"No Disgrace to be Poor"

A most interesting series of nine unpublished letters from Jack London to Frank Putnam, editor of The National Magazine, was recently acquired by The Bancroft Library with funds from the Peter and Rosell Harvey Memorial Fund and as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Warren R. Howell of San Francisco. The letters concern the publication of one of London's finest short stories, "The One Thousand Dozen," a product of his year in the Klondike, 1897-98.

Based on the actual exploits of legendary Klondiker Bill Gates, the story deals with the adventures, trials, and frustrations of one David Rasmussen. Seeking to make a fortune in the inflated egg market in the Klondike, he mortgaged his home, sent his wife to live with relatives, bought eggs in San Francisco at eighteen cents a dozen and transported them to Dawson City where they were selling for eighteen dollars a dozen. Unfortunately, due to delays on the hazardous journey and an excessively severe Arctic winter, his eggs were frozen and spoiled when they reached Dawson. Having lost his prospective fortune, in despair he committed suicide by hanging himself in his cabin.

This story was first sent to McClure's Magazine on October 3d, 1901, and rejected. Subsequently, it was rejected by seventeen other magazines (including The Saturday Evening Post, Cosmopolitan, Atlantic Monthly, and Scribner's Magazine) and by the San Francisco Examiner and the American Press Association. After it was sent to Scribner's Magazine on September 13th, 1902, and rejected, his wife Bess sent it to The National Magazine while her husband was still in Europe, having spent weeks in London's East End writing The People of the Abyss. Bess may have been inclined to send the story to The National Magazine because it had published one of London's first poems, "Daybreak," in August 1901.

In his first letter, dated November 15th, 1902, London explained this situation and asked Putnam to "... kindly hold the copy you have, & do nothing toward printing it till I receive advice concerning it from England." He ended the letter on a lighter note in agreeing to take Putnam up on his "... offer to bet the drinks that the Slav beats us out 500 years from date, and 'I'll take a swig with you in hell,' Frank Putnam,—or in Chicago." In his second letter of February 27th, 1903, London wrote that the story had been sold in England and would be published by the Graphic; therefore, the American rights and date of publication would have to be arranged with his English agent.

Acknowledging the receipt of Putnam's check for twenty dollars for the story, in his next letter of March 9th London explained his
impoverished circumstances and noted that he would have fared better had he sold the story to a railroad magazine for two hundred and four dollars worth of transportation, thereby being enabled to send his destitute mother and nephew to visit relatives in Kansas City and points East. He returned the check, asked for the return of the manuscript, and apologized for "... all this trouble I have caused, and in extenuation can say that it is all because I am poor. It is no disgrace to be poor, but, believe me, it is often damned inconvenient."

In response London was told by Putnam that The National Magazine would not wait for the Graphic but would publish his story in the March 1903 issue. This occasioned his outraged letter of March 16th that he was "flabber-gasted." He felt that Putnam had violated a tacit agreement to hold the story pending word from England. Under the circumstances he considered Putnam had acted in bad faith, should make amends by furnishing travel expenses for his mother's trip.

The special exhibition, to be opened that afternoon in the Library's Gallery, will highlight Bancroft's History of Science and Technology Program, and the annual keepsake, The Show of Science by Dr. Robin E. Rider, the head of that program, will treat in text and pictures the principles and phenomena, the ceremonies and celebrations, of scientific activities from the Renaissance to the present.

The Friends will receive their invitations in due course. Space for one hundred thirty-five cars has been reserved in the Parking Structure located between Lowie Museum and Hearst Women's Gymnasium on Bancroft Way, a short walk from Hertz Hall.

"What a Forest of Masts!"

When he was almost twenty-three years old, Ferdinand Cartwright Ewer, a civil engineer graduated from Harvard in 1848, began his long journey around Cape Horn, destination San Francisco, on March 30th, 1849, sailing from Boston on the ship York as a member of the Pacific Mining Company. The Library, in part as a gift of The Friends of The Bancroft Library and in part purchased from the Peter and Rosell Harvey Memorial Fund, recently acquired the journal Ewer kept during the voyage. Although Ewer states that he does not propose to keep a daily diary because "one writes much useless trash, one notes a thousand uninteresting circumstances..." we are much indebted to him for having left us such a lively account of his travels.

The company members, except for a few half-share partners who worked out their fee in services during the voyage, contributed one thousand dollars apiece for transportation, food, and lodging, and for varied equipment once they reached the mines. They also brought with them three pre-fabricated houses to sell in California. The members were expected to stand night watches, and were drilled as to duties in case of fire or other emergencies.

Thanks to Ewer we know that the York, a solidly constructed twenty-five-year-old vessel, contained twenty state rooms, each with two berths, blue and white curtains instead of doors, boards and beams overpainted with white, and the remaining woodwork in imitation oak. This floating microcosm, besides the passengers and the crew, housed one Newfoundland dog, a small terrier pup beloved by all, two hogs always underfoot, sea sickness, and rats, bedbugs, black ants, cockroaches, and mosquitoes.

Our journalist who waxed poetic over the sight of the moon on the waves, a magical lunar rainbow, seabirds, and the majesty of a storm at sea, whiled away the monotony of the voyage, until forced to desist because of eyestrain, with the study of Spanish and navigation, and read voraciously, his impressive list including, among others, Dickens' Dombey and Son, Lamartine's Raphael, Irving's sketches, Dana's Two Years before the Mast, Melville's Typee, Frémont's journal, a history of California, and both volumes of Macaulay's History of England.

In summing up his activities he recorded that he "wrote a journal, also several letters, besides doing up a vast deal of seasickness, observation of human nature as well as enjoyment of the sublime and keeping to myself in the midst of this strange crowd of vulgar men..." Ewer provides us with humorous sketches of the crew and fellow passengers. Of the first steward, a cockney whose gentlemanly language abounded in "mythological allusions and erroneously worded Latin," who combined a keen perception of the ludicrous with an almost total lack of common sense, Ewer commented that "his brain would be in a shocking condition should two ideas find their way into it at the same time, for they most assuredly would come into collision." As for diminutive Captain Drew who smoked a pipe almost as large as himself, "with his hair shingled close to the roots all over his head, with an old-fashioned waistcoat which reached just below his arm-pits, with a cap in the band of which on account of its being too large he has taken 'a reef' and a pair of slippers the heels of which are reeved for the same reason, adding on rainy days a short waisted surtout with skirts dangling round his heels, which I verily believe he has disinterred from the dust of twenty-five years back, he certainly presents an appearance worthy of the pencil of Hogarth..."

By mid-June they had reached the Cape, with its snow storms, squalls, and the ensuing discomfort of chillblains. Rough seas almost swept away Dr. Williams, of whom Ewer reported:

The poor fellow was so frightened, that he could only stand still and ejaculate "Oh, Dear! Oh, Dear!" It was a picture to see him standing, lank from seasickness and pale with fear, his arms akimbo and the water dripping from every part of his body.

But Ewer found great fascination in this part of the world as they sailed between the Falkland Islands and the coast of South America.

Indistinct in the distance rose the snow-capped hills of Tierra del Fuego. Could anything be more dreamlike than that scene? As they rose peak after peak in line along the horizon, pure and white—with their chaste garments of snow wrapped around them, they seemed no other than clouds... The breezes might blow them away.

One of the unusual features of this journal is Ewer's candid assessment of the members of the Association which represented for him a...
world in miniature with its many warring elements, the old against the young, the seafarers against the landlubbers, the weak against the strong, the workers against the drones, but most of all demon rum against law and order or the “quiet set.” During the voyage an election for new directors, two of the original ones being suspected of fraudulent practices, engendered feverish excitement. Ewer furnishes us with charming portraits of the many contenders for the positions, shrewdly evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. He also provides us with a fascinating report of the behind-the-scenes electioneering politics in which he took a very active part.

A highlight of the voyage was the Fourth of July celebration. Gunfire, music—whistling, a flute, and a comb provided patriotic tunes—, swords, sabers, blunderbusses and a swab, the July celebration. Gunfire, music—whistling, a flute, and a comb provided patriotic tunes—, the third salt junk accompanied by salt pork, petrified biscuits or sea-cakes for vegetables, and last, rice pancakes called “slap-jacks,” all washed down with a bountiful supply of liquor.

Four weeks prior to the anticipated arrival in San Francisco, the decks suddenly swarmed into activity as the members of the Association busily prepared sails, shoes, tent pins and mal­lars, checked weapons, and honed knives, all in readiness for their forthcoming expedition to the gold mines. The tinsmiths from morning to night fashioned drinking cups, powder flasks, and balers for the launches, and Captain Cheever made bunks from molten lead. Ewer said of this frenzy: “I can but think of a furnace whining, the fire roaring, and the bellows puffing. The Association went straightway to Benicia where it soon disbanded, many of its members having succumbed to illness. Ewer, who, upon medical advice, decided against going to the mines, promptly returned to San Francisco, where he formed a partnership with A. W. Lee and hired a tent which served as store and lodging. He was astonished at the growth of the city in only two weeks absence.

I have lived here now upwards of a month, and have seen three generations of men go up, the second courses being “soup and bouilli,” the third salt junk accompanied by salt pork, petrified biscuits or sea-cakes for vegetables, and last, rice pancakes called “slap-jacks,” all washed down with a bountiful supply of liquor.

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Ewer goes on to give a vivid picture of the bustling city, so hastily and flimsily constructed that a man bumping into a store tum­bled down the whole establishment, save for the storekeeper who sprang intact from the falling ruins. In regularly laid-out streets, without sidewalks, during the rainy season there was mud up to one’s knees. The city looked improvised, climbing rapidly up from the harbor into the hills, and Ewer describes it almost street by street and building by building, citing as curiosities a hotel being fashioned from a ship drawn up on shore, shops with bi­lingual signs in English and Spanish, the one-room school house which does multiple duty as watch house, prison, courtroom, and public meeting place, the alcalde’s office painted in imitation sandstone, the customs house, long and tile-roofed, made of adobe with a veranda way up on the hill, used by the Episcopal Church, known as Grace Church.

The journal ceases at this point, but Ewer added some seventeen years later, members of the Friends have received copies of The Weber Era in Stockton History by George P. Hammond, issued only for the Friends through the generosity of Mrs. Kennedy and her family. For this new work, Dr. Hammond has been able to utilize materials hitherto not consulted by scholars, notably the letters of Adolph Weber, brother of Charles. Charles arrived in the United States in 1836, and five years later decided to see what conditions were like in California. By 1850, when California entered the Union, he had built a splendid home in Stockton. As the author notes in his prefatory statement: “The inevitable question is how Weber, after a stay of only fourteen years in America, was able to make the extraordinary transition from aspiring university student in Germany to that of a leading citizen in California.” This special keepsake provides a spirited answer.

Mark Twain Swims the Hellespont!

Recently The Bancroft Library was given nearly one hundred letters of author and editor Mary Mapes Dodge by Miss Marian B. Gorrill of Berkeley, a granddaughter of the author of Hans Brinker; or the Silver Skates. Among other pa­pers were found two hitherto unknown photograph­ographs of Mark Twain and members of his family taken during their memorable three-month stay at Onteora Park in the summer of 1860. Founded by Candace Wheeler and her brother Francis B. Thurber, Onteora was a hilltop retreat in the Catskills, “dotted with uptending cottages which housed a colony of workers in the several arts,” according to Brander Matthews, a prominent author and Columbia University professor, who resided there. The settlement included a number of
other distinguished writers, composers, and painters, among them Laurence Hutton, a drama critic and literary editor, and Elizabeth Custer, who wrote about frontier life with her husband, the general killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn, as well as Mary Mapes Dodge, a close friend of the Clemens family.

Clemens planned to rent a cabin called "Balsam" just across the road from the unpretentious inn called the "Bear and Fox," where he stayed briefly in July in order to "make sure that the cottage he had taken would be comfortable for Mrs. Clemens." The burlap partitions at the "Bear and Fox" moved him to say that "the walls of those bedrooms were so thin that he could hear the young lady in the next room change her mind," but "Balsam" proved more substantial and more comfortable for the Clemens family. "From the first," Matthews recalled, "he felt himself at ease with the friendly folk of Onteora; and I think he was appreciative of the high regard we had for him."

One photograph portrays the Clemens family inside "Balsam;" the second, reproduced here, requires rather more explanation. Matthews recalled that Clemens worked hard "at intervals" during his stay, which was interrupted by frequent business problems requiring his presence in New York and Washington. "But he liked to play, especially with his own children, making them accept him as of their own age," Candace Wheeler recalled that "once or twice" during Clemens' stay "the two older girls and their father gave a dramatic performance which was in every way remarkable, since the plays were never written out, but were composed on the spot, the story having been settled between the three before beginning."

The photograph portrays two of the principals in such a play: Susy and her father are posed on the porch of "Balsam," evidently re-enacting for the camera their performance of the previous night. The third actor, Clara, who is not shown, nevertheless recalled the circumstances well enough to shed some light on this unusual portrait of the artist.

No one could ever be quite so ridiculous as Father was on one occasion. We were trying to enact the story of Hero and Leander. Mark Twain played the part of the impassioned lover obliged to swim across the Hellespont to snatch a kiss from his sweetheart on the other side of the foaming water. For this scene Father wore a bathing-suit, a straw hat tied under his chin with a big bow, and a hot-water bottle slung around his chest.

The performance was doubtless memorable to all concerned. When Clemens returned to Hartford, the "Ladies of Onteora" sent him a memento of his summer's visit—an engraving for which he thanked them on September 27th, 1890.

The 'Mort de Léandre' brought with it a charming surprise & the highest gratification. Without the associations which it concretizes & makes permanent in the memory I should still mightily prize this old master-work of the engraver's art; but with the associations added, its value to me is beyond estimate. . . . When I examine this beautiful picture it does seem wonderfully like; except that the costume is different. I feel sure, now, that my costume was a mistake. This one is better. Better, & yet with a fatal defect in it; for there is that in the countenance of this poor doomed creature which shows he is without off his hot-water bag. R.H.H.

(This letter is ©1983 by Edward J. Willi and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company as Trustees of the Mark Twain Foundation, which reserves all reproduction or dramatization rights in every medium. The manuscript is owned by Cyril Clemens of Kirkwood, Missouri.)

Physicists at Berkeley

A principal focus of manuscript collecting in the Library's History of Science and Technology Program (1979) has been physics at Berkeley. Together with the rich and extensive Ernest O. Lawrence collection, the papers of a number of other Berkeley physicists and a related oral history series document the accomplishment of physics research at the University of California and the development of a unique instrument—the cyclotron—and a unique institution—the Radiation Laboratory (now Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory).

To promote the use of these collections, the Program has cooperated with the Office for History of Science and Technology (OHST) on the Berkeley campus in its extensive search for documentation of the history of twentieth-century physics. The Office has identified a core body of five thousand physicists active between 1896 and 1952 and has systematically collected information on letters to and from any of them in archives and libraries worldwide. The resulting Inventory of Sources for History of 20th-Century Physics (ISHTCP) records half a million letters in nearly one thousand archives.

For each exchange of correspondence with a physicist contained in a particular collection at a given library or archives (e.g., the Lawrence Papers at the Bancroft) the Inventory reports: the correspondent's full name, the number of pages involved (a rough measure of the importance of the exchange and, in any event, valuable information if a photocopiable or microfilm of the exchange is to be ordered), the name and location of the collection, and necessary additional references to box or folder numbers.

The era, 1890-1952, is divided into nine time periods of significance in the development of physics (e.g., 1911-21, the introduction of the quantized atom; 1939-45, the war years). The number of letters sent by each physicist, and the number sent to him, in each of these time periods, are reported separately. Data on each collection were recorded using specially-designed index cards to ensure accuracy and consistency. For the collections at the Bancroft, for example, some thirty-five hundred cards were filled out.

The size of the full Inventory (now half a million letters) and the need to generate useful indexes to the information it contains, led OHST to develop a computer database management system based on one employed to handle business inventory and billing records. Data entry is accomplished using a cathode-ray terminal and a screen-formatted program to guide the input of data directly from the basic index card records. The sophistication of the entry program makes it possible to use part-time student employees to enter information. The database entry system is an interactive one: that is, the key entry operator is able to compare the information on a given data card with the relevant data already entered in the database, and if appropriate, use the older information rather than adding a new correspondent name or collection identifier to the database. The interactive searches of previous entered data maintain consistency and prevent unnecessary duplication of name or collection records.
The full ISHTCP database now occupies some thirty million characters (bytes); the associated index structure, sixty million. The index structure is what makes the database approach most powerful and useful, for the data can be searched and organized according to physicist's name, correspondent's name, archive and collection code, and date and time of entry (the latter is useful for historic purposes). A physical search through the full set of one hundred fifty thousand index cards to find all cards listing a given correspondent or archive code is simply not feasible. Even a search by physicist's name is possible only if all the cards are kept carefully filed. But the order in which cards are entered makes no difference to the computer database. Moreover, simple utility software makes it possible to sort and format the desired information in a variety of useful ways: for example, a list of all letters in all collections and archives from a given non-physicist correspondent, or a list of the contents of a given collection at any archive.

Designed to be broadly applicable, the inventory system can be used by any library wishing to compile an amalgamated catalogue of all the correspondence in its manuscript collections. The fact that the ISHTCP system was designed to meet the twentieth century is in no way restrictive. It can be used to characterize correspondence in any period on any individual. A patron initially interested in one collection could search easily through all the records for producing correspondence indexes for other HSTP collections, without the substantial investment required to devise a system from scratch.

A Feast of Malcolm Lowry

Malcolm Lowry was an English-born writer who "grappled stubbornly and unerringly with his unappeasable vision" in near despair and frightful dipsomania but who also glee­fully and infectiously indulged in the enjoy­ment of his genius to such a degree that a prescient friend said that his "life itself was a picnic of genius in which everyone could share alike." Thanks to Stephen Gale Herrick and his generous gift of a complete collection of Lowry's published work, together with schol­arly books and articles about it, the Bancroft is now able to offer its patrons their share in Lowry's feast.

Mexico of the 1930's provided both the scene and the inspiration for Under the Volcano (1947), the novel for which Lowry is chiefly known. He arrived there in 1936, three alco­hol-sodden years after the publication of his first novel, Ultramarine, which he had worked on under the tutelage of Conrad Aiken and finished, as his “thesis,” during his last year at Cambridge. Lowry took immediately to mescal, tequila, pulque, and the good dark beer of Mexico, and decided to settle in Cuernavaca with his soon-to-be estranged wife, Jan. Vol­cano began as a short story, in which three English tourists passively witness the robbery of an injured, and perhaps dying man by a pelado, a "peeled one," a petty thief.

Lowry's feeling for the moral value of prim­itive Mexico diverged widely from Law­rence's, though he clearly shared Lawrence's sense of the bloodiness of its psychic terrain. His view of the Mexican scene is considerably closer to that of Graham Greene, which is to say that he saw in Mexico simply an extension of European moral tradition, not a radical de­parture from it or a failure to assimilate into it. Greene, coincidentally, was in Mexico at roughly the same time that Lowry was there, having been commissioned by the Ro­man Catholic Church to report on religious persecution in Mexico; in a manner of speak­ing, The Power & the Glory (1940) was his re­port. Though there are a number of striking correspondences between Greene's "whisky priest" and Lowry's sodden consul, the intense subjectivity of Lowry's vision gives an in­finitely stronger emphasis on the power and importance of the individual than does Greene's Catholic point of view.

Under the Volcano recounts in vivid and dra­matic detail the story of Geoffrey Firmin's last day, November 13, 1938, the Day of the Dead. The backdrop of the action is the rise of fascism in Europe and Mexico and, in particu­lar, the losing of the Battle of Ebro by the Republican forces in Spain and the activities of the Synarchists in Mexico. However, one doesn't read the novel for the drama of its narrative alone. The extraordinary quality of Volcano is rather in its rich, multi-leveled ex­position of the mind not merely of a man, but of Man contemplating life at its most degraded and attempting to reform it, symbolically, into something transcendent.

The technique of the novel, though appar­ently "modern," with Joycean mind and word play throughout, is actually in the tradition of the great English Romantics. Description is highly idealized and symbols are everywhere enmeshed from the natural scene, which seems more often than not an extension of the minds of the characters. Lowry's vision in the book is deeply religious; his religion, however, is that of the Cabalistic and the hermetic tradition with its complex systems of correspondences be­tween events, symbols, and sacred texts, ulti­mately preferring the truth of symbols to the apparent truth of the world. Of this work Lowry wrote: "The book is written on nu­merous planes with provision made, it is my fond hope, for almost every kind of reader, my approach with all humility being opposite, I feel, to that of Mr. Joyce, i.e simplifying, as far as possible, of what originally suggested itself in far more baffling complex and esoteric terms, rather than the other way around."

Under the Volcano is a wonderful book but, as has been lamented, it is, practically speaking, the only important book Lowry wrote. Ultra-
The early Polonica

Current developments in Poland have justified a revived interest in that country's history and culture, documentation for which may be found among the Bancroft's holdings. The earliest Polish printing in the Library is a selection from the works of the Roman poet, Horace; Poetarum institutiones ad piones... was published in Cracow in 1505. The title page, with the characteristic design of the arms of the Kingdom of Poland (eagle), the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (mounted knight), and the capital city of Cracow, indicates that the printing establishment, including a copy of the Jerusalem Talmod (Cracow, 1609), was a refuge for Jews, persecuted and forced out from much of western and central Europe. In 1568, King Sigismund August issued a privilege to one Isaac of Prostejov (Prossnitz) granting him a monopoly of Hebrew printing for fifty years. His printing house, operated by his sons after the year 1600, produced a variety of titles, in both Hebrew and Yiddish, in the fields of rabbinics, Bible, Kabbalah, philosophy, and history. The Library has two items from this printing establishment, including a copy of the Jerusalem Halmod (Cracow, 1609).

Another noteworthy item is a copy of the map of Poland, "Poloniae finitimarumque descriptio," by the cartographer Wacław Grodecki. The earliest surviving delineation of the geographic features and political boundaries of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the map was published in its original version at Basel in 1562, and reprinted in a reduced scale for the Abrahamic Ortelius atlas, Theatrum orbis terrarum... (Antwerp, 1570). The Bancroft has a 1574 edition of this monumental work.

A Medieval Lapidary

One of the medieval manuscripts which came to the University of California from the library of Regent James K. Moffitt was the Liber de Gemmis written by Marbode, Bishop of Rennes, in the eleventh century. The manuscript was displayed recently in the exhibition entitled "Before 1500 in The Bancroft Library." The Liber Lapidum seu de Gemmis, to give it its full title, is a series of short poems on the origins and properties of sixty different stones.

Marbode's authorship of the work has been questioned by some who believe he may have abridged and reworked an earlier text by Evax, an Arab doctor. Since the pagan influence is quite strong in the Liber de Gemmis, certain French scholars have claimed that the book could not be the work of so devout a prelate as Marbode. Whatever his role in the composition of the text, it may be among those earlier worldly writings that Marbode regretted before his death in 1123 at the age of eighty-eight.

To complement this manuscript, the Library has recently used its Pauline Fore Moffitt Fund to purchase the first annotated edition of Marbode's lapidary. The book is a small octavo, printed in Cologne in 1559. The twenty leaves which contain Marbode's text in the Bancroft's manuscript are there expanded to one hundred twenty-six leaves of print by the addition of learned notes and commentary by Alardus of Amsterdam, who provided references to Greek and Latin authors, etymologies, Jewish sources, and Biblical citations. He also appended another work by Marbode on the twelve precious stones mentioned in the Apocalypse.

There has not yet been time to make a detailed comparison of the manuscript and printed versions, but even a cursory examination shows substantial differences in the texts. Marbode's work was very popular in the Middle Ages and several manuscripts of his Liber de Gemmis still exist. Presumably our Cologne edition was based on a manuscript which differed substantially from the one now in Bancroft.

Including the Bancroft's copy, there are five recorded manuscripts of Marbode's lapidary in the United States (two of which are selections only and another of which appears to be incomplete.) Of Alardus' 1539 edition of Marbode, six copies are now recorded. Only The Bancroft Library has both a manuscript and the first printed edition with commentary.

Mrs. H. H. Bancroft's Post-Wedding Journal

Hubert Howe Bancroft's first wife, Emily Ketchum Bancroft, died in December 1869. He felt the loss so keenly that it was more than
a year before he ordered the completion of the home he had been building for his family at the time of her death. Despite the loss he was able to involve himself increasingly in his business enterprises and he immersed himself in research and writing projects connected with his large library on Pacific Coast history. The first major result of his work was the five-volume publication, *Native Races*, which he published in 1874–75.

The critical response to *Native Races* was substantial, amply rewarding Bancroft’s efforts, and gave him the confidence to continue with his much larger project, the thirty-nine-volume history of western North America, *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft*. On a trip to the east coast after *Native Races* was published, H. H. Bancroft met Matilda Griffing of New Haven; he found her a person of considerable charm, grace, and enthusiasm, with a keen mind and lively wit. Furthermore, Miss Griffing could write well. They were married at the Griffing home on October 12th, 1876, and immediately after the wedding reception left for what can only be termed a bookman’s honeymoon.

They traveled by train to New York City and the following day called upon General and Mrs. Frémont to persuade the General to submit his reminiscences for Bancroft’s proposed history of California. From New York they proceeded to Washington, D.C. and met with the prominent scholar and historian, George Bancroft, as well as with Major John Wesley Powell who had led the U.S. Geological Survey team through western North America in 1875–76. Mrs. Bancroft was greatly impressed by the warm reception she and her husband received from these distinguished gentlemen. Both George Bancroft and Major Powell applauded the California author on his study of American Indians.

These important meetings as well as numerous others between the Bancrofts and Californian and western pioneers occupied the next several months and were all carefully documented by Mrs. Bancroft in a journal which was recently purchased by the Library with income from its Peter and Rosell Harvey Memorial Fund. Her observations reflect those characteristics that H. H. Bancroft so evidently admired in her before their marriage.

Following their visit to Washington the Bancrofts stopped in Baltimore where they met Daniel Coit Gilman, founding president of The Johns Hopkins University following his tenure as the second president of the University of California. Mrs. Bancroft noted Gilman’s comments on Californian characteristics:

... the hospitality of the Californians is owing in a great measure to Eastern ties—they have so many relatives and friends in the Eastern states, that any stranger coming from there is welcomed into many families. ... Possessing the same position and influence elsewhere, it would take years to establish the hospitable treatment gained in a few months in California. ... In California everything is on the surface—everyone feels himself as good as everybody else, and everything about himself is known to everybody. Their buoyancy of character is very striking; nothing seems to dishearten or keep down a man. ...

No doubt her interest in President Gilman’s remarks reflected her own curiosity about the place that was to become her new home, but the details she chose to record sound remarkably current over a century later.

Her description of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco and subsequent travels to the Pacific Northwest shortly after the Bancrofts’ arrival in California continue the narrative. The last entry in the journal was made in 1878. Her observations are so compelling that one regrets that there is not more to the journal, but we are exceedingly grateful that she recorded as much as she did. P.E.H.

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