

“A Marvel of Woman’s Ingenious and Intellectual Industry”: The Adeline Harris Sears Autograph Quilt

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IN 1856, A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD named Adeline Harris (1839–1931) (Figure 1) conceived of a unique project. She decided to collect the autographs of the well-known people she most esteemed. This, in itself, was not unusual; the practice of collecting autographs of famous people was very popular in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Adeline’s collection, however, was different. She asked the signers to write their names in ink on the small diamond-shaped pieces of white silk that she sent to them. After these diamonds were autographed, they were sent back to her; she then cut out more diamonds of brightly colored silks, pieced them together with the signed white ones, and created an all-silk bed quilt. In 1995 the Metropolitan Museum acquired Adeline’s extraordinary quilt from her four great-grandchildren. It is a beautiful object, composed of multicolored dress silks and ribbons, which have been immaculately stitched into the *trompe l’oeil* “tumbling blocks” quilt pattern (Figure 2).

Although quilts that incorporated signed blocks were not uncommon in the 1850s, most served a particular function that Adeline’s quilt would not. Baltimore album quilts, in which each square was made and signed by an individual, and each shows a different decorative pattern, are the best-known examples of signature quilts (Figure 3). However, many varieties of signature quilts were created in the United States during this time. They were usually made from cotton fabric and composed of pieces sewn and signed by ordinary women and men in communities or church congregations for presentation to another member of the community or church to commemorate an event, such as a birth, marriage, or leave-taking. Adeline’s quilt would commemorate no single event but an entire period in American history. Created from signatures collected primarily between 1857 and 1863, her quilt is a fascinating document that today serves as a portrait of its maker and reveals the political, religious, and intellectual tastes of a particular segment of well-to-do New England society in the American Civil

War era.

Adeline Harris was born on April 7, 1839, in Arcadia, Rhode Island (a town about twenty-five miles southwest of Providence), the youngest child of James Toleration Harris (1806–1885) and Sophia Amelia Knight Harris (1812–?). She had two siblings, George (1833–1875) and Eleanor Celynda (1835–1897). Her father owned several textile mills in Arcadia; he retired when Adeline was ten years old, and the family moved a few miles south to Wyoming, Rhode Island.¹ While James Harris’s ancestors seem to have been affluent from 1630 on—the time they arrived with Roger Williams as some of the original settlers of Providence Plantation—Adeline’s mother came from working-class stock; indeed, a number of Knight family members worked for the Harrises.² Adeline’s maternal grandfather, Stephen Knight (1780–1848), worked as a farmer for millowner Elisha Harris (1791–1861), a cousin of Adeline’s father, who served as governor of



Figure 1. Adeline Harris (Sears), photographed about the time she began her autograph quilt (photo: courtesy of Mrs. Amey Mackinney Harrison)

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The notes for this article begin on page 275.

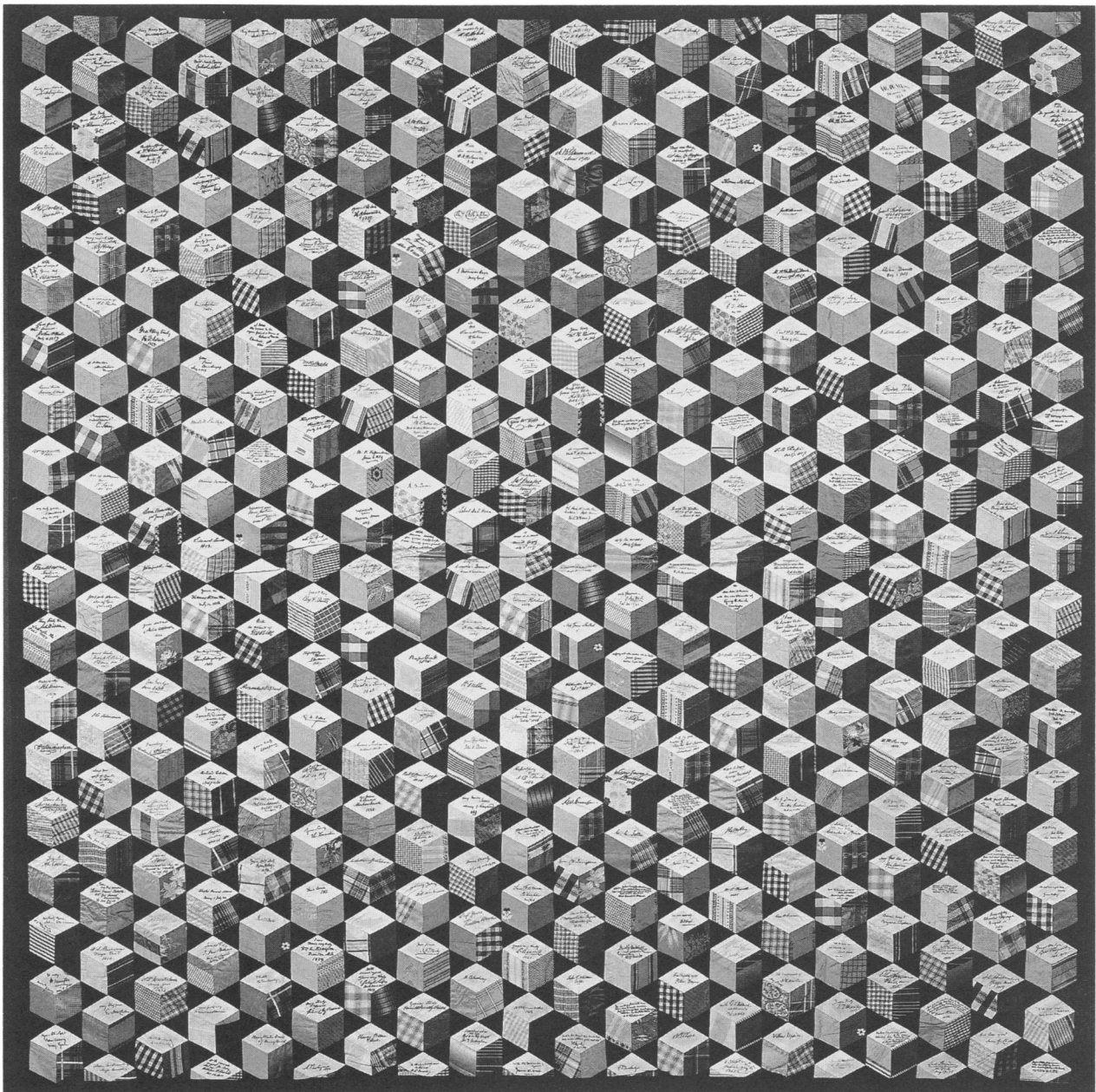


Figure 2. Adeline Harris (Sears) (1839–1931). Autograph quilt. Rhode Island, begun in 1865. Silk, 195.6 x 203.2 cm. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, William Cullen Bryant Fellows Gifts, 1996, 1996.4

Rhode Island in 1847 and 1848. Stephen Knight also worked for the Sprague family, another mill-owning clan, whose younger members were close friends of Adeline's father.³ Prominent members of the Harris and Sprague families would later sign Adeline's quilt.

Adeline's mother was the eldest of nine children. She probably received little formal schooling; it is known that her brothers were sent out to work at very young ages. One of them, Stephen Albert Knight (1828–

1907), became a bobbin boy, working full-time at one of Elisha Harris's mills when he was only six years old.⁴ The Knights' fortunes seem to have turned around after Sophia married James Toleration Harris in 1831. According to family history, Harris provided his wife's brothers Benjamin Brayton Knight and Robert Knight with a loan that enabled them to found B. B. & R. Knight, a company that eventually owned and operated a cotton mill empire.⁵ At the time of Adeline's uncle



Figure 3. Album quilt by members of the Brown and Turner families. Baltimore, Maryland, begun in 1846. Cotton, 211.8 x 215.9 cm. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Margaret Brown Potvin, 1987, 1988.134

Benjamin's death in 1898, the firm owned twenty-one mills located in fifteen company-run villages throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The mills had a total of eleven thousand looms and employed nearly seven thousand workers.⁶

Adeline certainly grew up in comfortable surroundings. What little is known about her childhood can be ascertained from two sources: a handwritten memoir by her granddaughter Amey Howarth Mackinney in the 1960s, and a page that Adeline wrote about herself in 1912.⁷ When Adeline was asked by the Rhode Island Historical Society for "biographical details," her only reply was: "With the exception of a very few months in a public school and three years of boarding school (two years at East Greenwich Academy and one at Mrs. Magennisi's School for Young Ladies, in New London Conn.) I was educated by private tutors, in my father's house."⁸ Her granddaughter recounted that Adeline "attributed her long life, and excellent health to her early life in the out-of-doors in Arcadia, & Wyoming R.I., riding horseback, early hours, and sensible living."⁹

Adeline's few years of formal schooling and private tutors seems to have provided her with a very good education, certainly by the standards of what most women were taught at the time. Her granddaughter

remembered her as "a great scholar and student with a brilliant mind."¹⁰ Family legend recounts that Adeline wanted to attend college, but was forbidden by her parents; this, however, may be apocryphal, since there were few opportunities for women to gain college degrees before the Civil War. Her ambitious quilt project, begun in 1856, when her schooling must have been nearly complete, suggests that this intelligent and scholarly young lady's interests were not completely fulfilled either by suitors or the usual round of social visits and parties in which she was expected to participate. Collecting signatures was considered an educational activity by Adeline's contemporaries. One journalist who wrote about the popularity of such collections explained that "the paramount benefit arising from the prosecution of this hobby, is the familiarity the collector acquires with contemporaneous history. His souvenirs are valueless to him, unless he is thoroughly informed of the individuals they represent."¹¹

While Adeline's taste for autographs seems to portray her as an intellectual young woman, it also betrays her romantic nature. Among a certain segment of the population, it was believed that a person's signature revealed significant aspects of his or her personality. By owning a signature of an illustrious person, one could

learn about the characteristics that made him or her great and emulate those traits. This belief often led to superstition: many collectors felt that by merely owning a certain person's autograph, and being sensitive enough to perceive how to read the signer's greatness therein, some of that distinction would rub off. As early as 1835 *Godey's Lady's Book* had begun to publish pages illustrating facsimiles of the "Signatures of Distinguished American Citizens," perhaps in the belief that readers would benefit by simply seeing them.¹²

In June 1839 Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of *Godey's*, wrote a story entitled "An Evening's Conversation about Autographs."¹³ It opens with the character of Ellen Marvin, a refined young woman probably not far in conception from Adeline in actuality, querying her schoolmaster as follows: "Did you not say that you thought the characters of individuals might be understood from their handwriting?" He replies: "Some qualities of the character are undoubtedly to be traced in the chirography; and those faculties of the mind which the phrenologists denominate perceptive, particularly order, form, size, may be easily ascertained. Imitation, also, can be judged of—and the temperament of a writer gives, I think, a decided impress to his autograph."¹⁴ The schoolmaster suggests that they study and compare the autographs of a number of "celebrated" women writers of the day, stating "that traits of character and genius may be discoverable in the handwriting."¹⁵

The belief that a person's character could be deciphered from his or her signature was also held in more serious arenas than the realm of ladies' fiction and closely paralleled the nineteenth-century fascination with other types of pseudoscientific personality discovery, such as phrenology.¹⁶ In 1841 Edgar Allan Poe wrote a popular series of articles for *Graham's Magazine* in which he published facsimiles of the signatures of other writers, taken from letters he had received from them. His primary purpose was to analyze the character of each correspondent through the signature; but he also wished "to furnish our readers with a more accurate and at the same time a more general collection of our *literati* than is to be found elsewhere."¹⁷ He explained why his audience, whom he described as "lovers of literature," would be interested in the series of articles: "Next to the person of a distinguished man-of-letters, we desire to see his portrait—next to his portrait, his autograph. In the latter, especially, there is something which seems to bring him before us in his true idiosyncrasy—in his character of *scribe*. The feeling which prompts to the collection of autographs is a natural and rational one."¹⁸

By the 1850s autograph collecting had become so

popular that articles appeared in the press disputing the magical value of the oft-requested, oft-written signature. Two unsigned articles in the *Home Journal*, obviously written by authors inundated with requests for autographs, tried to stem the demand. The first, which appeared in April 1851, was entitled "A Modest Endeavor to Locate the Compliment in an Autograph." It read, in part:

If we were inclined to show up popular fallacies, we should hardly know where better to begin than with this one:—*That it is a compliment to ask for an autograph.* An autograph is a manifestation—an exhibition of one's private personality—a confession that we think ourselves somebody, (a verity safely owned only to intimate and tried friends)—a proof tangible that our instinctive modesty has suffered some abrasion from contact with the public. It is a spiritual knock, given at the invocation of one who desires to piece out his inward life at our expense. It is a lock of one's mental and moral hair, given to be speculated upon by diviners who are by no means likely to be soothsayers. It is a subtraction from our potency, cheapening all future autographs.¹⁹

Clearly, the references to unwillingly given locks of human hair and diminishing potency seem to invoke a feeling that among some harried authors, autograph collectors were almost equated with vampires, eager to magically enlarge their own being by sapping the energy of others. This particular author wrote that most illustrious people would like to refuse the numerous requests, but are too polite to do so. In an effort to devalue autographs, he contended that "a name written at the request of a stranger is only about as valuable as the same name stamped by machinery. To have any character, it should have been written in a careless or confidential moment, without the recollection that there was a collection in the world."²⁰

An author writing in 1854 was more direct about annoying requests from "persons not burdened with over much to do":

It is one of the penalties of notariety [*sic*] to be solicited incessantly for autographs . . . an autograph—what more easy, more reasonable, and less likely to be refused? And so it comes to pass, that every mail brings to our already over-employed public man, a request, meant to be flattering, for a pen-and-ink memento of his name and talent, which forthwith goes to swell the list of some autograph hunter who . . . [is] only mindful of the imaginary importance they themselves acquire in the possession of this meaningless collection of names, with which no genuine associations can be connected other than those of favors unwillingly granted, and precious moments wasted uselessly.²¹

Even such vehement complaints fell on deaf ears, and by the 1850s, autographs had also gained monetary value. Magazines carried notices reporting on the sales of autographs by book-auction rooms, with detailed accounts as to the worth of certain signatures. George Washington's signature always brought the highest price; in 1856, \$11.25 was paid for his autograph at an auction in New York City.²² Autograph collections were also a valued entree into the social life of antebellum America. Displaying, discussing, and perhaps even exchanging autographs seems to have been a favored pastime at some elite parties. Isabella Lucy Bird, an Englishwoman who visited America in 1854, wrote glowingly of the impression her collection of autographs made at a New York City party:

On one occasion I was asked to exhibit a collection of autographs, and the knowledge of English literature possessed by the Americans was shown by the information they had respecting not only our well-known authors, but those whose names have not an extended reputation even with us. Thus the works of Maitland, Ritchie, Sewell, Browning, Howitt, and others seemed perfectly familiar to them. The trembling signature of George III excited general interest from his connection with their own history, and I was not a little amused to see how these republicans dwelt with respectful attention on the decided characters of Queen Victoria. In return for the pleasure they had experienced, several kind individuals gave me valuable autographs of their own *literati* and statesmen.²³

Adeline must have been as voracious a collector as those so disparaged by the writers in the *Home Journal*. Although she probably wrote to most of the signers requesting their autographs as described above, she may have had a personal connection with at least some of them. According to the family account and her obituary, her father brought the family to Washington, D.C., before the Civil War. While no record of his being a public servant has been found, he was friendly with many men who were. Adeline's obituary recounts that "at the outbreak of the Civil War [she] was visiting in Washington D.C. and was acquainted with many prominent men in the nation's capital at that time, including President Lincoln. She was present when the first troops of Northern soldiers passed through the streets of Washington at the beginning of the war. She often related to her friends stories of life in Washington during the early years of the war and until her death she preserved letters she had received from Lincoln, Henry Clay, Charles Sumner, and other leaders of that time."²⁴ Some of those letters may have originally accompanied the autographed silk diamonds.

Adeline's granddaughter wrote that James Toler-

tion Harris "was a close friend of William Sprague, the wartime governor of R.I. The beautiful Kate Chase Sprague was greatly admired."²⁵ Kate Chase Sprague (1840–1899) was one of the best-known hostesses of Washington, D.C. Her father, Salmon Portland Chase, was Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln, and signed a quilt diamond for Adeline (column 8, diamond L). In 1863, Kate Chase married William Sprague, who had just been elected a senator from Rhode Island, who also signed the quilt (column 8, diamond F). The Sprague wedding was declared to be one of the most brilliant Washington had ever seen. If Adeline was lucky enough to have been invited to the grand parties held by Kate Chase, who was her contemporary, she certainly had personal access to many of the political figures who signed the quilt.

Adeline actually met Abraham Lincoln, whose signature she acquired (Figure 5, column 7, diamond N). According to her granddaughter, "She danced with Abraham Lincoln at his Inaugural ball, and we still have the silk damask from which her ball gown was made. [She was] an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln. She bought, and read, every book practically, that was written about him."²⁶ This admiration for Lincoln and his beliefs is attested to in the autographs Adeline requested and received from figures in the political arena. Many of the senators, congressmen, and governors whom she included in the quilt were members of the newly formed Republican Party and, as such, Lincoln supporters. Those Southern politicians from whom she received autographs were moderates who did not believe in the secession of the Southern states in the years immediately preceding the Civil War's outbreak. However, after Adeline had gathered their signatures in the late 1850s, some of these Southerners changed their minds and became active members of the Confederate Congress. Following Lincoln's principles, Adeline did not align herself with the radical Abolitionists, although she collected a few signatures from people closely associated with that movement, namely Gerrit Smith, Owen Lovejoy, Wendell Phillips, and Charles Sumner (Figure 6, column 4, diamonds F, G, and H). While many of the politicians she asked for signatures were firmly anti-slavery, implying that Adeline shared their beliefs, the majority were moderates, who did not believe in the immediate abolishment of the institution if it threatened to break up the Union.

Political leaders signed more diamonds than any other single profession represented on the quilt. Seemingly a very logical young woman, Adeline grouped similar professionals together (Figure 4, chart). Columns one through nine generally hold the

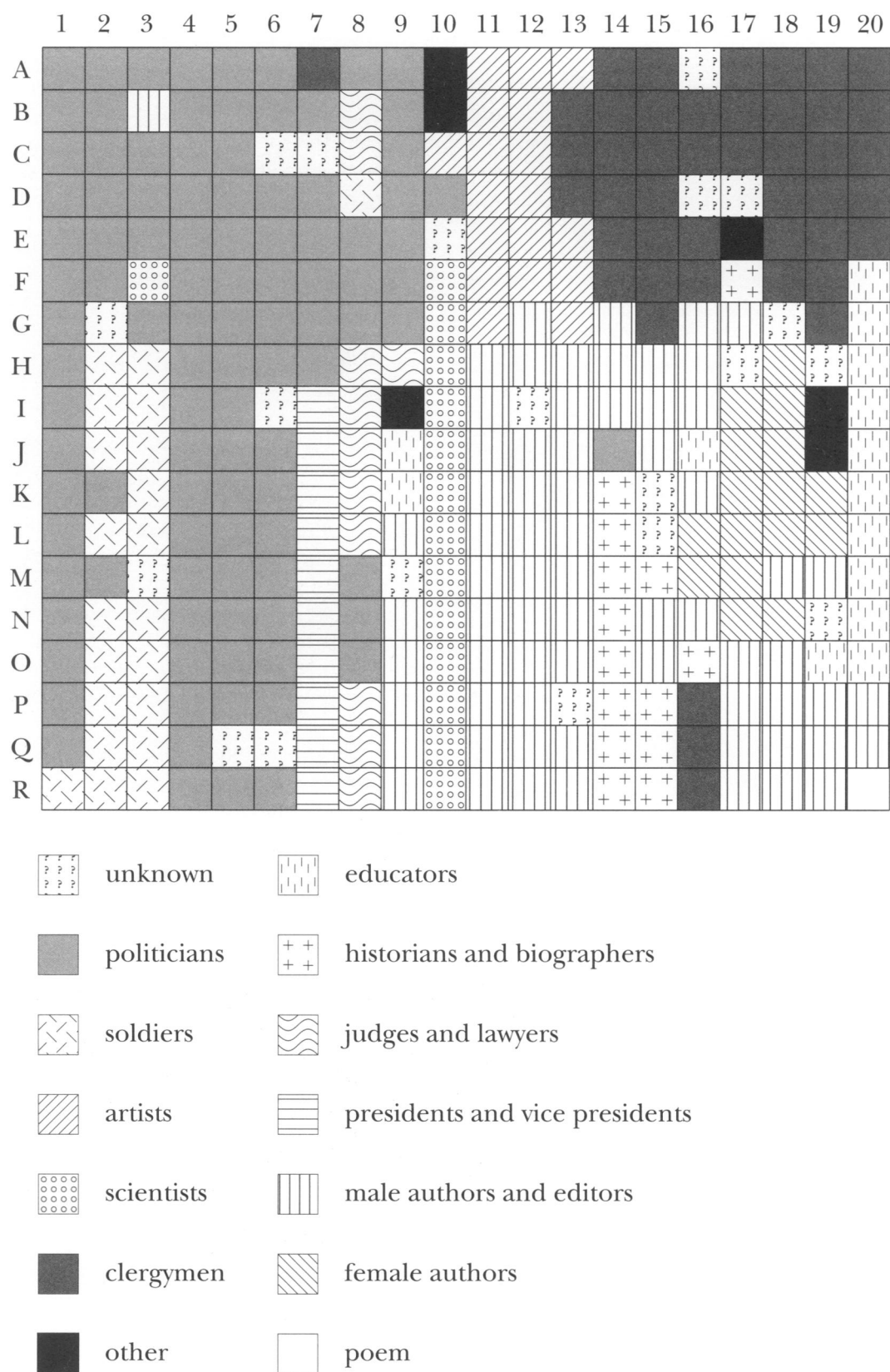


Figure 4. Chart of placement of autographs by profession

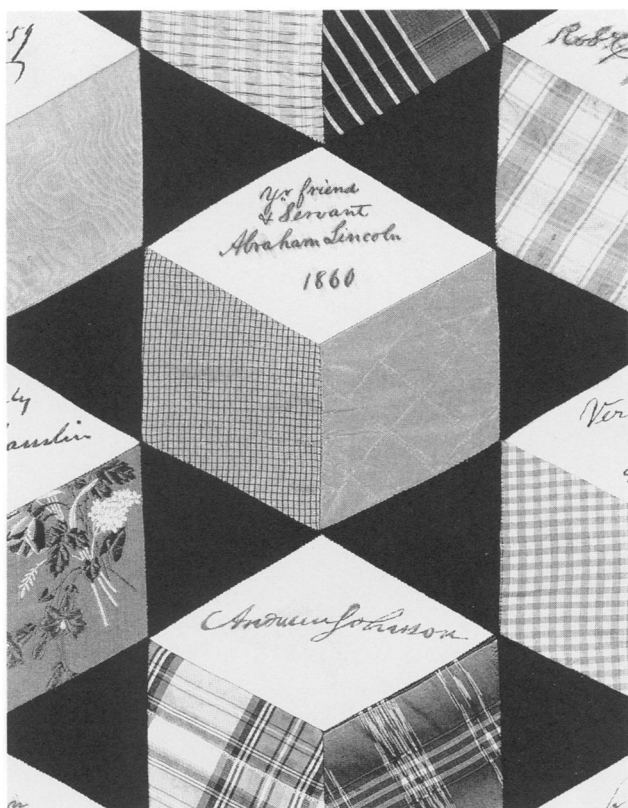


Figure 5. Detail of Figure 2, diamond 7N

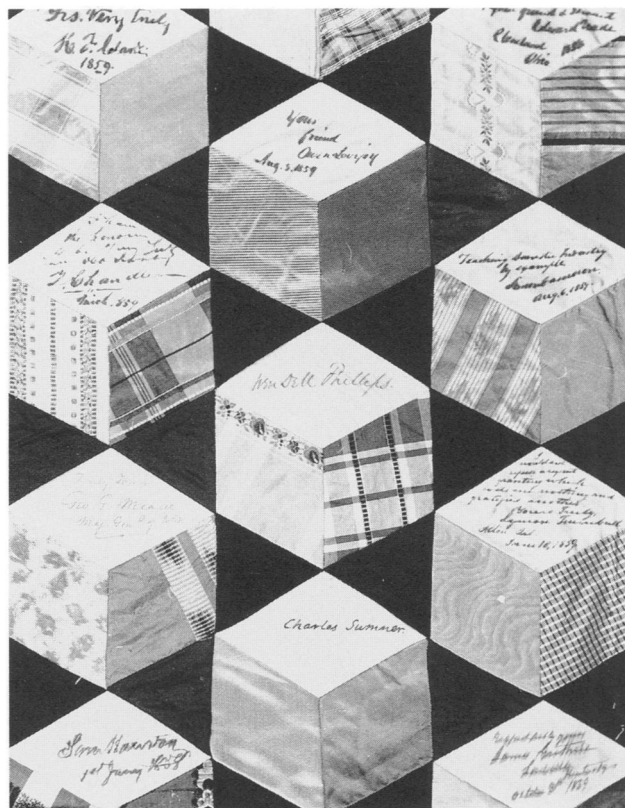


Figure 6. Detail of Figure 2, diamonds 4F, 4G, and 4H

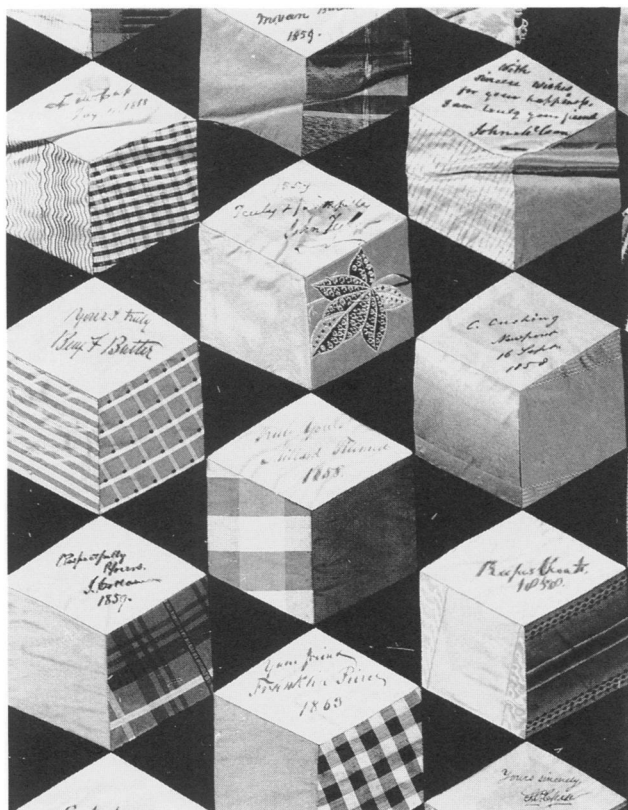
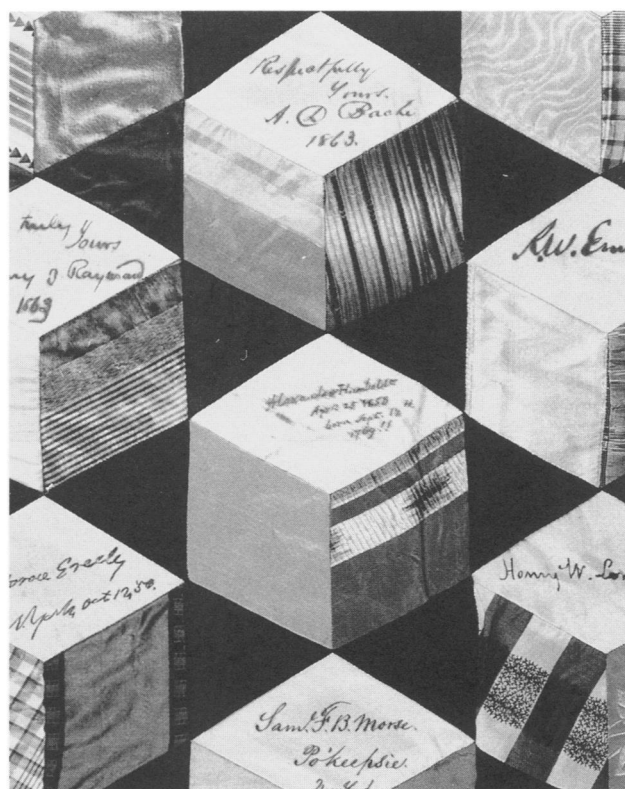
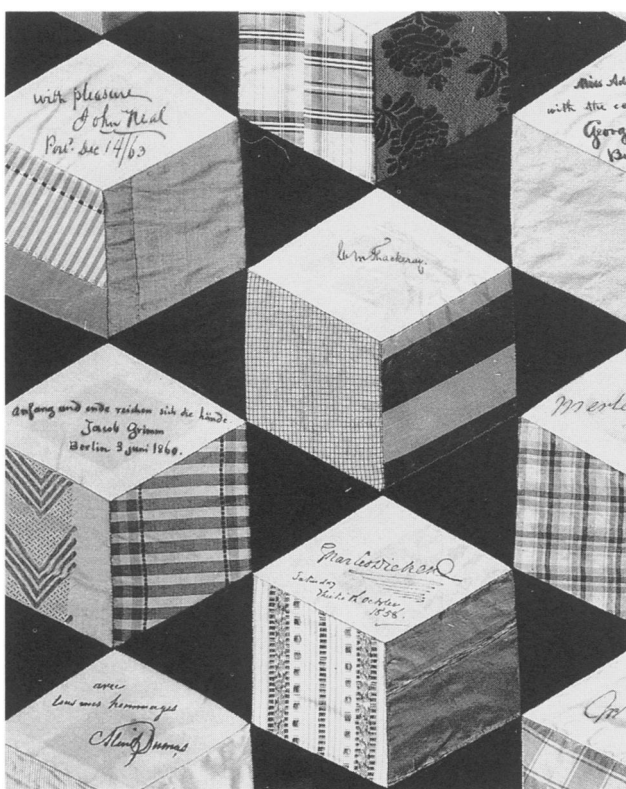
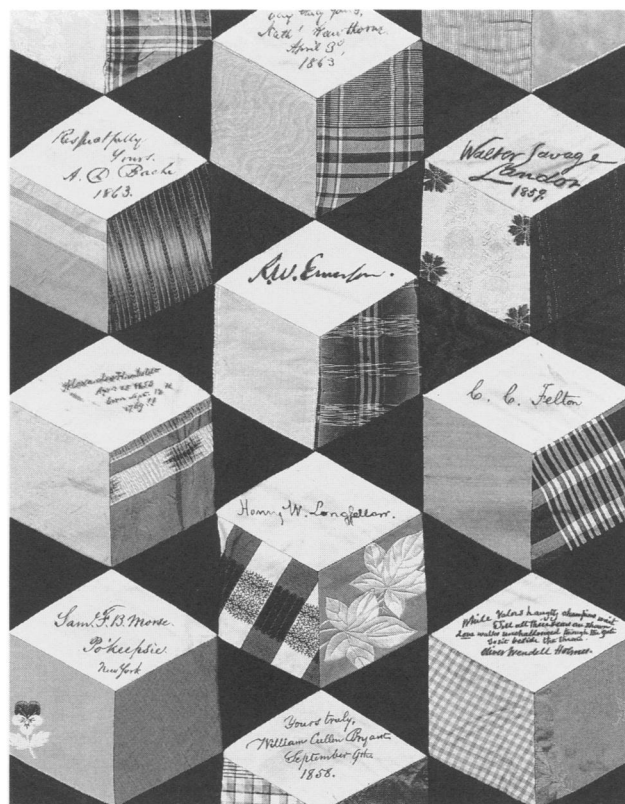
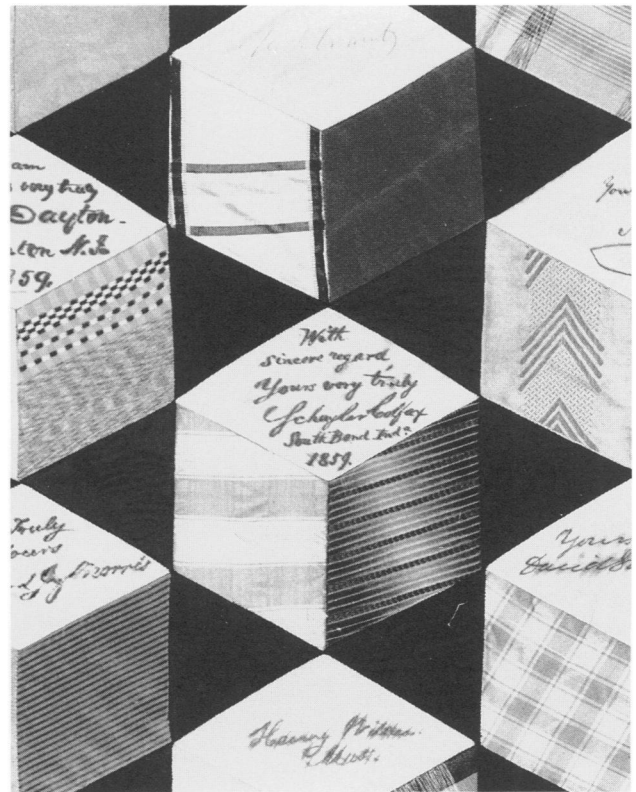
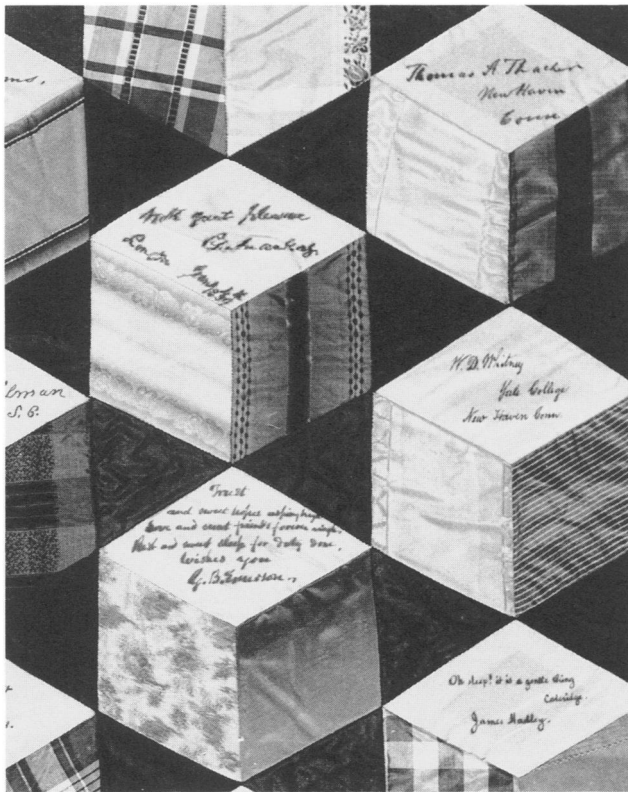
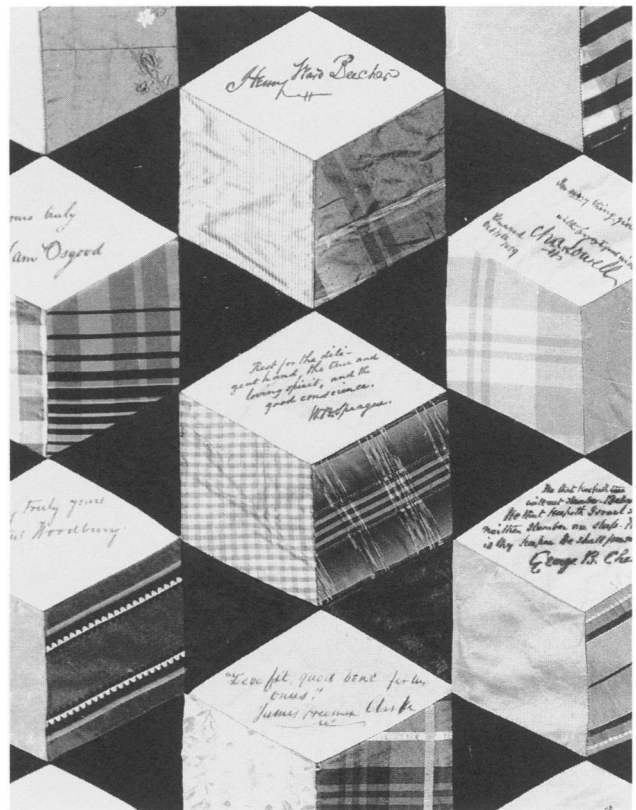
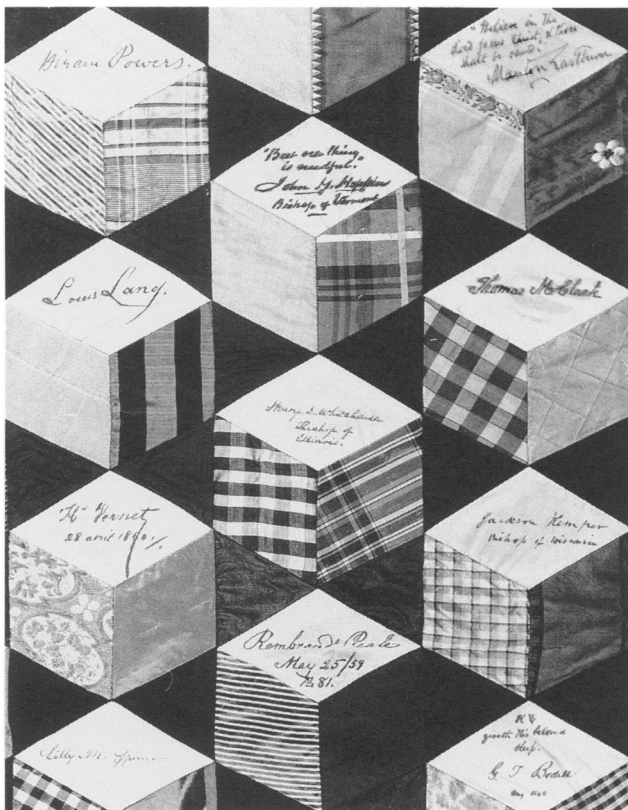


Figure 7. Detail of Figure 2, diamonds 7I (partial), 7J, 7K, and 7L



Figure 8. Detail of Figure 2, section of column 2





autographs of politicians, but Adeline broke down categories within categories. Column seven features presidents and vice presidents of the United States (Figure 7, column 7). Columns two and three display the signatures of Northern military leaders such as Generals John Charles Frémont and Ambrose E. Burnside (Figure 8).

The autographs of literary figures form the next largest group by profession. Within the broad category of literary figures, Adeline divided the authors into sections. First, they are arranged by gender, with the female authors appearing in the center sections of rows sixteen through nineteen (Figure 9). Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of the enormously popular antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), as well as many other books, can be found in this grouping, as is abolitionist Julia Ward Howe of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" (1861) fame. Here one also finds less familiar female novelists, such as Ann S. Stephens, Caroline Gilman, and Lydia Sigourney, who were some of the best-known writers of their day; after almost a century of obscurity, their works and careers are being once again studied by modern scholars.

The male authors are found in columns nine through twenty. Column eleven lists the period's greatest men of letters. Here one finds Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, among others (Figure 10, column 11). The European authors Jacob Grimm, Alexandre Dumas, William Makepeace Thackeray, and Charles Dickens appear in rows twelve and thirteen (Figure 11). Adeline often placed authors working in similar genres together, such as poets, novelists, humorists, editors, historians, and writers of travelogues.

In column ten, Adeline arranged the names of some of the most important men of science. Here are found the naturalist Alexander von Humboldt and the inventor Samuel F. B. Morse (Figure 12). A who's who of mid-nineteenth-century American artists appears in the upper reaches of rows eleven through thirteen, including the painter Rembrandt Peale and the sculptor Hiram Powers (Figure 13). Lilly Martin Spencer, one of the few popular American women painters of the period also contributed her signature. The last large group of autographs that Adeline collected were from a variety of Protestant clergymen: Episcopalian bishops from almost every state or territory, as well as Unitarian, Presbyterian, Universalist, Congregationalist, and Baptist clergymen. Their signatures appear in the upper-right-hand quarter of the quilt; perhaps the best remembered of these men today is Henry Ward Beecher, the fiery antislavery minister of the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, New York (Figure 14). Adeline

seems to have come from a fairly religiously liberal background, and her family had the reputation of being supportive of Christian churches of various denominations. Her uncles, the Knights, built a number of churches in their mill towns and were cited for contributing "liberally to the support of Christian work, irrespective of their denomination; their aid has been extended to the Protestant and the Catholic."²⁷

The final row of Adeline's quilt features a mixed group of educators, some with ties to Brown University, in Adeline's home state of Rhode Island, others hailing from Yale College, where Adeline's husband-to-be, Lorenzo Sears, was enrolled at the time. The date of 1859 on one of these Yale signatures may indicate that Adeline was acquainted with Sears (class of 1861) for a number of years before they were wed in 1866. Perhaps she asked him to gather the names of some of his favorite professors, such as the Classics Department's Thomas A. Thacher (Latin), William Dwight Whitney (Sanskrit), and James Hadley (Greek) (Figure 15).

Adeline worked on her project for a long time. While she collected the majority of her autographs between 1857 and 1863, she did not complete the quilt until quite a few years later. The earliest signature is dated 1856, and the latest 1867. Yet she may have continued to work on the quilt well into the 1870s. Column seven, which holds the autographs of the presidents and vice presidents, reads down in order from diamond 71, Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States (1837–41), to Ulysses S. Grant, the eighteenth president of the United States (1869–77). Under Grant's signature, Adeline placed the autographs of his vice presidents, Schuyler Colfax (1869–73) and Henry Wilson (1873–75). Although both the vice presidents probably signed their squares in the late 1850s (Colfax dated his autograph 1859) when they held lower elective offices, Adeline placed them on the quilt to show where they had attained their highest post. This proves that she was still piecing the quilt together until at least the mid-1870s, almost twenty years after she had started gathering the signatures (Figure 16).

It can be assumed, from the consistency of the tiny whipstitches that hold the diamonds together, that Adeline sewed the entire quilt herself. Because the signatures of various professions are composed in areas, rather than straight columns, it seems likely that Adeline worked the quilt in sections. She did not wait until she had received all the signed diamonds and then lay the entire quilt out. After the areas of the quilt for each profession was completed, these larger sections were probably then sewn together. While it is

tempting to think that her family's mills could have provided the fancy silks that Adeline cut into the multicolored diamonds, there is only an indirect link. The family mills all manufactured cotton; during the 1850s, there were no American mills capable of producing the fancy silks found in the quilt. Certainly the family mills provided her with the money to purchase the colorful imported ribbons and dress goods found in the quilt, and the family interest in textiles may have sharpened her eye to harmonies of color and texture, but the family business did not provide the fabric.

Although creating autograph collections and signature quilts were both popular pastimes in Adeline's day, her project can still be termed unique on the basis of two pieces of evidence. First, as far as modern-day quilt scholars know, no other quilts quite like this one have survived. One or two are known that include a few signatures of famous people, but none display the same number of important autographs.²⁸ Moreover, Adeline's project was special enough to receive public notice in its day, a rare accomplishment. Adeline had written to Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, probably in early 1864, requesting her autograph. Not only did Mrs. Hale comply but she was so impressed with the project that she wrote a two-part article about it (although she never mentions Adeline by name, it is clearly Adeline's quilt) in *Godey's* April 1864 issue and included a diagram of how to set up the quilt blocks in the July issue (Figure 17).²⁹ In the first part of the April article, Mrs. Hale described how Adeline prepared the diamond-shaped pieces of white silk for autographs. She explained that after the diamonds were cut out, "they should be strained tightly over a card, to make a smooth even surface for writing, which should be done in indelible ink. Muslin, linen, or silk can be used, the silk being the handsomest, while the linen makes the best surface for the signature. The cards may be sent by mail to friends at a distance."³⁰ Clearly Adeline sent many of these card-backed diamonds to people "at a distance." Mrs. Hale included an illustration of a sample diamond with a facsimile of her own autograph (Figure 18).

The second, most intriguing, part of the article about the autograph quilt was published in a section of the magazine called the "Editors' Table." This editorial area functioned as Mrs. Hale's personal soapbox, where she voiced her opinions on a wide variety of topics of interest to her predominantly female readership. She occasionally offered practical advice for household chores, but just as frequently discussed larger subjects such as the necessity of advanced education for women, as well as her opinions on proper modes of womanly behavior. Her piece on Adeline's quilt fell

somewhere in between these common topics, or perhaps included all of them.

She began by telling her readers that "we have lately received a pleasant letter from a young lady of Rhode Island, who is forming a curious and valuable collection of autographs in an original and very womanly way; the design is to insert the names in a counterpane or bedquilt."³¹ She described the autograph diamonds, and the other colored fabrics that would surround them, "formed in many instances, from 'storied' fragments of dresses which were worn in the olden days of our country. For instance, there are pieces of a pink satin dress that was flaunted at one of President Washington's dinner parties; with other relics of those rich silks and stiff brocades so fashionable in the last century."³² Here Mrs. Hale embellished Adeline's project a bit; while she may have known that the dress Adeline wore to Abraham Lincoln's inaugural ball was later cut up into quilt pieces, the evocation of dinner parties held by George Washington was likely considered more politically appealing to her Southern readership than a mention of Lincoln. In any case, the fabrics found in the quilt do not seem to be eighteenth-century silks; they all appear to be contemporaneous with the date the quilt was made. (See Elena Phipps's technical report, which follows this article.)

When Adeline wrote to Mrs. Hale in 1864, she had already obtained 350 signatures and was planning to make a quilt that would contain 556. The quilt eventually contained 360 signatures; so by the time Adeline

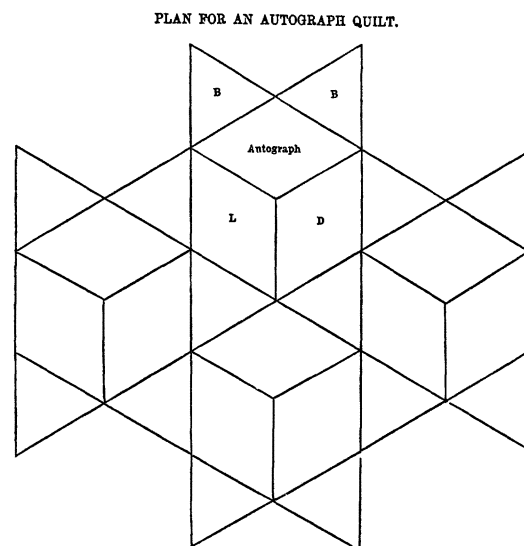


Figure 17. "Plan for an Autograph Quilt," *Godey's Lady's Book* 69 (July 1864) p. 80

contacted Mrs. Hale, the search for signatures may have been winding down. It is not known why she did not collect the roughly 200 more she proposed; perhaps her interest was beginning to wane or many of her requests failed to elicit responses.

Mrs. Hale discussed the process of putting this “very wonderful invention in the way of needlework” together. After mentioning the “resolution, patience, firmness, and perseverance” that it would take to arrange and join the delicate bits of silk properly, she came to what she described as the

intellectual part, the taste to assort colors and to make the appearance what it ought to be, where so many hundreds of shades are to be matched and suited to each other. After that we rise to the moral, when human deeds are to live in names, the consideration of the celebrities, who are to be placed each, the centre of his or her own circle! To do this well requires a knowledge of books and life, and an instinctive sense of the fitness of things, so as to assign each name its suitable place in this galaxy of stars or diamonds.³³

Obviously, Mrs. Hale held Adeline and her project in high esteem, crediting her with “intellectual” and “moral” gifts regarding her conception for the quilt. Adeline’s letter, which has not been located, must have been so engaging and convincing in its statement of her seriousness of purpose that Mrs. Hale attributed some perhaps overly ambitious goals to the quilt:

Notwithstanding the comprehensive design we are attempting to describe, we have no doubt of its successful termination. The letter of the young lady bears such internal evidence of her capability, that we feel certain she has the power to complete her work if her life is spared. And when we say that she has been nearly eight years engaged on this quilt, and seems to feel now all the enthusiasm of a poetical temperament working out a grand invention that is to be a new pleasure and blessing to the world, we are sure all our readers will wish her success. Who knows but in future ages, her work may be looked at like the Bayeux Tapestry, not only as a marvel of woman’s ingenious and intellectual industry; but as affording an idea of the civilization of our times, and giving a notion of the persons as estimated in history.³⁴

Indeed, Adeline’s quilt serves some of the lofty purpose with which Mrs. Hale endowed it, as it does afford an idea of the civilization of Adeline’s time. The autographs comprise a nearly complete gathering of the most famous Americans (and some Europeans) in most fields of endeavor at midcentury. It reveals the breadth of the education that a well-to-do young woman from New England received in the 1850s, and

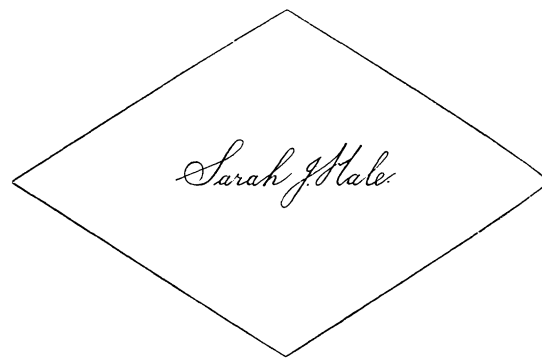


Figure 18. Facsimile of Sarah J. Hale’s autograph on a quilt diamond from *Godey’s Lady’s Book* 68 (April 1864) p. 388

the quilt speaks of the amount of leisure time someone like Adeline had on her hands.

In 1866, her project yet unfinished, Adeline was married to Lorenzo Sears (1838–1916), an Episcopalian priest. Her choosing to marry a member of the clergy, rather than a man of business like her father or uncles, also seems to support the notion that Adeline valued learning. Members of the clergy were usually the best-educated men in antebellum society. Sears was born in Searsville, Massachusetts, a town undoubtedly named for his forebears. His family members were descendants of one Richard Sares, who is listed in the records of the Plymouth colony in 1633.³⁵ Following his graduation from Yale, Sears completed his studies at the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained in 1864. After his marriage to Adeline, he served as the rector of various parishes in New England; his longest appointment was at Grace Church in Manchester, New Hampshire, where he remained for sixteen years. In 1885, when Sears was in his late forties, he changed careers and became a professor of rhetoric and English literature at the University of Vermont. A few years later, when he was appointed professor at Brown University, he and Adeline returned to the state of her birth. In the years between 1896 and 1914, in addition to teaching, Sears wrote extensively about oratory and American literature; he also authored a series of biographies.³⁶ One of these was about the orator and abolitionist Wendell Phillips, who had contributed an autograph to Adeline’s quilt more than fifty years earlier.

After her quilt’s brush with fame in 1864, Adeline lived the remainder of her life out of the limelight. She gave birth to four children, only one of whom, Sophie Harris Sears (1872–1949), survived infancy.³⁷ In

Providence, the Searses lived at 163 Butler Avenue, in the affluent neighborhood bordering the Brown University campus. Even in her old age, Adeline (Figure 19) apparently retained her intellectual bent and was remembered by her granddaughter as “extremely witty, and a brilliant conversationalist, and retained her inquiring mind to the time of her death.”³⁸

It is doubtful that Adeline ever slept under this quilt. It seems to have always remained a family showpiece, an embodiment of Adeline’s perseverance and intellectual gifts, a treasure carefully guarded by succeeding generations. When it came to the Museum, it had small rings sewn to the upper edge, implying that it had been hung for display at some point in its history. Adeline left her quilt to her daughter, Sophie, an active philanthropist and the head of the Providence Animal Rescue League, who married George Howarth late in life. Sophie had no children of her own, but adopted Howarth’s two daughters by a previous marriage. She bequeathed her mother’s quilt to her adopted daughters, Amey Howarth Mackinney and Constance Howarth Kuhl. They, in turn, passed it to their children: Amey Mackinney Harrison, Harold A. Mackinney, Constance Kuhl Francis, and Herbert Kuhl Jr. It was in Amey Mackinney Harrison’s possession, but



Figure 19. Adeline Harris Sears, ca. 1910 (photo: courtesy of Mrs. Amey Mackinney Harrison)

co-owned by all four of Adeline’s great-grandchildren, when the Museum purchased it in 1995. Here it remains, an eloquent artwork that speaks volumes about the work and world of one representative young woman who lived in mid-nineteenth-century America.

NOTES

1. This information is taken from “Obituary, Adeline Harris Sears,” *The Providence Journal* (May 1931); clipping in the collection of Amey Mackinney Harrison, a great-granddaughter of Adeline Harris.

2. *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island* (Chicago, 1908) I: Harris family, p. 756, and Knight family, p. 29.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 29.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 35.

5. Amey Howarth Mackinney’s handwritten memoir of her grandmother, ca. 1960s. It is not certain when the Knight brothers received the loan; it is possible that James Toleration Harris provided money to Benjamin Brayton Knight as early as 1835, four years after his marriage to Sophia. At that point, Knight left farming and purchased a building and lot in Cranston, Rhode Island, near the Sprague textile printworks. There he started a grocery store, which he eventually built up into a large and profitable wholesale grocery business. Knight sold that business in 1849, and two years later he purchased his first mill with his brother Robert. The Knights may have received a loan from Harris at this time or bought the mill with profits from the grocery business.

6. *Representative Men*, p. 30.

7. Amey Howarth Mackinney memoir and Rhode Island Historical Society biographical fact form filled out by Adeline Harris Sears in 1912.

8. Rhode Island Historical Society form.

9. Amey Howarth Mackinney memoir.

10. *Ibid.*

11. “Autographomania,” *Overland Monthly* 3 (Oct. 1869) p. 349.

12. *Godey’s Lady’s Book* 10 (April 1835) p. 180. Four signatures appear in the top half of the page, including those of Martin Van Buren and Henry Clay. In May 1835 the signatures of James Madison, John Quincy Adams, and Daniel Webster appeared on p. 276.

13. *Ibid.*, 18 (June 1839) pp. 256–259.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 256.

15. *Ibid.*

16. Phrenology is the study of the shape of the human skull in order to ascertain information about particular character traits and mental faculties. In the 19th century, phrenology was widely accepted as truly scientific. Developed by a German physiologist, it was popularized in this country through the publications of Orson and Lorenzo Fowler. Orson Fowler was also famous for being the main promoter of the health benefits that would come to those who lived in octagonal houses.

17. Edgar A. Poe, “A Chapter on Autography,” *Graham’s Magazine* 19 (Nov. 1841) p. 225. The article runs from p. 224 to p. 234, and

continues in the issues of Dec. 1841, pp. 273–286, and Jan. 1842, pp. 44–49.

18. Ibid. (Nov. 1841) p. 225.

19. *Home Journal* (April 19, 1851) p. 2.

20. Ibid.

21. Ibid. (Sept. 9, 1854) p. 2.

22. “Sale of Autographs,” *United States Magazine of Science, Art, Manufactures, Agriculture, Commerce and Trade* 2 (Jan. 1856) p. 267. Autographs of some of the figures found on Adeline’s quilt are reported in this article as being valued at about 10 to 25 cents each.

23. Isabella Lucy Bird, *The Englishwoman in America*, foreword and notes by Andrew Hill Clark (1854; reprinted, Madison/Milwaukee/London, 1966) p. 373. In her quilt, Adeline included the autograph of William Howitt, referred to by Bird as one of the more obscure English authors.

24. “Obituary, Adeline Harris Sears.”

25. Amey Howarth Mackinney memoir, pp. 1–2.

26. Ibid.

27. *Representative Men*, p. 33.

28. There is a quilt begun in 1877 by midwesterner Elizabeth Schofield in the collection of the Colorado Historical Society (H.6200.1268) that is similar to Adeline’s quilt. It bears the signatures of 192 people, some friends of the maker, and some well-known figures. Like Adeline’s quilt, it is pieced in the tumbling-block pattern; yet since it was begun thirteen years after the description of Adeline’s quilt was published, one cannot know if Elizabeth Schofield read the 1864 *Godey’s* articles about it and was inspired or came up with the idea on her own.

29. “Autograph Bedquilt,” *Godey’s Lady’s Book* 68 (April 1864) pp. 387–388, 396; and “Plan for an Autograph Quilt,” *Godey’s Lady’s Book* 69 (July 1864) p. 80.

30. “Autograph Bedquilt,” p. 388.

31. Ibid., p. 396.

32. Ibid.

33. Ibid.

34. Ibid. The Bayeux Tapestry, actually an embroidery, is some 270 feet long by 20 inches wide and chronicles, both in embroidered pictures and words, the Norman Conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. Of coarse linen embroidered with wool, it is thought to have been made ca. 1080 to decorate the cathedral in Bayeux, France, in celebration of the victory. Possibly one of the reasons it was invoked by Mrs. Hale is that throughout the 19th century, the tapestry was thought to be the work of a single woman, Queen Mathilda, William the Conqueror’s wife. As such, it was held up as both a pinnacle of woman’s achievement and an act of extraordinary wifely devotion. Research in this century has proved that it was actually commissioned from an English workshop of professional women embroiderers.

35. Samuel P. May, *The Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears) of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 1638–1888* (Albany, 1890) p. 550.

36. Amey Howarth Mackinney memoir and 1861–1911 *The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Class of 1861 Yale College, with Biographical Sketches Prepared by the Secretary* (Philadelphia, 1912) pp. 140–141.

37. Telephone conversation between the author and Mrs. Amey Mackinney Harrison, Aug. 5, 1997.

38. Amey Howarth Mackinney memoir.

Appendix: Inscriptions and Biographies

Column 1

- A. *Yours very respectfully* / L. F. S. Foster / 1859.
Lafayette Sabine Foster (1806–1880)—editor and senator from Connecticut.
- B. *Truly your friend* / Jno. A. Bingham / 1860.
John Armor Bingham (1815–1900)—congressman from Ohio.
- C. *Yours truly* / A. G. Curtin
Andrew Gregg Curtin (1815?–1894)—governor of Pennsylvania elected in 1860, Lincoln supporter.
- D. *J. R. Doolittle* / Wisconsin
James Rood Doolittle (1815–1897)—senator from Wisconsin; Lincoln supporter.
- E. *With / great respect* / Edw. McPherson / Gettysburg, Pa / Oct. 18. '59.
Edward McPherson (1830–1895)—congressman from Pennsylvania, editor, and writer.
- F. *[illegible]* / friend / John P. Hale / July 4, 1859
John Parker Hale (1806–1873)—senator from New Hampshire; antislavery.
- G. *Yours truly* / James T. Hale
James Tracy Hale (1810–1865)—congressman from Pennsylvania.
- H. *Wm. H. Bissell* / 1859
William Henry Bissell (1811–1860)—governor of Illinois.
- I. *Very truly yours* / I. Washburn, Jr. / May 10, 1859
Israel Washburn Jr. (1813–1883)—congressman from Maine.
- J. *Elihu Washburne* / Galena / Illinois
Elihu Benjamin Washburne (1816–1887)—congressman from Illinois; Lincoln supporter.
- K. *Very Truly Yrs.* / C. C. Washburn / Lacrosse, Wis. / Oct. 1, 1859
Cadwallader Colden Washburn (1818–1882)—congressman from Wisconsin.
- L. *Respectfully* / H. L. Dawes. / 1859.
Henry Laurens Dawes (1816–1903)—congressman from Massachusetts.
- M. *Wm. A. Buckingham*
William Alfred Buckingham (1804–1875)—governor of Connecticut.

- N. *Yours truly* / Jn Hickman / Feb. 28 '60
John Hickman (1810–1875)—congressman from Pennsylvania.
- O. *Truly Yours* / John Cochrane
John Cochrane (1813–1898)—congressman from New York City.
- P. *Very truly yours* / John Sherman / H. of Rep. Wash / Jan'y 6 '60
John Sherman (1823–1900)—congressman from Ohio.
- Q. *Yrs. respy.* / Wm. Pennington, Newark N. Jersey / November 18, 1860.
William Pennington (1796–1862)—congressman from New Jersey; former New Jersey governor.
- R. *Your Obedt. Svt.* / Silas Casey / Maj. Gen.
Silas Casey (1807–1882)—major general of Northern volunteers, appointed May 31, 1862.

Column 2

- A. *With the [illegible] regards of* / James Dixon / of Conn / June 21, 1859
James Dixon (1814–1873)—senator from Connecticut.
- B. *Very Truly / your Obedient Servant* / Solomon Foot, / Vt.
Solomon Foot (1802–1866)—senator from Vermont.
- C. *Your Obt Serv't* / D. W. Gooch. / 1859
Daniel Wheelwright Gooch (1820–1891)—congressman from Massachusetts.
- D. *I am / very respectfully / your friend [illegible]* / A. H. Holley / Conn.
Alexander Hamilton Holley (1804–1887)—governor of Connecticut.
- E. *With best regards of* / R. E. Fenton / House of Reps. U.S. Jan 29th, 60
Reuben Eaton Fenton (1819–1885)—congressman from New York.
- F. *E. P. Walton* / Montpelier / Vermont.
Eliakim Persons Walton (1812–1890)—congressman from Vermont.
- G. *[illegible]* / *[illegible]* / C. [Schrez?]—unknown.

- H. *With my best regards / Yours / F. [Siyaly?], Maj. Gen.*
—unknown.
- I. *Very Resply / Henry M. Naglee / B. G.*
Henry M. Naglee (dates unknown)—brigadier general?, U.S. volunteers (1862–64).
- J. *Joseph Hooker / Maj Gnl / [illegible]*
Joseph Hooker (1814–1879)—U.S. major general, Northern troops.
- K. *yours truly / Frank P. Blair, St. Louis Mo. / 1859*
Francis Preston Blair (1821–1875)—former congressman from Missouri; antislavery.
- L. *J. C. Fremont.*
John Charles Fremont (1813–1890)—explorer and soldier; major general in charge of the Department of the West.
- M. *always. yours. / N.P. Banks. / Waltham / MS. / Nov. 20 / 1857*
Nathaniel Prentiss Banks (1816–1894)—congressman from Massachusetts; antislavery.
- N. *Your Sincere Friend / A. E. Burnside / New York. March '63*
Ambrose Everett Burnside (1824–1881)—general of Northern army.
- O. *I am / very truly your friend / Thomas Francis Meagher / Brig. General / commissioning / The Irish Brigade*
Thomas Francis Meagher (1823–1867)—leader of the Irish Brigade from New York City.
- P. *W. S. Rosecrans / Major Gen'l / 1860*
William Starke Rosecrans (1819–1898)—leader of Northern troops.
- Q. *very truly yours / Geo. B. McClellan*
George Brinton McClellan (1826–1885)—leader of Northern troops.
- R. *Irvin McDowell / Major General*
Irvin McDowell (1818–1885)—major general of Northern army volunteers.
- C. *Respectfully / C. F. Cleveland / Hampton Ct. / July 16. 1859*
Chauncey Fitch Cleveland (1799–1887)—anti-slavery politician from Connecticut.
- D. *John A. Gurley / Cincinnati / Ohio*
John Addison Gurley (1813–1863)—congressman from Ohio.
- E. *J. F. Farnsworth / Chicago / Aug. 19th / 1859*
John Franklin Farnsworth (1820–1897)—congressman from Illinois; antislavery.
- F. *Yrs. Very Truly / H. F. Clark / 1859*
Horace Francis Clark (1815–1873)—congressman from New York and railroad director.
- G. *I have / the honour / to be Very Truly / Your Obt. Servant / Z. Chandler / March 1859*
Zachariah Chandler (1813–1879)—senator from Michigan; antislavery.
- H. *Truly Yours / Geo G. Meade / Maj. Gen'l of Wes.*
George Gordon Meade (1815–1872)—brigadier general; victor at Gettysburg (1863).
- I. *Sam Houston / 1st January 1858*
Samuel Houston (1793–1863)—soldier and governor of Texas; antislavery.
- J. *Winfield Scott.*
Winfield Scott (1786–1866)—longtime soldier, presidential hopeful (Whig), and Lincoln supporter.
- K. *Your Obt. serv't / John E. Wool / 1860*
John Ellis Wool (1784–1869)—longtime soldier, aide to Winfield Scott.
- L. *Your Friend / John A. Dix*
John Adams Dix (1798–1879)—secretary of the treasury (1861–63)
- M. *Greeting! / [Snogath?] / London, June 1858*
—unknown.
- N. *Rear Admiral / Lessoffsky. / of the Imperial / Russian / Navy.*
—unknown.

Column 3

- A. *Very Truly Yours / Clark B. Cochrane / Schenectady, N.Y. Sept. 26 1858*
Clark B. Cochrane (1817–1867)—congressman from New York.
- B. *I am / Truly Yours / Stephen C. Foster / Pembroke / Maine / October 5. 1859*
Stephen Clark Foster (1799–1872)—congressman from Maine.
- O. *General / Forey / Commandant en chef au / combat de Montello / 20 Mai 1859*
Élie Frédéric Forey (1804–1872)—French marshal; commander of the forces sent to Mexico by Napoleon III.
- P. *Your's Respecty / S. F. DuPont / Rear Admiral / U. S. Navy*
Samuel Francis DuPont (1803–1865)—naval officer in charge of Northern naval blockades.

- Q. *S. P. H. Hintzelman / Major Gen'l / July 1863.*
Samuel P. Hintzelman (dates unknown)—major general of U.S. volunteers (1862–65).
- R. *H. W. Halleck / Gen'l in chief*
Henry Wager Halleck (1815–1872)—military adviser to Lincoln; general in chief July 11, 1862–March 1864.

Column 4

- A. *Believe me / Most Truly Yours / Galusha A. Grow / Glenwood June 15 / 58*
Galusha Aaron Grow (1822–1907)—congressman from Pennsylvania; Speaker of the House (1861–62).
- B. *Very Truly / Your Friend / P. Bliss / Oct. 14 '59*
Philemon Bliss (1814–1889)—congressman from Ohio; antislavery.
- C. *I am very / respectfully your friend / J. R. Giddings / Jefferson Ohio*
Joshua Reed Giddings (1795–1864)—congressman from the Western Reserve of Ohio; antislavery.
- D. *I am / truly your / friend / B. F. Wade*
Benjamin Franklin Wade (1800–1878)—senator from Ohio; antislavery.
- E. *Gerrit Smith. / 1858.*
Gerrit Smith (1797–1874)—reformer and abolitionist.
- F. *Your / friend / Owen Lovejoy / Aug. 5. 1859*
Owen Lovejoy (1811–1864)—congressman from Illinois, abolitionist and Lincoln supporter.
- G. *Wendell Phillips.*
Wendell Phillips (1811–1884)—abolitionist and orator.
- H. *Charles Sumner.*
Charles Sumner (1811–1874)—senator from Massachusetts; abolitionist.
- I. *Edward Everett / 1858.*
Edward Everett (1794–1865)—senator from Massachusetts; orator.
- J. *Yours, etc. / Thomas H. Benton / Feby. 12. 1858*
Thomas Hart Benton (1782–1858)—senator from Missouri; moderate.

- K. *"one thing is needful" / Theo. Frelinghuysen / 1859.*
Theodore Frelinghuysen (1787–1862)—lawyer, politician, leader of religious charities, president of Rutgers University.
- L. *Yours etc. / Josiah Quincy / March 29. 1857.*
Josiah Quincy (1772–1864)—congressman from Massachusetts; mayor of Boston; president of Harvard University; writer.
- M. *Richard Cobden / Paris / 1 Feb of 1860*
Richard Cobden (1804–1865)—English reformer; member of Parliament, free trade, anti-imperialist.
- N. *John Bright / London / April 26, 1860*
John Bright (1811–1889)—English reformer and orator; member of Parliament.
- O. *Charles Francis Adams / Quincy 3 July 1860*
Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886)—congressman from Massachusetts; antislavery; American minister to the Court of St. James's (1861–68), author, and son of John Quincy Adams, U.S. president (1825–29).
- P. *Your's truly / J. Van Buren / Kinderhook / Sepbr 2d 63*
John Van Buren (1810–1866)—lawyer, politician, and son of Martin Van Buren, U.S. president (1837–41).
- Q. *Yours faithfully / Townsend Harris.*
Townsend Harris (1804–1878)—merchant, politician, and diplomat, founder of the City University of New York, minister and consul general to Japan (1855–61).
- R. *With sincere / regret for long / delay. / William H. Seward / Feb. 24 1858*
William Henry Seward (1801–1872)—governor of New York State (1838–42); U.S. senator (1848–61); secretary of state (1861–65); antislavery.

Column 5

- A. *Very sincerely yours, / Justin S. Morrill*
Justin Smith Morrill (1810–1898)—congressman and senator from Vermont; antislavery.
- B. *Your Obt Servt / Wm. D. Brayton / 1859*
William Daniel Brayton (1815–1887)—congressman from Rhode Island (1857–61).
- C. *John Brown Francis*
John Brown Francis (1791–1864)—governor of Rhode Island (1832–38).

- D. *Very respectfully / your servant / C. J. Ingersoll / 1859.*
Charles Jared Ingersoll (1782–1862)—congressman from Pennsylvania (1840–49) and historian.
- E. *T. A. Jenckes*
Thomas Allen Jenckes (1818–1875)—congressman from Rhode Island (1862–70).
- F. *I have / the honor to be / your friend & servant / Edward Wade / Cleveland / Ohio / 1858*
Edward Wade (1802–1866)—congressman from Ohio (1853–61).
- G. *Teaching Domestic Industry / by example / Simon Cameron / Aug. 6. 1859.*
Simon Cameron (1799–1889)—senator from Pennsylvania and secretary of war (1861–62).
- H. *I would [illegible] / regard a request / granting which / costs me nothing and / gratifies another / Yours truly, / Lyman Trumbull / Alton Ill. / June 18, 1859.*
Lyman Trumbull (1813–1896)—senator from Illinois (1855–73).
- I. *Respectfully yours / James Guthrie / [illegible] Kentucky / October 3rd 1859*
James Guthrie (1792–1869)—businessman from Kentucky and secretary of the treasury (1853–57).
- J. *J. J. Crittenden*
John Jordan Crittenden (1787–1863)—lawyer and senator from Kentucky.
- K. *With / the respects of / Jno. Bell*
John Bell (1797–1869)—senator from Tennessee (1847–59).
- L. *Alexander H. Stephens*
Alexander Hamilton Stephens (1812–1883)—congressman from Georgia; vice president of the Confederacy.
- M. *Yours truly / J. L. M. Curry*
Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry—congressman from Alabama (1857–61).
- N. *Yr obt servt. / W. L. Underwood / Octbr 1859*
Warner Lewis Underwood (1808–1872)—congressman from Kentucky.
- O. *Your obt. svt / C. M. Clay / 1858*
Cassius Marcellus Clay (1810–1903)—governor of Kentucky; abolitionist.
- P. *Jno. M. Botts*
John Minor Botts (1802–1869)—politician from Virginia; antiseccessionist.
- Q. *J. Holt of Kentucky*
Joseph Holt (1807–1894)—judge-advocate general of the Union army.
- R. *Henry Winter Davis / of Maryland*
Henry Winter Davis (1817–1865)—congressman from Maryland.

Column 6

- A. *Very truly Yr Friend / John H. Clarke*
John Hopkins Clarke (1789–1870)—senator from Rhode Island.
- B. *Yours truly / James F. Simmons, 1859*
James Fowler Simmons (1795–1864)—senator from Rhode Island.
- C. *Yours Sincerely / John Whipple, Providence 9 March*
Possibly John Adams Whipple (1822–?)—photographer.
- D. *Yours Truly / Thomas G. Turner / Warren R.I., May 27 1859*
Thomas Goodwin Turner (1810–1875)—governor of Rhode Island (1859–60).
- E. *Yours truly / Elisha Harris*
Elisha Harris (1791–1861)—millowner; former governor of Rhode Island (1847–48); cousin of Adeline's father.
- F. *W. R. Staples*
Waller Redd Staples (1826–1897)—politician from Virginia; antiseccessionist; later member of the Confederate Congress.
- G. *Respectfully / Preston King, July 20, 1859*
Preston King (1806–1865)—senator from New York.
- H. *Truly / John A. Gilmer*
John Adams Gilmer (1805–1868)—congressman from North Carolina; antiseccessionist; later member of the Confederate Congress.
- I. *L. W. Cap / [illegible] 4, 1858*
—unknown.
- J. *Yours truly / Benj. F. Butler*
Benjamin Franklin Butler (1795–1858)—lawyer and politician from New York.
- K. *Respectfully / Yours, / J. C. Mason / 1859*
John Calvin Mason (1802–1865)—congressman from Kentucky.
- L. *G. M. Dallas*
George Mifflin Dallas (1792–1864)—U.S. vice president (1845–49).

- M. *Truly Yours* / R. J. Walker, Oct. 20, 1859
Robert John Walker (1801–1869)—secretary of the treasury (1845–49).
- N. *Yours Truly* / H. Hamlin
Hannibal Hamlin (1809–1891)—senator from Maine, U.S. vice president (1861–65).
- O. *Thos. Corwin* / 1857
Thomas Corwin (1794–1865)—secretary of the treasury (1850–53).
- P. *I am / Your's very truly* / William L. Dayton / Trenton, N.J. 1859
William Lewis Dayton (1807–1864)—senator from New Jersey and lawyer.
- Q. *Very Truly / Yours* / Richard J. Morris
—unknown.
- R. *A. Burlingame* / 1856
Anson Burlingame (1820–1870)—congressman from Massachusetts.

Column 7

- A. *Yours very / truly* / Thomas Davis, 1859
Thomas Frederick Davis (1804–1871)—Episcopal bishop of North Carolina.
- B. *I am / very truly your friend* / John R. Bartlett, March 9, 1859
John Russell Bartlett (1805–1886)—antiquarian and secretary of state of Rhode Island (1855–72).
- C. *I have / the honor to be / your highly flattered / friend & servant* / Byron Dimmy
—unknown.
- D. *Your Obt Svt.* / H. Y. Cranston, 1859
Henry Young Cranston (1789–1864)—politician from Rhode Island.
- E. *with sentiments of / regard, Very Respy Yours*, / Elisha Dyer, 1859
Elisha Dyer (1811–1890)—governor of Rhode Island (1857–59).
- F. *Yours truly*, / Christopher Robinson, 1859
Christopher Robinson (1806–1889)—congressman from Rhode Island (1859–61); antislavery.
- G. *S. N. Sherman*, 1859
Socrates Norton Sherman (1801–1873)—congressman from New York.
- H. *W. P. Fessenden*, June 6, 1859
William Pitt Fessenden (1806–1869)—senator from Maine.

- I. *Respectfully / yours* / M. Van Buren, 1859.
Martin Van Buren (1782–1862)—U.S. president (1837–41).
- J. 1859 / *Truly & Faithfully* / John Tyler
John Tyler (1790–1862)—U.S. president (1841–45).
- K. *Truly Yours* / Millard Fillmore, 1858
Millard Fillmore (1800–1874)—U.S. president (1850–53).
- L. *Your friend* / Franklin Pierce, 1863
Franklin Pierce (1804–1869)—U.S. president (1853–57).
- M. *James Buchanan*, 3 March 1863.
James Buchanan (1791–1868)—U.S. president (1857–61).
- N. *Yr friend / & Servant Abraham Lincoln*, 1860
Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)—U.S. president (1861–65).
- O. *Andrew Johnson*
Andrew Johnson (1808–1875)—U.S. president (1865–69).
- P. *U. S. Grant*
Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822–1885)—U.S. president (1869–77).
- Q. *With / sincere regard, Yours very truly* / Schuyler Colfax / *South Bend, Ind'a.* / 1859
Schuyler Colfax (1823–1885)—congressman from Indiana (1855–69); U.S. vice president (1869–73).
- R. *Henry Wilson* / Mass.
Henry Wilson (1812–1875)—senator from Massachusetts, U.S. vice president (1873–75).

Column 8

- A. *Very truly* / Em. Etheridge
Emerson Etheridge (1819–?)—congressman from Tennessee.
- B. *A. B. Meek, Mobile* / 1859
Alexander Beaufort Meek (1814–1865)—lawyer, politician, and author from Alabama.
- C. *Yours very truly* / James B. Clay, Ashland near / Lexington, KY / Nov. 19th, 1859
James Brown Clay (1817–1864)—lawyer and politician, son of Henry Clay.

- D. *Very gratefully / yours / Henry A. Wise, April 4th, 1858*
Henry Augustus Wise (1819–1869)—naval officer and author.
- E. *E. R. Potter / Kingston, R.I. / 1859*
Elisha Reynolds Potter (1811–1882)—politician, educational reformer, and author from Rhode Island.
- F. *William Sprague / of R.I. / January 5th, '62*
William Sprague (1830–1915)—governor of Rhode Island (1860–63).
- G. *Truly Yours / N. P. Tallmadge / Fond du Lac, Wisconsin / Sept. 10, 1858*
Nathaniel Pitcher Tallmadge (1795–1864)—senator, governor of Wisconsin territory (1844–46), and spiritualist.
- H. *R. B. Taney*
Roger Brooke Taney (1777–1864)—U.S. chief justice (1836–1864).
- I. *With / sincere wishes / for your happiness / I am truly your friend / John McLean*
John McLean (1785–1861)—U.S. associate justice (1830–61).
- J. *C. Cushing / Newport / 16 Sept. / 1858*
Caleb Cushing (1800–1879)—U.S. attorney general (1853–57).
- K. *Rufus Choate, / 1858.*
Rufus Choate (1799–1859)—senator from Massachusetts and lawyer.
- L. *Yours sincerely, / S. P. Chase*
Salmon Portland Chase (1808–1873)—governor of Ohio (1855–59) and antislavery lawyer.
- M. *Robert C. Winthrop / 1858*
Robert Charles Winthrop (1809–1894)—congressman and senator from Massachusetts.
- N. *Very Respectfully / E. W. Bates / St. Louis, Mo / 1859*
Edward Bates (1793–1869)—politician from Missouri.
- O. *Sincerely Yours / D. S. Dickinson*
Daniel Stevens Dickinson (1800–1866)—senator from New York.
- P. *Your friend / Jas. T. Brady*
James Topham Brady (1815–1869)—lawyer from New York.
- Q. *Yours truly / David Dudley Field*
David Dudley Field (1805–1894)—lawyer from New York.

- R. *"To sleep—perchance / to dream" / H. C. Deming*
Henry Champion Deming (1815–1872)—lawyer and politician from Connecticut.

Column 9

- A. *With / the respects of / A. R. Boteler / 1860*
Alexander Robinson Boteler (1815–1892)—congressman from Virginia.
- B. *"To sleep, perchance to dream" / Williams W. Boyce, So. Ca.*
Williams Waters Boyce (1818–1890)—congressman from South Carolina.
- C. *With / the respects of / W. N. H. Smith, N.C.*
William Nathan Harrell Smith (1812–1889)—congressman from North Carolina.
- D. *Thos. A. R. Nelson*
—unknown.
- E. *J. Morrison Harris / Maryland*
James Morrison Harris (1817–1898)—congressman from Maryland.
- F. *Feb / 1860 / Sherrard Clemens / Wheeling / Va.*
Sherrard Clemens (1820–1881)—congressman from Virginia.
- G. *With / the respects of / W. C. Anderson / 1860*
William Clayton Anderson (1826–1861)—congressman from Kentucky.
- H. *J. W. Edmonds / 1858.*
John Worth Edmonds (1799–1874)—lawyer, judge, prison reformer, and spiritualist.
- I. *Robert Dale Owen*
Robert Dale Owen (1801–1877)—social reformer, cofounder of Utopian community of New Harmony, Indiana, advocate of emancipation, and spiritualist.
- J. *Long Live / Arcadia's Queen! / Isaac T. Goodnow*
Isaac Tichenor Goodnow (1814–1894)—educator and Kansas pioneer.
- K. *Yours truly / O. M. Mitchel / 1859.*
Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel (1809–1862)—professor of astronomy and well-known lecturer on the subject.
- L. *H. Fuller*
Hiram Fuller (1814–1880)—owner and manager of the *New York Mirror*, later the *Evening Mirror*.

- M. *Yours faithfully* / John J. Delane
—unknown.
- N. *Very truly yours* / Henry J. Raymond / 1863
Henry Jarvis Raymond (1820–1869)—editor of the *New York Times*.
- O. *Horace Greeley* / N.York, Oct. 12, '58
Horace Greeley (1811–1872)—editor of the *New York Tribune*.
- P. *Truly Yours*, / Thurlow Weed
Thurlow Weed (1797–1882)—editor of the *Albany Evening Journal* and political boss.
- Q. *H. B. Anthony*
Henry Bowen Anthony (1815–1884)—governor of Rhode Island (1849–51) and editor of the *Providence Journal*.
- R. *Sleep dwell upon / thine eyes; / Peace in thy breast!* / Jos. T. Buckingham
Joseph Tinker Buckingham (1779–1861)—editor of the *Boston Daily Courier*.

Column 10

- A. *"A poor player"* / Edm. L. Davenport / Boston 1858.
Edward Loomis Davenport (1815–1877)—actor.
- B. *Very Truly* / Edwin Forrest.
Edwin Forrest (1806–1872)—actor.
- C. *Aug. Hoppin*
Augustus Hoppin (1828–1896)—illustrator, originally from Providence.
- D. *W. Hoppin*.
William Warner Hoppin (1807–1890)—governor of Rhode Island (1854–56) and first cousin of Augustus Hoppin.
- E. *A. Howard Okie*, 1856
—unknown.
- F. *Dio Lewis* / Boston / Mass.
Dioclesian Lewis (1823–1886)—temperance reformer and pioneer of physical education for women.
- G. *Cyrus W. Field* / New York
Cyrus West Field (1819–1892)—merchant and promoter of the first Atlantic telegraph cable.
- H. *Yours Reply* / Jas. J. Mapes, Newark / N.J. / July / 1859
James Jay Mapes (1806–1866)—scientist and agriculturist.

- I. *Arnold Guyot*. / July 2d 1859.
Arnold Henry Guyot (1807–1884)—geographer, associate of naturalists Louis Agassiz and Alexander von Humboldt.
- J. *Affectionately Yours*, / Edward Hitchcock / 1859
Edward Hitchcock (1793–1864)—geologist.
- K. *To / the amiable / Miss Addie A. Harris, / with grateful considerations from / John W. Francis* / New York
John Wakefield Francis (1789–1861)—obstetrician, professor, and founder of the New York Academy of Medicine (1846).
- L. *Very truly / your obt servt* / Joseph Henry, Oct. 31st 1860
Joseph Henry (1797–1878)—professor of natural philosophy (physics) and first secretary and director of the Smithsonian Institution.
- M. *Respectfully / Yours*. / A. D. Bache / 1863
Alexander Dallas Bache (1806–1867)—physicist, first president of Girard College, and first president of the National Academy of Sciences.
- N. *Alexander Humboldt* / April 25, 1858 / born Sept. 17th 1769!!
Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859)—German naturalist.
- O. *Samuel F. B. Morse* / *Po'keepsie* / New York
Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791–1872)—artist and inventor.
- P. *Yours very truly* / L. Agassiz / 1863.
Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807–1873)—naturalist.
- Q. *B. Silliman*, October 2 / 1858
Benjamin Silliman (1779–1864)—chemistry and natural history professor at Yale College.
- R. *With the best wishes of / yours* / James D. Dana, 1863.
James Dwight Dana (1813–1895)—geologist and zoologist; Silliman's successor.

Column 11

- A. *Very Respectfully / Your Obt svt.* / P. F. Rothermel, *Philad*, Ap. 20, 60
Peter Frederick Rothermel (1817–1895)—history painter; director of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (1847–55).
- B. *E. D. Palmer*, *Summer House*, *Aurora*, N.Y. / 1863.
Erastus Dow Palmer (1817–1904)—sculptor.

- C. *A. B. Durand / June 1st / 60*
Asher Brown Durand (1796–1886)—engraver and painter; president of the National Academy of Design.
- D. *William Page*
William Page (1811–1885)—portrait painter.
- E. *Very truly / Yours / George W. Conarroe, Oct. 31 / 59*
George W. Conarroe (1803–1882 or 1884)—portrait and genre painter.
- F. *Yours / truly / Thos. H. Hinckley / Aug. 15, 1859*
Thomas Hewes Hinckley (1813–1896)—animal painter.
- G. *Dear / Miss Harris, / Yours very truly, / Robert W. Weir, Oct. 21st 1859*
Robert Walter Weir (1803–1889)—portrait and genre painter and teacher.
- H. *As requested—/ Richard H. Dana, Sr.*
Richard Henry Dana Sr. (1787–1879)—poet.
- I. *“Oh Sleep, oh [gentle?] Sleep, / Nature’s soft nurse” / Richard H. Dana, Jr.*
Richard Henry Dana Jr. (1815–1882)—author of an account of a trip around Cape Horn and lawyer.
- J. *George William Curtis / August 17, 1858.*
George William Curtis (1824–1892)—travel journalist.
- K. *Fitz-Greene Halleck*
Fitz-Greene Halleck (1790–1867)—poet.
- L. *Washington Irving / Feb. 5th, 1858.*
Washington Irving (1783–1859)—essayist and short-story writer.
- M. *Nath’l Hawthorne / April 30, 1863*
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)—novelist.
- N. *R. W. Emerson.*
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)—essayist and poet.
- O. *Henry W. Longfellow.*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)—poet.
- P. *Yours truly, / William Cullen Bryant / September 9th. / 1858.*
William Cullen Bryant (1794–1878)—poet and editor of the *New York Evening Post*.
- Q. *John G. Whittier / 1858.*
John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)—poet and abolitionist.
- R. *Sweet be their dreams, their slumber deep / Who under*

Addie’s quilt shall sleep! / J. R. Lowell, 9th Oct. 1859.
James Russell Lowell (1819–1891)—poet, editor, and teacher.

Column 12

- A. *A. F. Tait / Morrisania / Westchester, Co. / N.Y.*
Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait (1819–1905)—landscape and animal painter.
- B. *Hiram Powers.*
Hiram Powers (1805–1873)—sculptor.
- C. *Louis Lang.*
Louis Lang (1814–1893)—portrait painter.
- D. *H. Vernet / 28 avril 1860*
Horace Vernet (1789–1863)—French history painter.
- E. *Lilly M. Spencer*
Lilly Martin Spencer (1822–1902)—genre painter.
- F. *very truly yours / T. Buchanan Read / July 1859*
Thomas Buchanan Read (1822–1872)—portrait painter and poet.
- G. *Like gentle eyelid on the gentle eye, / O quilt, on gentle sleeper lie! / O. W. Wight*
Orlando Williams Wight (1824–1888)—author and translator.
- H. *Yours truly / Alfred B. Street / Albany / N.Y.*
Alfred Billings Street (1811–1881)—poet; director of the New York State Library.
- I. *With the regard of / Henry C. Carey*
Henry Charles Carey (1793–1879)—economist and publisher.
- J. *with pleasure / John Neal / Pou[?] Dec. 14, ’63*
John Neal (1793–1876)—novelist.
- K. *Anfang und ende reichen sich die hände / Jacob Grimm / Berlin 3 Juni 1860.*
Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm (1785–1863)—German philologist and folklorist.
- L. *avec / tous mes hommages / Alexandre Dumas*
Alexandre Dumas *père* (1802–1870) or Alexandre Dumas *fils* (1824–1895)—French novelists and playwrights.
- M. *Walter Savage / Landor / 1859.*
Walter Savage Landor (1775–1864)—English playwright and poet.

- N. *C. C. Felton*
Cornelius Conway Felton (1807–1862)—classicist.
- O. *While Valors haughty champions wait / Till all their fears are shown / Love walks unchallenged through the gate / To sit beside the throne. / Oliver Wendell Holmes.*
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894)—essayist, poet, and teacher of anatomy.
- P. *Donald G. Mitchell / Edgewood / 27 Mar. '58*
Donald Grant Mitchell (1822–1908)—agriculturist, landscape gardener, and author.
- Q. *The scroll of [illegible] will burn / Where sea & earth consumes / But the case of love in a happier [illegible] / Will live in deathless blooms. / H. T. Tuckerman*
Henry Theodore Tuckerman (1813–1871)—critic, essayist, and poet.
- R. *J. T. Trowbridge*
John Townsend Trowbridge (1827–1916)—journalist.

Column 13

- A. *Johannes A. Oertel*
Johannes Adam Simon Oertel (1823–1909)—painter of religious subjects.
- B. *William H. De Lancey / Bishop of Western New York*
William Heathcote De Lancey (1797–1865)—Episcopal bishop.
- C. *"But one thing / is needful." / John H. Hopkins / Bishop of Vermont*
John Henry Hopkins (1792–1868)—Episcopal bishop.
- D. *Henry J. Whitehouse / Bishop of / Illinois*
Henry John Whitehouse (1803–1874)—Episcopal bishop.
- E. *Rembrandt Peale / May 25 / 59 / AE 81.*
Rembrandt Peale (1778–1860)—portrait and history painter.
- F. *John R. Johnston / Balt., Md / July 7, '60*
John R. Johnston (ca. 1821–ca. 1872)—portrait, landscape, and history painter.
- G. *Benson J. Lossing*
Benson John Lossing (1813–1891)—wood engraver, author, and editor.
- H. *Schlafen Sie wohl. / Chas. D. Warner*
Charles Dudley Warner (1829–1900)—editor and essayist.

- I. *David H. Strother / Lt. Col. 3rd. Va. Cavalry / March 12th, 1863*
David Hunter Strother (1816–1888)—illustrator.
- J. *A good conscience / serves sweet repose / O. A. Brownson*
Orestes Augustus Brownson (1803–1876)—author of religious essays.
- K. *Wm Thackeray*
William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863)—English novelist.
- L. *Charles Dickens / Saturday / thirteenth October / 1858.*
Charles Dickens (1812–1870)—English novelist.
- M. *With the good / wishes of / Charles Eliot Norton, Christmas. 1863.*
Charles Eliot Norton (1827–1908)—editor, author, and educator.
- N. *The fingers light / and eyes so bright, / That made this album quilt, / Have never thought, / And much less wrought, / To cover sleeping guilt. / Geo. Ticknor / Nov. 17, 1859.*
George Ticknor (1791–1871)—educator and author.

- O. *You have all my best wishes. / James T. Fields*
James Thomas Fields (1817–1881)—publisher and author.
- P. *Ever yours sincerely. / A. W. H. Boyd*
—unknown.
- Q. *Faithfully yrs / Peter Bayne.*
Peter Bayne (1830–1896)—Scottish theologian and journalist.
- R. *E. P. Whipple.*
Edwin Percy Whipple (1819–1886)—lecturer and essayist.

Column 14

- A. *Yours Cordially / Henry A. Neely*
Henry Adams Neely (1830–?)—Episcopal bishop of Maine.
- B. *"Believe in the / Lord Jesus Christ & Thou / shalt be saved." / Manton Eastburn*
Manton Eastburn (1801–1872)—Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts.
- C. *Thomas M. Clark*
Thomas March Clark (1812–1903)—Episcopal bishop of Rhode Island.

- D. *Jackson Kemper / Bishop of Wisconsin*
Jackson Kemper (1789–1870)—first missionary bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
- E. *HE / giveth his beloved / sleep. / G. T. Bedell, Aug. 1860*
Gregory Thurston Bedell (1817–1892)—Episcopal bishop of Ohio.
- F. *Yours etc. / William Ingraham Kip / Bishop of California / July 1, 1858*
William Ingraham Kip (1811–1893)—Episcopal bishop.
- G. *May all that's present [illegible] best / Be imaged ever in thy heart. / And may thy future years be blest / That [benevolent?] as now thou art. / Fred S. Cozzens*
Frederick Swartout Cozzens (1818–1869)—humorist.
- H. *Cordially, / John G. Saxe, / Sept. 11 / 1858.*
John Godfrey Saxe (1816–1887)—humorist poet.
- I. *Thomas Bailey Aldrich / 1863*
Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836–1907)—poet and editor.
- J. *To Miss Addie A. Harris / with the compliments of / George P. Marsh / Burlington / 1859*
George Perkins Marsh (1801–1882)—diplomat.
- K. *Merle d'Aubigne*
Jean Henri Merle d'Aubigne (1794–1872)—Swiss ecclesiastical historian.
- L. *T. B. Macauley*
Thomas Babington Macauley (1800–1859)—English historian, author of a history of England.
- M. *Miss A. A. Harris / from / George Bancroft / 1858*
George Bancroft (1800–1891)—historian, author of a history of the United States.
- N. *J. L. Motley*
John Lothrop Motley (1814–1877)—historian, author of a history of the Netherlands.
- O. *W. H. Prescott, 1858*
William Hickling Prescott (1796–1859)—historian, author of histories of Spain, Mexico, and Peru.
- P. *Jas. Parton / N.Y. 1867*
James Parton (1822–1891)—biographer.
- Q. *with G. S. Hillard's / compliments / Feb. 28, 1863*
George Stillman Hillard (1808–1879)—memoirist.
- R. *C. Edwards Lester, March 9, 1863*
Charles Edwards Lester (1815–1890)—historian and biographer.

Column 15

- A. [Inscription in Greek?] *W. R. Whittingham*
William Rollinson Whittingham (1805–1879)—Episcopal bishop of Maryland.
- B. *I am / very truly / your friend and serv't / T. C. Brownell*
Thomas Church Brownell (1779–1865)—Episcopal bishop of Connecticut.
- C. *Horatio Potter / Bishop of New York*
Horatio Potter (1802–1887)—Episcopal bishop of New York.
- D. *John Williams*
John Williams (1817–1899)—Episcopal bishop of Connecticut.
- E. *M. A. DeWolfe Howe / June 17th 1859*
Mark Antony DeWolfe Howe (1808–1895)—Episcopal bishop of Central Pennsylvania.
- F. *Chas. P. McIlvaine / Bishop of Ohio*
Charles Pettit McIlvaine (1799–1873)—Episcopal bishop of Ohio.
- G. *William Bacon Stevens*
William Bacon Stevens (1815–1887)—Episcopal bishop of Pennsylvania.
- H. *T. B. Thorpe / Oct. 17, 1859.*
Thomas Bangs Thorpe (1815–1878)—author, artist, and humorist.
- I. *Wm. Allen Butler / New York, Aug. 21, 1863*
William Allen Butler (1825–1902)—lawyer and satirical poet.
- J. *There are gains for all our losses, / There are balms for all our pain / R. H. Stoddard*
Richard Henry Stoddard (1825–1903)—poet, critic, and editor.
- K. *I have / the honour to be / Your obedient servant / Louis Blane*
—unknown.
- L. *Gott zum Gruss! / To his unknown friend / in Arcadia / R. Bunsen / Charlottenburg, 2 Xh., 1858*
Robert Wilhelm Bunsen (1811–1899)—German chemist.
- M. *Tout a vous / Edouard Laboulaye / 10r Lefebvre*
Edouard René Lefèvre Laboulaye (1811–1883)—French author of histories about the relationship of the United States and France.
- N. *Truly Yours / Parke Godwin / Feb. 22d, 1863*
Parke Godwin (1816–1904)—journalist, biographer, editor, son-in-law of William Cullen Bryant.

- O. *12 o'clock & all is well* / S. G. Goodrich, 88 Ninth Street / N. York, May 1859
Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793–1860)—children's book writer under the pen name of "Peter Parley."
- P. *George W. Greene*
George Washington Greene (1811–1883)—biographer and professor at Brown University.
- Q. *With compliments of* / S. G. Arnold / May 5th 1859
Samuel Greene Arnold—author of a general history of Rhode Island.
- R. *Wilkins Updike*
Wilkins Updike (1784–1867)—author of histories of Rhode Island institutions.

Column 16

- A. *Faithfully yr's* / F. [illegible] [Taryton?]
—unknown
- B. *Psalm XX.* / 1.2. & 3.4. / B. B. Smith
Benjamin Bosworth Smith (1794–1884)—Episcopal bishop of Kentucky.
- C. *God is love* / William Meade
William Meade (1789–1862)—Episcopal bishop of Virginia.
- D. *A. Cleveland Cope* / New York / Nov. 14. 1863
—unknown.
- E. *Alfred Lee* / Bishop of Delaware
Alfred Lee (1807–1887)—Episcopal bishop of Delaware.
- F. *Henry W. Lee* / Bishop of Iowa
Henry Washington Lee (1815–1874)—Episcopal bishop of Iowa.
- G. *Pluck wins the day* / In the battle of Life. / Mortimer Thomson, "Doesticks, P.B.", 1863
Mortimer Neal Thomson (1831–1875)—humorist, under the pen name of Q. K. Philander Doesticks, P. B.
- H. *Oh thing of many names, / Impart no pains to her, / But while one shred remains / Be thou a comforter* / B. P. Shillaber
Benjamin Penhallow Shillaber (1814–1890)—humorist.
- I. *Faithfully yrs.* / Edmund Clarence Stedman, Dec. 1863
Edmund Clarence Stedman (1833–1908)—satiric poet and journalist.

- J. *Emma Willard*
Emma Hart Willard (1787–1870)—educator, founder of America's first academic secondary school for girls.
- K. *William Howitt*
William Howitt (1792–1879)—English poet.
- L. *Mary Howitt*
Mary Howitt (1799–1888)—English poet and translator.
- M. *Sarah H. Whitman*
Sarah Helen Power Whitman (1803–1878)—poet.
- N. *Is ten old— / [jon?] nick!* / Charles L. Brace
Charles Loring Brace (1826–1890)—philanthropist and writer.
- O. *With the kindest wishes of* / John S. C. Abbott. / Farmington Maine / May 3, 1859.
John Stevens Cabot Abbott (1805–1877)—clergyman, educator, and historian.
- P. *With the very sin- / cere regards of* / Jacob Abbott / March 1863
Jacob Abbott (1803–1879)—clergyman, educator, and writer of children's books; brother of John S. C. Abbott.
- Q. *Yours truly* / J. T. Headley / 1859
Joel Tyler Headley (1813–1897)—journalist and biographer.
- R. *November 06.24.5[?]* / P. C. Headley
Phineas Camp Headley (1819–1903)—clergyman and biographer.

Column 17

- A. *God / is Love* / Robert A. Hallam, Rector of St. James / New London / Conn.
Robert Alexander Hallam (1807–1877)—Episcopal clergyman, St. James Church, New London, Connecticut.
- B. *W. A. Mulenberg* / W.A.M. / March 10th / 1863.
William Augustus Mulenberg (1796–1877)—Episcopal clergyman, Church of the Holy Communion, New York City.
- C. *Francis Vinton DD* / A[illegible] Trinity Church / N. Y.
Francis Vinton (1790–1872)—Episcopal clergyman, Trinity Church, New York.
- D. *Grant Horburn; aged [illegible] years* / Feb. 18— 1858
—unknown.

- E. *Elihu Burritt*
Elihu Burritt (1810–1879)—reformer for the cause of world peace and universal brotherhood.
- F. *J. Milton Mackie*
John Milton Mackie (1813–?)—biographer.
- G. *Theodore Tilton*.
Theodore Tilton (1835–1907)—editor of the weekly *Independent*.
- H. *Life is a dream / Now [illegible], now light / May heavens own beams / Dispel thy might / Mary A. McMaking*
—unknown.
- I. *Metta V. Victor*
Metta Victoria Fuller Victor (1831–1885)—poet, novelist, and editor of the *Home Monthly Magazine*.
- J. *“Marion Harland”*
Mary Virginia Hawes Terhune (1830–1922)—novelist; used pen name of “Marion Hanland.”
- K. *Edna Dean Proctor*.
Edna Dean Proctor (1838–?)—poet and writer.
- L. *Sarah Josepha Hale*
Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (1788–1879)—author and editor of *Godey’s Lady’s Book*.
- M. *L. H. Sigourney / 1858*.
Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney (1791–1865)—author.
- N. *H. F. Gould / January, 1859*
Hannah Flagg Gould (1789–1865)—poet.
- O. *May God bless you! / Geo. Sumner*
George Sumner (1817–1863)—political economist.
- P. *Dormi bene! / Bayard Taylor*.
Bayard Taylor (1825–1878)—travel writer.
- Q. *E. Geo. Squier / Paris, / 1858*.
Ephraim George Squier (1821–1888)—travel writer.
- R. *The Rose her petals opens / to the sun / Blushing like Beauty, at / being gazed upon / R. Shelton Mackenzie / 1860*
R. Shelton Mackenzie (1809–?)—journalist and biographer.
- Episcopal clergyman, Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia.
- B. *Submission / to / Womens Rights / Stephen H. Tyng*
Stephen Higginson Tyng—Episcopal clergyman, St. George’s Church, New York.
- C. *Yours truly / Sam Osgood*
Samuel Osgood (1812–1880)—Unitarian clergyman, Church of the Messiah, New York, and author.
- D. *Very truly yours, / Augustus Woodbury*
Augustus Woodbury (1825–?)—Unitarian clergyman, Westminister Unitarian Church, Providence, and author.
- E. *Edward E. Hale*
Edward Everett Hale (1822–1909)—Unitarian clergyman, South Congregational Church, Boston, and author.
- F. *Charles T. Brooks*
Charles Timothy Brooks (1813–1883)—Unitarian clergyman, Unitarian Congregational Church, Newport, Rhode Island, and translator of German literature.
- G. *Small space I require / To fulfil your desire / For Lady, you claim/ But a verse and a name. Geo. W. Pettes*.
—unknown.
- H. *Good deed through / thy life shine / Making [illegible] hour / divine / Virginia F. Townsend*
Virginia Frances Townsend (1836–1920)—author and associate editor of *Arthur’s Lady’s Home Magazine*.
- I. *M. J. Holmes*
Mary Jane Hawes Holmes (1825–1907)—novelist.
- J. *Ann S. Stephens*
Ann Sophia Stephens (1813–1886)—author and editor.
- K. *Julia Ward Howe / 1864*
Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)—author and abolitionist.
- L. *Ann Cora Ritchie / Richmond / Dec. 7th 1858*.
Anna Cora Ogden Mowatt Ritchie (1819–1870)—author and actress.
- M. *Respectfully, / W. Gilmore Simms. / September / 30, / 1858*.
William Gilmore Simms (1806–1870)—novelist.
- N. *Caroline Gilman / Charlestown S.C. / 1858*
Caroline Howard Gilman (1794–1888)—author.

Column 18

- A. *“The circle of / God’s life contains / all life beside.” / Alex H. Vinton*
Alexander Hamilton Vinton (1807–1881)—

- O. *Dream what thou wilt / Beneath this quilt / My blessing still is / Yours.* N. P. Willis.
Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806–1867)—journalist, poet, and editor.
- P. *Truly.* / Geo. P. Morris, / *Sep. 10 / 1858.*
George Pope Morris (1802–1864)—journalist, poet, and editor.
- Q. *Not far we wander from the eternal Halls! / Some voices will stray out to mortal sense, / Some fragmentary music 'scapes to earth, / From th'abodes of peace and innocence! / Richard Willis.* / 1860.
Richard Storrs Willis (1819–?)—journalist, brother of N. P. Willis.
- R. *Park Benjamin / New York / Aug. 17, '58*
Park Benjamin (1809–1864)—editor.

Column 19

- A. *Henry W. Bellows / Pres't of the U.S. / Sanitary Com'n.*
Henry Whitney Bellows (1814–1882)—Unitarian clergyman, Church of All Souls, New York.
- B. *"Pleasant Dreams" to / You! R. S. Storrs, Jr. / Brooklyn NY.*
Richard Salter Storrs Jr. (1821–1900)—Congregational clergyman, Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, New York.
- C. *Henry Ward Beecher*
Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887)—Congregational clergyman, Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, New York, and antislavery activist.
- D. *Rest for the dili- / gent hand, the true and / loving spirit, and the / good conscience. / W. B. Sprague*
William Buell Sprague (1795–1876)—Presbyterian clergyman, Second Presbyterian Church, Albany, New York.
- E. *"Leve fit, quod bene fortus / onus." / James Freeman Clarke*
James Freeman Clarke (1810–1888)—Unitarian clergyman, Church of the Disciples, Boston.
- F. *Yours Truly, / E. H. Chapin. / 1858*
Edwin Hubbell Chapin (1814–1880)—Universalist clergyman, the Fourth Universalist Society, New York.
- G. *Character / is the crowning substance / in nature. / Th. Starr King, Boston*
Thomas Starr King (1824–1864)—Unitarian clergyman, Hollis Street Church, Boston.

- H. W. [M?] [illegible] / 1858 / Providence, R.I.
—unknown.
- I. *Bon soir. / Mary B. Goodrich / Southbury. May, 1859.*
Mary Boott Goodrich (dates unknown)—wife of S. G. Goodrich, column 15.
- J. *Very truly your / friend. / Abby W. Chace / Providence*
Abby W. Chace (dates unknown)—wife of George I. Chace, column 20.
- K. *L. Maria Child. / 1863.*
Lydia Maria Francis Child (1802–1880)—author and abolitionist.
- L. *H. B. Stowe / Andover / 1858*
Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)—novelist.
- M. *Sleep is a recreance to the body. — / but when [does?] mind sleep? Martin F. Tupper*
Martin Farquhar Tupper (1810–1889)—English poet.
- N. *With great pleasure / [C. Mackey?] London, March 4, 1859*
—unknown.
- O. *Trust / and surest hopes aspiring high / Love and sweet friends forever sigh / Rest and sweet sleep for [illegible] / wishes you / G. B. Emerson*
George Barrell Emerson (1797–1881)—educator.
- P. *Respectfully, / Charles Sprague. / August 10, / 1858.*
Charles Sprague (1791–1875)—poet.
- Q. *J. G. Holland / Sprgfd. Mass. 1859.*
Josiah Gilbert Holland (1819–1881)—editor and author.
- R. *God love you! / Anson G. Chester*
Anson G. Chester (dates unknown)—poet.

Column 20

- A. *Yours truly / Orville Dewey*
Orville Dewey (1794–1882)—Unitarian clergyman, New South Church, Boston.
- B. *1859 / "He giveth to his beloved / sleep." / Rufus W. Clark / Brooklyn*
Rufus Wheelwright Clark (1813–1886)—Presbyterian clergyman.
- C. *In every thing give thanks / with [illegible] good wishes / Cha. Lowell / Elmwood / Oct. 11th 1859*
Charles Lowell (dates unknown)—Unitarian clergyman, West Church, Boston, father of James Russell Lowell, column 11.

- D. *He that keepth thee / will not slumber. Behold / He that keepth Israel shall / neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord / is thy keeper. He shall preserve thy soul. George B. Cheever*
George Barrell Cheever (1807–1890)—Presbyterian clergyman, Church of the Puritans, New York.
- E. *Phineas D. Gurley*
Phineas Densmore Gurley (1816–1868)—Presbyterian clergyman, Second Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.; delivered sermon at Lincoln's funeral.
- F. *Noah Porter / Yale College*
Noah Porter (1811–1892)—Congregational clergyman, and professor of moral philosophy, Yale College.
- G. *Yours etc. / F. Wayland, March 9. / 1858*
Francis Wayland (1796–1865)—Baptist clergyman, First Baptist Church, Providence, fourth president of Brown University (1827–55).
- H. *Employ earthly things; Enjoy heavenly things. / B. Sears, [Freidenmer?], Sept. 2d, 1859.*
Barnas Sears (1802–1880)—Baptist clergyman, fifth president of Brown University (1855–67).
- I. *Geo. I. Chace / Providence, R.I. July 2, 1859*
George Ide Chace (1808–1885)—professor of physics, sixth president of Brown University (1867–68).
- J. *Yours very truly / James B. Angell*
James Burrill Angell (1829–1916)—professor of modern languages at Brown University and editor of the *Providence Journal*.
- K. *Three score armed / men are about his / bed because of [illegible] / in the night. So sang / the wise king in his / song of songs—and / thus the lady fair / seeks to [illegible] her / sleeping guests may [illegible] / B. Silliman*
Benjamin Silliman Jr. (1816–1885)—professor of chemistry at Yale College.
- L. *Theodore D. Woolsey / Yale College. / Feb. 21 / 1859*
Theodore Dwight Woolsey (1801–1889)—president of Yale College (1846–71).
- M. *Thomas A. Thacher / New Haven / Conn*
Thomas Anthony Thacher (1815–1886)—professor of Latin at Yale College.
- N. *W. D. Whitney / Yale College / New Haven Conn*
William Dwight Whitney (1827–1894)—professor of Sanskrit at Yale College.
- O. *Oh sleep! it is a gentle thing. / Coleridge. / James Hadley*
James Hadley (1821–1872)—professor of Greek at Yale College.
- P. *Yours truly, / Epes Sargent / Sept. 1858*
Epes Sargent (1813–1880)—journalist and poet.
- Q. *"To bed—to bed—to bed!" / Lady Macbeth. / George Canning Hill*
George Canning Hill (1796–1871)—poet.
- R. *Last diamond contains a poem (possibly by Nathaniel P. Willis, column 18): Miss Addie pray excuse / My disobliging Muse, / She contemplates with dread / So many in a Bed*