland.

BIDS.—Bids will be received up to December 15, 1892, by the Foster township school board, for the sale of No. 2 Buck Mountain school house, situated between Eckley and Buck Mountain. Bids must be sent to the secretary of the board, Thomas McHugh, Jeddo, Pa.

FOR SALE—A two-story frame shingle-roof dwelling house on Burton's Hill, lately occupied by Jenkin Giles; the lot is 65 feet wide and 150 feet deep; it is all improved and has many fine fruit trees growing thereon. Also a lot 31x110 on the west side of Centre street, above Chestnut. Titles Guaranteed. Apply to John D. Hayes, attorney-at-law.

"PROTECTION OF FREE TRADE." By Henry George. The leading statesmen of the world pronounce it the greatest work ever written upon the tariff question. No statistics, no figures, no evasions. It will interest and instruct you. Read it.

Copies Free at the Tribune Office.

TALES FROM TOWN TOPICS. 2d year of the most successful Quarterly ever published. More than 3,000 LEADING NEWS-PAPERS in North America have complimented this publication during its first year, and universally concede that its numbers afford the brightest and most entertaining reading that can be had.

Published 1st day of September, December, March and June. As a New Year's gift, or send the price, 50 cents, in stamps or postal note to

TOWN TOPICS, 21 West 23d St., New York.

Subscription Price: Town Topics, per year, - \$4.00 Tales From Town Topics, per year, 3.00 The two combined, - 7.00 Town Topics sent 3 months on trial for \$1.00. N. B.—Previous Nos. of "Tales" will be promptly forwarded, postpaid, on receipt of 50 cents each.

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When Baby was sick, we cried her Castoria. When she was a Child, she gave her Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Old newspapers for sale.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SALE! Here is the place to find a MAMMOTH STOCK OF BARGAINS suitable at this season.

THOUSANDS OF PRETTY NOVELTIES. Ladies' Coats, Caps, Hats, Underwear, Hosiery, Dress Patterns, Corsets, Linens, Trimmings, Etc., Etc.

Children's and Infants' Goods. In great variety, and a storeroom filled with the choicest sort of useful and ornamental goods that you will want during the holidays.

SPLendid SOUVENIR GIFTS to all persons purchasing to the amount of \$1 and over.

MRS. B. A. GRIMES, Centre Street, - Below Front, - Freeland.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION of The Citizens' Bank of Freeland, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, at the close of business, November 30, 1892.

Cash on hand.....	\$11,502 15
Checks and other cash items.....	183 01
Due from banks and bankers.....	11,863 13
Loans and discounts.....	95,190 99
Investment securities.....	50,230 65
Real estate, furniture and fixtures.....	1,063 37
Overdrafts.....	556 00
Current expenses and taxes paid.....	249 48
Miscellaneous assets.....	10 40
	\$179,889 12

CAPITAL STOCK PAID IN.....	\$ 50,000 00
Surplus fund.....	1,250 00
Undivided profits.....	1,834 98
Deposits subject to check.....	122,577 42
Cashiers' checks outstanding.....	128 67
Due to banks and bankers.....	3,121 04
Dividends unpaid.....	163 75
Miscellaneous liabilities.....	463 68
	\$179,889 12

State of Pennsylvania, County of Luzerne, ss: I, B. R. Davis, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. B. R. Davis, cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this eighth day of December, 1892. John D. Hayes, notary public.

Correct—attest: John Smith, Charles Dushack, Directors. John M. Powell.

WITH DECEMBER COMES

ANOTHER SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY

for you to prepare yourself for the winter WITH WHATEVER YOU MAY NEED IN THE LINE OF

Wearing Apparel

by attending

NEUBURGER'S December BARGAIN Sale.

Have just received several large consignments of winter goods which makes our assortment of Ladies' Misses' and Children's Coats, Men's and Boys' Overcoats, Underwear, Gloves, Boots, Shoes, Furnishing Goods of all descriptions, Blankets, Comfortables, Hats, Caps and Notions larger and more complete than ever, which we offer at PRICES LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE HEARD OF.

In Our Flannel Department

We are now selling extra heavy mining flannel at 25 cents per yard, which was never sold before under 35 cents. In Underwear you can buy boys' extra heavy random wool underwear, sizes 24 to 36, at 25 cents each, actually worth 40 cents.

Ladies' heavy ribbed merino vests at 25 cents. Men's extra heavy scarlet and white mixed woolen undershirts at 45 cents each, reduced from 75.

In the Overcoat Department

And in the ladies' and children's coat department we have a much larger assortment now than ever and guarantee we can give better values for your money than you can procure anywhere else in town.

Our Shoe Department

We are continually receiving new goods, and have just received 200 pairs of children's buttoned school shoes with sole leather tips and a solid shoe throughout. The actual value of these shoes is \$1.25 a pair, but our price will be 75 cents.

We have received also 150 pairs of ladies' fine Dongola shoes, in button or lace, plain and patent leather trimmed, which we will sell at \$1.50 a pair; this is fully 75 cents less than they are actually worth.

Our entire stock we will sell at very low prices.

CALL AND SECURE SOME OF THE BARGAINS

offered during this great money saving sale at

Jos. Neuburger's BARGAIN EMPORIUM

—in the P. O. S. of A. Building, Freeland, Pa.

We Are Headquarters

FOR

TINWARE, STOVES, Ovens, Ranges, Heaters.

And Hardware of Every Description.

REPAIRING DONE ON SHORT NOTICE.

We are prepared to do roofing and spouting in the most improved manner and at reasonable rates. We have the choicest line of miners' goods in Freeland. Our mining oil, selling at 20, 25 and 30 cents per gallon, cannot be surpassed. Samples sent to anyone on application.

Guns, Ammunition and Sporting Goods.

BIRKBECK'S,

CENTRE STREET, FREELAND, PA.