

THE

ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY JOEL MUNSELL.

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## P R E F A C E .

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This work was begun as an annual publication, in the year 1849, and the contents of this volume were principally comprised in the *Albany Annual Register* of the years 1849 and 1850. In this edition a part of the ephemeral articles of the first have been omitted, and historical and antiquarian matter substituted. The principal aim of the work was to preserve the memory of the time-honored institutions of the city. The form of a periodical was adopted for the convenience of continuing the publication from time to time as facts should be collected, and in the hope of enlisting others to collect materials. The cooperation of all who may take an interest in such matters is still solicited, in collecting whatever may tend to throw light upon the past, as well as to preserve authentic memorials of the present. Ancestral papers, of an historical, genealogical or statistical character; memoirs of eminent citizens deceased; historical accounts of religious, literary, charitable and benevolent institutions; also of public and private corporations; maps and charts of the city at different periods, or of portions of it; descriptions of antiquities, and rare and curious relics; in short, whatever, connected with the ancient or modern history of Albany, shall tend to illumine the path or lighten the labors of the future historian, will be duly appreciated. These are the main

objects of the work, although other departments have been introduced, in keeping with the original plan, which will be omitted in the future volumes. A synopsis of the events of each year is given, descending sometimes to particulars which may, perhaps, be considered trivial by some readers.

Undoubtedly many omissions will be observed of matters necessary to give completeness to the articles introduced; we shall be glad to receive from those who may notice errors or omissions, the sum of their knowledge, for future use. Above all, we crave a liberal share of patience at the public offices, and of the *oldest inhabitant*, to whom we are already indebted for many favors, and much valuable information. We hope to be instrumental in arresting much that is perishable from entire oblivion, and out of the abundance of material at hand propose to compile a volume annually.

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## ANNALS OF

## DISCOVERY AND FIRST VOYAGE

*The third Voyage of Master HENRY HUDSON at his returne, his passing from Fort and along to fortie four degrees, and to Cod, and so to thirtie three degrees; a ward, to fortie two degrees and an h. fortie three degrees. Written by Rowland*

Henry Hudson sailed from Amsterdam in the yacht Half-Moon, with a crew of sailors, on a voyage for the discovery of He encountered ice and storms, which in middle of July ran into Penobscot bay. thence he proceeded along the coast south bay about the middle of August, when he ward until, on the third of September, he came to three great rivers, and stood to leisurely, on the sixth he passed through by the Indians, who killed John Coleman at Coleman's point, at Sandy hook: On New York harbor, which they perceive winds, and rode all night.

On the twelfth of September, at two weighed anchor, and began the memorab perpetuates his name. He proceeded to came to anchor. Twenty-eight canoes came out from the shore, of whom the ma oysters and beans, and had "great tal pots of earth to dresse their meate in." is copied verbatim from the edition publi Society, *Transactions*, i, 138, et seq.

The thirteenth, faire weather, the clocke in the morning, as the floud came miles into the River. The tide being came foure canoes aboard: but we suffer ship. They brought great store of very bought for trilles. In the night I set th found it to be 13 degrees. In the after with the floud two leagues and a halfe and had five fathoms soft ozie ground. which shewed out to us bearing north by



ctady, 1766.

ENECTADY, 1766.

copy. found among the men and assistants of Schermers in case of their being seizing of the original is

John Sanders. Caleb Beck, Junr. & Ryer Schermerhorn town of Schenectady. and Junr. Abm. Wempie, Elected Assistants for firmly bound unto Isaac Hugh in the Sum of Five of New York to be paid for which Payment well severally & Jointly firmly is 5 of Decr. 1766,

if the above Bounden Al- truly Qualify in their res- Borough of Schenectady New or additional Charter amendments to the Present Boundaries of the Corpo- Patent dated Nov. 6th. o, but that they shall be overnor shall be pleased to Borough shall be Oblig'd so them at there will and ers and free men give a re freedom then this Ob- remain in full forcè.

John Sanders  
Caleb Beck  
Abraham Fonda  
Joseph R. Yates  
Glen Jr.  
for Ryer Schermerhorn

Jerry Glen  
Nicolaes Van pellen  
John Visger Jr,  
Abm Wempel  
Jendres Truax  
Nicolas degraf

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THE

ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY JOEL MUNSELL.

VOL. II.

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J. MUNSELL, 58 STATE STREET.  
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## PREFACE.

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It is with no small diffidence that the compiler presents to the public the second volume of what he has been persuaded to term the *Annals of Albany*, lest what he has been able to collect and arrange amid the distractions of a multifarious business, should fall short of fulfilling the expectations that might arise from so imposing a title. But it was found necessary to depart from the plan of the *Annual Register*, on which the work was begun; and being "a thinge of mere industrie, a collection without wit or invention," it is thrown out as the best which opportunity would admit of.

He desires to acknowledge the courtesy that has been extended to him by those from whom he has had occasion to solicit information and assistance. By permission of Dr. O'CALLAGHAN nearly all that relates to the city of Albany and the Manor of Rensselaerswyck has been copied from his valuable *History of New Netherland*, forming a very important portion of the following pages. By the favor of Mr. HOLSTEIN, the efficient clerk of the common council, facilities were afforded for procuring a decade of the earliest city records that are written in English. It is purposed to continue the publication of these, in similar portions, from year to year, and also to accomplish the translation of the earlier ones from the Dutch. Another portion of the records of the Dutch Church has been furnished by Mr. S. V. TALCOTT. There are many who have occasion to consult these; and it is presumed that their publication in so convenient a form will be appreciated. The notes from the newspapers were prepared some years ago by the compiler. This department might be made much more complete, and thereby measurably more entertaining, as well as of greater value to the future anti-

quarian, if some one having the time would give the necessary patience and labor to searching the files of newspapers in the State Library. Unfortunately those who have the leisure have not the disposition, and the work is entirely beyond our own opportunities.

It has been truly remarked, that retrospection lingers with melancholy delight on the places to which learning and piety and worth once gave importance; it can therefore be no unprofitable employment to commemorate deserving events, or pass in review the localities of the most ancient city in the republic, and point out who lived here, and there, so many years ago. We have already to regret the loss of the memory of many such abiding places. The diligence given to this pursuit is not without its discouragements, not only from its being often unappreciated, but because the motive is frequently misconstrued. While it is designed neither to conceal nor falsify historical facts, it will be equally the study of the compiler to avoid the insertion of any impertinent episodes of a personal nature.

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 p. 33 for *Leendersent*, read  
*Leendertsen*  
 p. 193 under 1783, for *Ga-*  
*zette* read *Gazetteer*  
 p. 226 13 lines from bottom,  
 for *sproutes*, read *sprouten*  
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THE  
ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY J. MUNSELL.

VOL. III.

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ALBANY:  
JOEL MUNSELL 58 STATE STREET.  
1852.

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## PREFACE.

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This volume contains a considerable amount of matter that has not before seen the light by the aid of printers' ink, and which is believed to be not wholly without value to the historian and antiquary. 8)

The records of the common council and the courts, are not merely interesting by reason of their quaintness, but are important, because they furnish nearly all we can know of the events of that period in the history of the city, which forms the close of the seventeenth century. Albany was at that time a garrisoned town, against which the French in Canada had a strong desire to carry their arms; but the principal blow aimed at her fell upon Schenectady, and her wooden walls were never actually beleaguered by any foe. This may be attributed to the fact that the authorities manifested more prudence than any of their neighbors with regard to their defences, and to their watchfulness over the Indians, who although at peace, were not permitted to lodge in the city by night.

The records of baptisms, which occupy a large space in these pages, must present a barren aspect to the general reader; but they serve to repeople the old city, and make us familiar with the old people, the middle-aged, and the *babies*, all Dutch, and inhabiting small, sharp-roofed houses with their gables to the street. These, ladies and gentlemen, are the men, women and children who frequented our streets a century and a half ago, when the males



above the age of sixteen numbered one hundred and eighty two, all told.

Among those who took the oath of allegiance to King William in 1699, we find the name of Gideon Schaats. From the best information that could be gathered of such as were most conversant with the history of the church, his death was placed in 1683 (vol i, 91); but he appears again (vol. ii, 103), to present before the court, the will of his deceased wife, Barentje Hendriks, in December, 1688. If this is the veritable domine who comes up again in 1699 (vol. iii, 277), we can only conjecture that he is not living yet from the fact that he began his ministry in 1652 and, in the ordinary course of events, should have gone to his reward in the last century. We hope to meet with him again.

The orthography of persons and places is so much unsettled, as to forbid the attempt to establish a standard; wherefore the original manuscript has been followed, usually, with all its variations. In copying articles, the author's text has been scrupulously followed, and having put his name to it, if any one should conceive that it contains errors, the compiler desires that the *misfeasance* may be attributed to its right source, and not to any *invention* of his own.

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ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY. J. MUNSELL.

VOL. IV.

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ALBANY:  
JOEL MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.  
1853.

## PREFACE.

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It has been said, truly, that antiquity has a just claim upon our veneration. But it does not follow, as has also been said in the same connection, that the enthusiastic antiquary, peering into the murky recesses of the olden ages, till his eyes become dim with ancient dust, must necessarily be wholly blind to the splendid realities of the present. The past and the present are equally the objects of preservation here.

Among the contents of this volume will be found a portion of the Albany Records. They disclose the motives which induced Gov. Stuyvesant to insist, with so much resolution, upon the boundaries of Fort Orange, now the city of Albany. His employers at home strenuously inculcated an energetic defence of the title to the premises against the patroon. The notes at the bottom of the pages of these records, in British New York currency, are the work of the translator, and seem to be discrepant, although the translator should have had the best knowledge of the subject. The same remark is made of the guilders reduced to English currency in parentheses.

The current annals of the year are almost confined to a necrology; repetitions of events of daily occurrence, needing a greater lapse of time to give them sufficient dignity in print, have been somewhat abridged.

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RE

## THE COURT

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An appeal from a verdict o

William Teller Plaintiff  
Bogardus Defendants. Mr  
for Plaintiff.

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.....	7	7	
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.....	7	6	22
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.....	1	1	
.....	1	2	
.....		8	
.....	2		
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THE

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ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY J. MUNSELL.

VOL. V.



ALBANY:  
J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.  
1854.

## PREFACE.

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"All the world honors the historian who takes great countries in hand, and tells the story of their growth, truly and philosophically. But we bespeak honor for historians of a humbler sort—for the compilers of facts worth preserving out of moth-eaten manuscripts, charred relics of town-house fires, old church session records, parish registries, and family Bibles—for those who rescue from wreck and ruin the *elements* of history. Many such are laboring with excellent devotion where there is no hope of remuneration for their services, and unsupported by the encouragement of others engaged in like pursuits. They give the best of their days and infinite eyesight to rescue from oblivion and perishable archives their notes of local history, and, by the agency of the press, treasure them in fire-proof libraries for future use. Out of these various collections a master hand commands the appearance of philosophy that teaches by example, as out of the compacted rills the river runs. We hail every new local history with pleasure, and when the work is well done, are disposed to rate the author as of more service to the world than many a successful cultivator of other departments of literature. We trust the

young men and women of the country will look to the establishment, at all points where no such associations now exist, of county, town, and parish historical societies. There should not be a town in the land but has its written history."\*

This volume is more strictly documentary, perhaps, than any of its predecessors. The object of the work, as can be seen at a glance, though not always understood, is merely to gather the gross material for history. Descriptions of persons and places will be found not unfrequently to conflict. The compiler is sometimes held responsible for such discrepancies, but the intelligent reader should observe that the source from whence the article is taken is always given. Aiming to publish papers as we find them, without alteration, the orthography of the author whom we copy has been preserved almost uniformly, that while he has the benefit of his own merits, he may also enjoy the reputation which posterity may be disposed to award his peculiarities. The volume having been a long time in press, a few persons noticed as living at the time the printing was in process, have since died. Their names will be found in the annals of the year 1854, in the subsequent volume.

\* New York Daily Times.

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## ERRATUM.

Page 17, at the bottom. The Experiment was a *sloop* instead of a *stage*.

## ANNALS OF A

## NOTES FROM THE M

Continued from vol. iv

1805.

*Names of Streets Altered.*—The consequence of the extension and made in some of the streets, changes following:

*Kilby street*, which from a small spacious street, extending from Kingston street, to the name of *Han*

*Bone lane*, which extended from street, and was to be extended to the name of *Division street*.

*Cow lane*, extending from the intersection with Hudson street, to Ludlow's present street, to the name of *Union street*.

*Grass lane*, extending from Hudson of Lydius street, to the name of *L*

*Nail street*, extending from Washington street, to the name of *Lutheran st*

*Barrack street*, extending from the bounds of the city, to the name of

*Cavalry Uniform.*—Solomon Van general, issued the following general the uniform of the cavalry of the s

“The uniform of the cavalry be fixed by the commander-in-chief, h

sist, for the regimental, field and st of a short green coat, faced with

cuffs and wings on the shoulders, of tons on the lapels; two on each side

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THE

ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY J. MUNSELL.

VOL. VI.

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ALBANY:  
J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.  
1855.

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## ANNALS OF

### STEAM NAVIGATION HUDSON

#### ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF STEAM

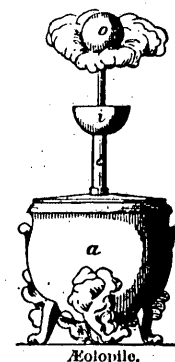
All the inventions and improvements measured by their effects upon the world sink into insignificance, when compared with the ordinary results which have followed the application of steam as a mechanical agent. It is not allowed to dwell a little upon it.

The force of steam, although known before the Christian era,

was overlooked until the latter part of the last century. The most ancient of the instruments which appear in the history of the ancients, was the instrument which is called the ball of Æolus, in which a ball was forced into the air, depending on the application of the larger philosophic principle of Hero, a Greek philosopher.

That so ingenious an application of steam should not have been made, is a matter of course.

exquisitely moulded by Hero  
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THE  
ANNALS OF ALBANY.

BY J. MUNSELL.

VOL. VII.

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ALBANY:  
J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.  
1856.

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## P R E F A C E .

This volume embraces the period in the City Records in which the first English Church was built. The sturdy men composing the common council exerted all their energies to prevent it from being erected in State street; but that especial location had the countenance of the governor. It was in vain that they sent an express to New York *with a canoe* to consult two eminent counsellors! the building went on in spite of the arrest of the workmen, and was completed. It was also an era of speculation in real estate. The authorities began to permit lots to be sold and houses to be erected without the walls of the city. There was at the same time a mania for farms at Schaghticoke; and the common council having weighed the matter profoundly, and determined to gratify the capitalists in this popular scheme to a limited extent, eight farms were drawn by lot out of the mayor's hat! Among those who were so fortunate as to secure one of the lots so cautiously doled out, was Johannes Knickerbacker,\* whose posterity have ever since held an eminent position there.

\* This was not the original family name.

The Notes from the Newspapers embrace the era of the building of the Erie Canal. A newspaper critic pronounces these awfully diffuse. On consulting several persons whose judgment it was thought safe to confide in, all fears have been dismissed on that point. The work having now reached its seventh volume, and there being but little increasing demand for it, the critic may have formed a just conclusion; viewing it in the light of a successful speculation. But the project of its publication was not conceived as a source of profit, nor has it been continued with any such expectation. The number printed is very small, and it is pretty much determined to reduce the edition of the next volume to the actual demand.



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## P R E F A C E.

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It is nine years since the compiler of this work, imbued with the ambition of contributing something in his day and generation for the diffusion of knowledge among men, resolved himself into an historical and antiquarian society on his own account, and ventured upon the labor of collecting and publishing materials which should serve some future historian to write the history of Albany and its vicinity. Time, industry and money, have produced eight volumes in the interim; and in view of the abundance of material, it is proposed to add two more, when he will be happy to find some one who may be willing to continue the work. Many glimmerings of the dark lights and shadows of the ancient time are still unexplored, and a willing hand and ardent mind may find occupation for a life-time.

The compiler is impelled to apologize to those who have continued from year to year to receive the work, for the want of vigor that may be observed in

its pages; which is not attributable wholly to lack of ability and judgment, but also to want of sufficient time and opportunity, and the seeming impossibility of engaging the cooperation of such as have an abundance of those commodities. Hence many articles which were expected to fill prominent places in these volumes, and give them zest, have never been written by those who promised them, and they were closed up with less attractive material. This is not mentioned in the spirit of reproach, but by way of apology to those who may expect to find an attractive miscellany, in what is intended only as a store-house for neglected and forgotten things.

In this volume, the city records are brought down to the year 1725, Johannis Cuyler, mayor. The aldermen were considerably exercised with the difficulties of regulating the Indian trade, digging wells and drains, restraining inordinate speed in driving "with horses, wagons, carts and sleds," and restricting unlicensed tapping of liquors. The public granary was replenished bountifully by the revenue from the leases of Schaghticoke, and the city chest grew plethoric from the sale of lots in the outskirts. The town was becoming corpulent, and the pressure was great upon the stockadoes, which operated as

stays upon its increasing obesity. It was at this time, that Joseph Pamerton undertook to assist John Brumley, to go round the city as bell man, every other night, from ten to four o'clock, and call the hour and state of the *weather* from certain points, for ten pound ten per annum! The notes from the newspapers end with the year 1826, and revive the recollection of events in the minds of middle aged citizens. The corporation expenses will attract the attention of those who have grown so rich that their taxes have become fearful to contemplate. The annals of the year are necessarily brief. They serve merely as an index to the particulars in the newspapers, having the advantage of dates.

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THE  
ANNALS OF ALBANY.

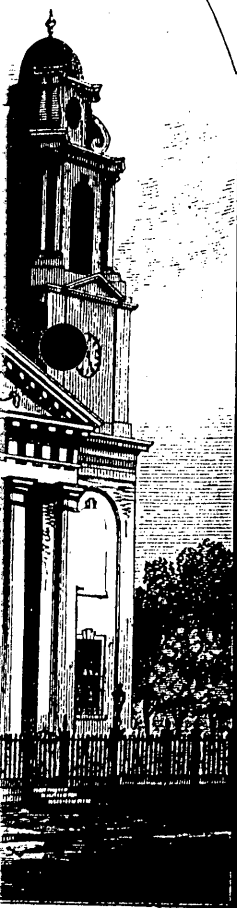
BY JOEL MUNSELL.

VOL. IX.

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ALBANY:  
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1858.





CHURCH.

## P R E F A C E .

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While we are rejoicing over the great achievement of the day in the transmission of intelligence by electricity between distant continents and our own, it may be interesting to note the advantages of our predecessors in this respect, in less progressive times. The *City Records* in this volume embrace the period between the years 1726 and 1731. At that time and for many years afterwards, it will be found that in cases of emergency, when it was necessary to have speedy communication with New York, the authorities still sent off their despatches by a canoe. The *Notes from the Newspapers* embrace about the same period of time a century later, when the winged messenger of news was the steam boat. These no longer boasted of going *through by daylight*, they now made the passage in a little more than nine hours. How much more rapidly improvements and discoveries go forward, we are able to comprehend in reviewing the

achievements of the last quarter of a century. It is no longer doubted that we shall soon have intelligence from all parts of the earth, of its daily occurrences, on the same day in which they happen.

Since personal history is becoming more particularly the object of research, to satisfy genealogical inquiry, among other things, the scanty gleanings we have been able to make from the resources whence these pages are drawn, will be found not wholly profitless. Their scantiness, however, should serve to teach the living the importance of more suitable memorials for those who are continually departing. The remembrance of men perishes almost as soon as their bodies, and the care of friends provides only a brief inscription upon a tombstone. The newspapers are convenient receptacles for suitable mementos, yet they are seldom to be found there. A single line under the obituary head, often without date, or age, not unfrequently merely a formal invitation to attend a funeral, is all the hint we have of their departure. If it were an object to cap the remembrance of their exit with an extinguisher, it could hardly be more gracefully done. Forced to rely upon such imperfect records, the obituary notices which we have to offer, are often necessarily unsatisfactory.

We have from time to time published the opinions and

speculations of foreigners upon the city and its manners and customs. These are not always palatable, perhaps not always justly drawn; but they serve to correct faults which we do not observe in ourselves, to point out improvements, and to throw much new light upon objects which are too near to be discerned in their true colors. If there are any so obtuse as not to be able to see these qualities in the criticisms of our sojourners, they may possibly find amusement in the singular and mistaken notions into which they sometimes fall.

It is determined to close this work with the next volume, although so much remains unpublished. Neither the form nor capacity of these volumes are suited to the magnitude of the subject, and it is contemplated, if any thing further is undertaken in this connection, to present it under a different arrangement.

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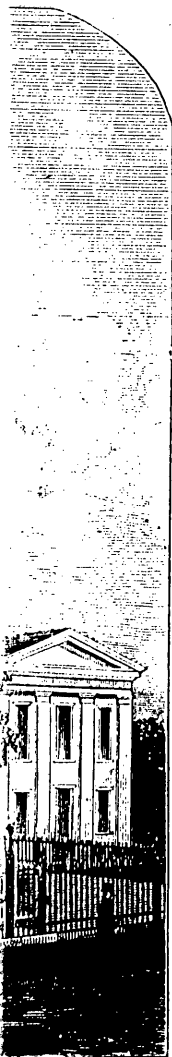
## CONCLUDING AND GENERAL ADDRESS

### TO THE READER.

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Agreeably to the announcement made in the last volume, this work is now brought to a close. Although ten volumes have been published, they are very far from containing all that has been written, not to mention what remains unwritten, on the *opkomst, aanwas en geschiedenis*—the origin, progress, and history, of Albany.

A peculiar and unique interest attaches to Albany, as the eldest born of existing settlements in the original United States: and, during the entire two and a half centuries that have elapsed since her origin, she has not ceased to be regarded as a place of public consideration and importance. In the Colonial times, Albany was the great *entrepôt* of the Indian trade. Here the lordly Iroquois met their white brethren in council; and treaties were entered into, and leagues were formed. And here, under the leadership of Franklin, the assembled delegates of the different colonies first learned to exercise the confederated power that, some thirty years later, achieved their independence of all foreign rule. And, on the surrounding hills, or covering the lowlands by the river side, here were gathered and marshaled those brilliant hosts, that marched forth to contest, with various fortune but final success, the French supremacy in America. And, as the patriotic statesmen of the Colonies had



here essayed their nascent powers, so here did the youthful Provincial chivalry first learn to emulate the strict discipline and trained courage of their veteran companions in arms, the gallant soldiers of England. And years after, when marching to the national air they here first appropriated as their own, they met their former allies on the battle field, they showed that the lessons thus commenced had not been learned in vain. In truth, the history of Colonial Albany is filled with brilliant scenes and soul-stirring memories. Nor is the Albany of the Revolution deficient in similar, and, for us, prouder pictures. When to Albany the army of Burgoyne was led captive, from the glorious field of Saratoga, the first great success of the war was achieved; and the happy event of the struggle, though distant, became assured. The writer regrets that he has only been able to indicate scenes, that would afford the fullest scope to the life-giving pencil of the historian. And, warned by his limited space, he must turn to a homelier theme — yet one that is not wanting in deep interest to many of his readers.

Earlier travelers have presented the inhabitants of Albany in a light far from flattering; and Irving's gracefully humorous pen has scattered far and wide, ridiculous pictures of the race that long constituted the great bulk of the population. The Dutch require no defense at our hands. If Irving's amusing sallies have somewhat lowered the popular appreciation of the Dutch character, another American of English blood has more than atoned for the wrong. The brightest chaplet woven in honor of Holland and her people, has, in our day, been laid upon the altar of Fame by the New Englander, MOTLEY.

As regards the faults of the early inhabitants of Albany, we may well pause, when we witness the vices that, even in this enlightened day, seem inseparable from the prosecution of the Indian trade; and, learning humility from the sight, we can not fail to extend the broad mantle of charity over the misdeeds of the rude burgers of another age. But, if need be, there are other arguments to be urged in extenuation of the unpolished manners and other short-comings of our predecessors. Lying on the very verge of civilization, for a

long time in her history, trade and self-defence were the paramount objects of solicitude with the people of Albany. It could hardly be expected that such an outpost would become eminent for luxury and refinement, while surrounded by innumerable perils. The town that was "really the frontier of all North America" (p. 107), could not neglect the trade to which it owed its origin, or the vigilance necessary to its existence, in order to indulge in the sophisticated pursuits of a community surrounded by all the blandishments of peace, and ease, and plenty. And finally, when the danger, to which they had become roughly inured, was removed, it could not reasonably be anticipated that these sturdy men would, at once, become shining examples of refinement — that wealth in beaver skins would at once give place to wealth in letters.

But years have passed since those "troubled times;" and it is believed that during the interval the progress of Albany, in every thing that elevates and adorns civilized life, has been commensurate with that of her neighbors. Literature, science, and the arts have many votaries in our midst; and recent travelers, as well as the assembled scientific magnates of the Union, have not failed to bear testimony to the elegant, refined, and generous hospitality, of the citizens of Albany.

It gives the editor much pleasure that he is able to close this sketch by an extract from the *Illustrated London News* of Jan. 15, 1859, fully sustaining the opinion above expressed. The extract is from the "Transatlantic Sketches," addressed to the *News* by its editor, the distinguished poet and cultivated gentleman, Dr. CHARLES MACKAY, during a recent tour through the United States.

"Travelling thus on the left bank of the river for upwards of one hundred miles, I arrived at Albany, and betook myself to Congress Hall, in the upper part of the city. This hotel was recommended to me as an establishment much frequented by members of the two houses of the legislature, who here in the capital of the "Empire State," undertake the local government of a commonwealth almost as large as England, and nearly doubly as populous

as Scotland. I had no reason to repent my choice, and during a residence of ten days was enabled to see the Senators in *déshabillé*, and to learn something of the mode and the agencies by which public and private bills are brought into and carried through parliament in an ultra democracy. \* \* \* \* \* Albany — beautifully situated on ground rising steeply from the banks of the Hudson — contains about fifty thousand inhabitants, and is one of the most attractive, cleanly, well-ordered, and elegant cities of America. Though overshadowed by the commercial greatness of New York, which in this respect it can never hope to rival, it is, next to Washington, the greatest focus of political life within the limits of the confederacy. Between the commercial and the political capital of this great state (which it has recently been proposed to call Ontario instead of New York), there is a great contrast. New York city is busy, unscrupulous, energetic, ill-governed, full of rowdyism, and the most violent manifestations of mob-law and mob-caprice; but Albany is staid, decent, and orderly. The tone of society is quiet and aristocratic; and the whole appearance of the place gives the traveller an idea of wealth and refinement. Further acquaintance only tends to confirm the impression. State street — at the top of which, in the Park, a beautiful open space, adorned with noble elms and maples, stand the Capitol and other principal public buildings — rises steeply from the water's edge to the crown of the hill. It is a broad and handsome thoroughfare, and at various points commands a picturesque view over the Hudson to the lofty green hills beyond. Albany is a place of considerable trade and manufacture. It produces very excellent cabinet-work of all kinds, and is particularly celebrated for its stoves, grates, and ornamental iron-work. It has two, if not three daily newspapers, and a flourishing literary and scientific institution. The Roman Catholic Cathedral is internally one of the largest and most magnificent ecclesiastical edifices in America. Here high mass is sometimes performed with a splendor and completeness, orchestral and vocal, not to be excelled even in Paris or Vienna, and to which London, as far as I know, can make no pretensions. Albany is the proposed site of

what promises to be the noblest observatory in America, to the foundation of which the public spirit of a private citizen (if the term be applicable to a lady) has contributed the sum of 80,000 dollars."

The editor will not apologize for the length of this extract, for he feels that it can not but prove both interesting and agreeable to his readers. He must, however, beg that they will bear him company a little longer, while he turns aside to speak of the work completed with the present volume.

He has been told by friends, who sympathize with the feelings that prompted the undertaking, that it is due, as well to his readers as to himself, that he should give a sketch of the origin and progress of the work, and of the difficulties that have made it incumbent on him to bring it to a close, while so rich a store of materials for the history of Albany yet remains unpublished to the world. Guided by the judgment of these — perhaps too partial — friends, he will conclude this notice by giving a concise bibliographical account of the *Annals of Albany*. The very nature of the subject requiring that he should speak of himself — of his trials, troubles and disappointments — he trusts that his readers, with a generous indulgence, will pardon the seeming egotism with which he confides to them the story of his personal connection with the work.

This work was begun as an annual almanac in the year 1849. It was soon evident that its more costly bulk, and the limited circle of patrons to whom its purely local character commended it, would forbid the hope of its competing with the various general almanacs, scattered cheaply over the land. But the editor still believed that a work of more permanent character, addressed to the retrospective curiosity — the historic instincts — of his fellow-citizens, would meet with, at least, an adequate support. New material was therefore added to that already collected, and, in 1850, the first volume of the *Annals* appeared. The anticipations of the editor and publisher were not realized; but being somewhat deeply imbued with the antiquarian spirit, and still hopeful that a responsive feeling might be awakened by his very efforts, he continued his labors; and



volume after volume was produced. At length it became but too evident that such hopes were illusory and vain. It will surprise many of his readers to learn that the whole body of his patrons, at home and abroad, numbered but little more than *one hundred*. And a very limited acquaintance with the book trade will be sufficient to assure them that *one hundred dollars* will fall far short of the simple cost of the engravings, paper, printing, and binding — even of a book so little pretentious to typographical luxuriousness as is the one they are now perusing. His not too plethoric purse admonished the editor that he must bring his labors to a close. And it only became a question with him how to round off the series in a manner that would not disappoint the kind friends who, at the outset, bidding him God speed, had ever since welcomed his annual offerings. He would not wish to leave a fragmentary and altogether incomplete work upon their hands: and he has continued the series until now that he can close it without dishonor. This tenth volume completes the *Notes from the Newspapers*, to the year 1847, when the annual chronicle of the work commenced. And having thus presented a continuous chronology of the principal events, as found in the newspapers, for the past eighty-eight years (from 1771 to 1859), the editor trusts that he may be permitted to retire from his labors, with the friendly sympathy and kind adieus of those who have accompanied him on his way.

He regrets that the transcripts from the City Records must remain incomplete, terminating as they do, with the year 1753. They were begun in the second volume with the year 1686, when the charter was received from Gov. Dongan, and have been published nearly entire, embracing a period of almost seventy years. These records are preserved in the Chamberlain's office, but are, not wholly safe from the danger of loss, and having no indexes, they are as a sealed book to those who wish to consult them. The portions yet unpublished comprise the periods of the old French war, and of the Revolution; and they abound with valuable and most interesting historical matter. Let us hope that some future board of the Common Council will undertake the task — which proved

too great for the unaided means of the writer — of presenting to the world a complete edition of the City Records of Albany.

Should these volumes at any future time, fall into the hands of a stranger, the editor and publisher trusts that the statement here given will account for and excuse such imperfections as may exist. Had his enterprise received a more liberal support, it would have delighted him to secure to the work a higher grade of literary labor, to embellish it with more expensive illustrations, and to issue it to his patrons, a specimen of sumptuous typography. But it was not to be. As strict economy required, the literary labor devolved almost wholly upon himself.

But he will not dwell upon the hours stolen from that repose rendered necessary by the toilsome avocations of the day, and devoted to turning over the dusty files of old newspapers, or to the deciphering of the crabbed writings of a past generation. He will not speak of days of rest passed among the tombs, and employed in copying the brief mementos of those sleeping their last sleep beneath. Nor will he complain of these tasks, for they have, indeed, been labors of love.

Perhaps, in after years, when his own form has long lain mouldering in the dust, some kindred spirits will pleasantly recall his memory, and thank him for these memorials of the past he has helped to rescue from oblivion. In dreams like these the antiquary finds his cherished, though unsubstantial recompense.

ALBANY, April 12, 1859.

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