

Private Papers of Our Former Presidents

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 WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—I have already told you something of the wonderful collection of manuscripts relating to American history which are now being gathered together in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress at Washington. This collection is steadily increasing, and it will soon be the largest reservoir of the raw material of history known to the world. I have spent the greater part of the week in going through the collection, and it is impossible to exaggerate its extent and value. I had a most interesting chat with Millard Hunt, the American historian and archivist in charge of the division, about the papers of the presidents.

"The Washington papers which we now have in hand are the largest collection relating to any individual. It is larger than any collection of papers concerning any one British statesman or any famous man of any other country. Washington became famous when very young, and he was a prolific letter writer. From 178 on people began to save his letters, so that now new Washington letters are always appearing, and almost any collector of consequence has one or more Washington letters. He wrote the most of his correspondence with his own hand, and he was so methodical that he accomplished a great lot of work. It was his habit to rise at 5 o'clock every morning and to write until breakfast time. We have ourselves here in the manuscript division, about 50,000 letters of Washington, and the collection, including the letters to him, numbers considerably over 10,000.

Gathering the Papers.
 "Where did those papers come from?"
 "From various sources. A great many came from his heirs. When Washington died his estate at Mount Vernon came to General Bushrod Washington. Later on a number of the heirs sold the papers which they had inherited to the government. Others of the heirs kept them and left them at Mount Vernon, and when Mount Vernon was sold by Colonel Washington, the papers were taken to Alexandria and were deposited in a bank. There must have been about a dozen barrels of them. The papers were still there at the opening of the civil war, but soon after that the bank was burned down and the papers were burned with it. This left as the only group of Washington papers the one which the government had bought. It formed about two-thirds of the whole.

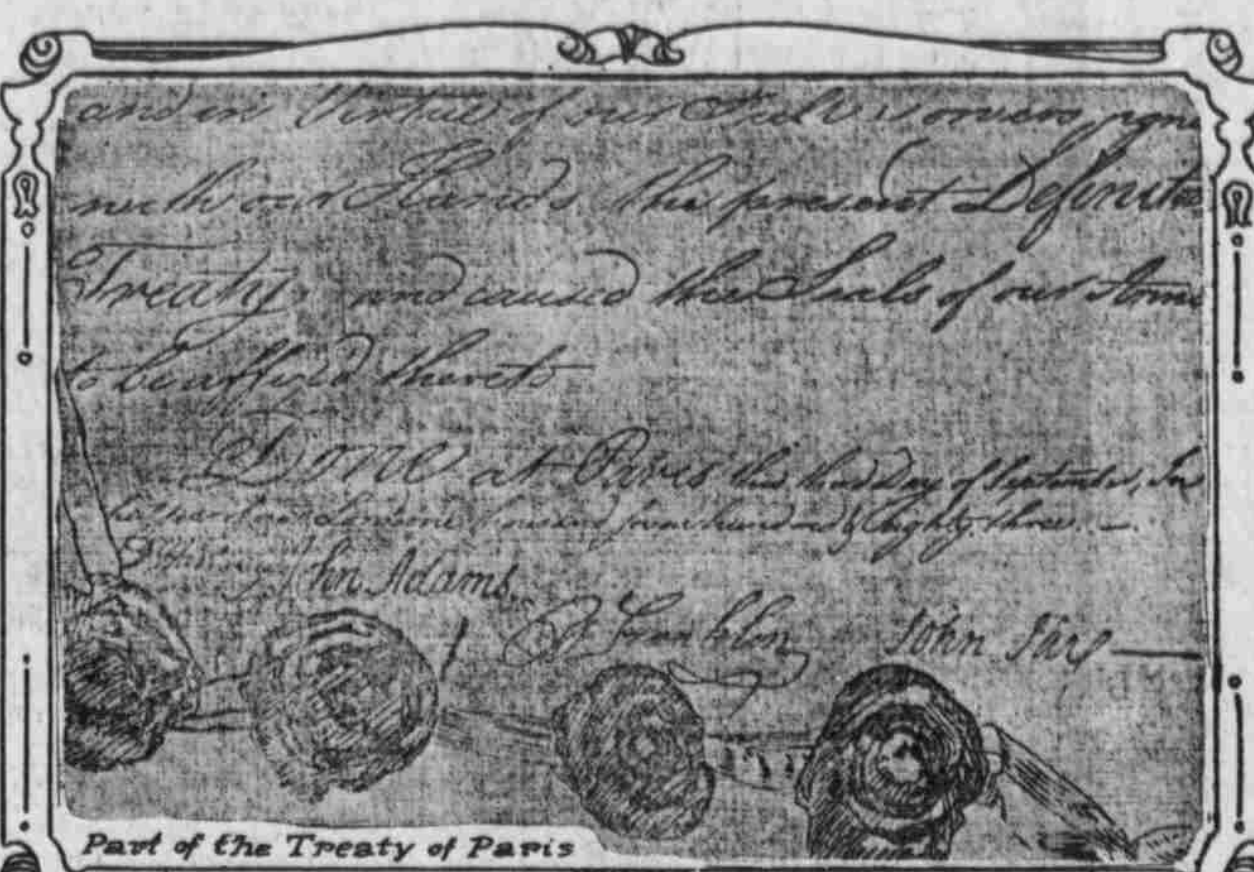
"Where are the papers of John Adams?"
 "They are in the hands of the Massachusetts Historical society at Boston, where are also the papers of John Quincy Adams. They have been deposited there, and will probably never leave Boston, although they really ought to be in our collection here. The Adams papers are valuable. They are in the special charge of Washington Ford, who was formerly chief of this division. They are very carefully guarded."

Jefferson Collection Complete.
 "Have you many of the Jefferson papers?"
 "Yes. Our collection is numbered by tens of thousands. Jefferson was very methodical, and his private papers were almost as voluminous as those of Washington. He was one of the first Americans to use a press copy, and there are thousands of letters in press copy by him. Congress bought Jefferson's library and it was carried in wagons from Monticello to Washington. The Jefferson papers were not a part of the library. They were acquired after Jefferson's death and the purchase was made for about \$5,000. These papers contained a record of the whole career of Jefferson. Only about one-fifth of them have ever been published, and it is out of the question for the government to ever publish them all."

"Tell me something about the papers of James Madison?"
 "Our Madison collection came from two separate purchases. Madison prepared certain of his papers for publication before he died, and Congress bought some of these shortly after his death. Later on he bought the remainder. Then some of the papers fell into the hands of his stepson, Payne Todd, who deposited them with James C. McGuire of Washington. McGuire was a collector of manuscripts. He had loaned Todd money and Todd had given him the papers as security, and when the debt was not paid they fell into his hands. Later on the McGuire collection was sold to the Chicago Historical society, and it was only a year or so ago that I persuaded that society to sell them to us. The heads of the society were business men. They thought that the Madison collection rightly belonged to the National library, and they gave it to us just what it cost them. These Madison papers comprised 116 volumes, and the items in our Madison documents altogether are in the neighborhood of 10,000.

Some Andy Jackson Documents.
 We have also some papers of Monroe and some which were bought from the descendants of John Quincy Adams. Many of these have not been bound as yet. We have a large collection of documents relating to Andrew Jackson. The chief collection left by Jackson was given by General Jackson's adopted son to his friend, Francis P. Blair, and Blair's descendants turned them all over to the government about five years ago. In addition to this collection, there were a large number of Jackson's letters and papers in the hands of his adopted son's widow. I bought these manuscripts from her about two years ago, so that altogether we have now a remarkably complete collection of the Jackson papers. They number about 30,000 documents or items. They begin with Jackson's early youth and run on down to his death."

"How about your collections of Van Buren, Tyler, and Polk?"
 "Van Buren did not leave a great many papers," said Mr. Hunt. "He was a very cautious man and he destroyed many of his letters. Still we have a large collection which was presented to the library about six years ago by his descendants. We have very many papers of James K. Polk which the government bought from his descendants. Polk was careful and methodical. He saved letters and papers, and we have altogether thirty or forty thousand of his documents. Among these is his diary, which we bought from the Chicago Historical society. As to the Tyler papers, the most of them are in the hands of his descendants at Williamsburg. I have no doubt but that they will in time come to the library. Leon G. Tyler, the president of William and Mary college, has charge of them and he has promised to give them to us."



Part of the Treaty of Paris
 Pres. A. Jackson Dr.
 1836
 To First Presbyterian Church,
 For rent of 1 Pew, No. 6 for the quarter ending on the 31 day of June 1836 at \$52.50 per annum. \$ 51
 Received payment
 Mrs. Kennedy Treasurer.



One of Andrew Jackson's receipts for pew rent

"We have scattering papers of William Henry Harrison, Zach Taylor and Millard Fillmore, but we have no collections of these presidents. The Fillmore papers are in the custody of the Buffalo Historical society and they will probably be sent here after a while. They are not very important. He was not nearly as strong as Tyler. John Tyler was a personality. Fillmore was in many respects a nonentity. As to the papers of Zachary Taylor, after his death they remained in the hands of his son on the old Taylor plantation in Louisiana. Then the house was burned down and all the papers destroyed. The papers of William Henry Harrison were lost in the same way at the time his house was burned, and so there are collections of neither Taylor nor Harrison.

"We have the papers of Franklin Pierce, such as they are. They are not many and they do not amount to much. President Pierce was a charming man, and I do not think full justice has been done him. By the way, there is an interesting story told about him in connection with Buchanan's inauguration. This comes from a Mr. Gamble, who was a boy at the time. Young Gamble and his father had gone to the inauguration and after the parade were walking home. They had come about half way from the capitol when a gentleman came up behind them and asked permission to walk along with them. They turned around and discovered it was Franklin Pierce going home on foot from the inauguration of his successor to the presidency. As to Buchanan, his papers are in the hands of the Pennsylvania Historical society and are now in Philadelphia. They ought to be here."

Sample of Jackson's Letters.
 In looking over the papers of the presidents Mr. Hunt showed me some interesting letters. I saw papers of Andrew Jackson relating to his duties and as to how he raced horses. There is one memorandum made by Andrew Jackson as to a boy which gives full details of "how to feed a cock before you fight it." This says that you should give the chicken some pickled beef cut fine, three times a day, and let him have sweet milk instead of water to drink. Give him dry Indian corn and a little white bread soaked in sweet milk. Feed him as much as he can eat for eight days, and he will then be ready to fight." I saw also receipts signed by Jackson showing that he was a good churchgoer while he was president. He rented pews in three different churches and probably took the whole family with him. Mr. Hunt tells me, however, that Andrew Jackson did not stop racing horses when he became president. He merely raced them under another name. The last thing he did as president was to make a bet about Van Buren's election. He never composed a single state paper that went out under his own name. Such things were written for him by Edward Livingston, Amos Kendall, James K. Polk and others. They wrote more strongly than they would have written for themselves, but Jackson was never afraid to take the responsibility. Mr. Hunt says that Jackson believed in the duel and that he tried when possible to be the challenged party. He usually selected pistols and chose the distance of from six to nine paces. Such a distance he said put both men on equal terms. The good shot having no advantage over the bad one.

Searching Foreign Archives.
 The Library of Congress has under way a most important undertaking in collecting the material for our colonial history. This is the having copied everything in the European archives which pertains to the American colonies. For some years men have been at work in the government archives of Great Britain, France, Spain and Mexico. They are copying government documents, letters and papers of all kinds relating to the story of America and to the American colonies. The most of the English transcripts have already been made. They begin with the discovery of America and extend to the peace of 1763. They number more than 20,000 folios and the copying has been all done by hand on handmade paper manufactured especially for the purpose. The writing is like copper-plate, and as the papers are chronologically arranged any period is easily accessible. These

American colonies now hidden away in the archives of foreign governments. As it is now, the man who wants to write about colonial America has to go to Europe for a part of his material. Within a very short time a copy of everything in Europe will be accessible in the national library.

All Copied by Hand.
 I asked Mr. Hunt if all this work had to be copied by hand. He replied: "The manuscripts which have come from the British archives have all been made in that way, and the arrangement for the French archives is the same. The Mexican papers will be copied in typewriter, and a great many of the other archives have been photographed and sent on in facsimile. There is considerable doubt as to the advisability of using photography. Many of the documents are bound and photography does not give complete reproductions. Another danger is that the photographs may fade in time, while the ink and paper we now use in copying will last indefinitely. Another objection to photography is that the paper must necessarily be thicker than writing paper, and several hundred thousand photographs would be very unwieldy."

I looked over some of the volumes of manuscript with Mr. Hunt. The most of them are 12x18 inches in size. They are made of Manila rope paper, cut with the grain, and are so bound in red morocco that they form beautiful volumes. Each volume has its own case, and the workmanship of inserting the manuscripts is exquisitely beautiful. Many of the papers come tattered and torn. They have to be cleaned and covered with cellophane, which makes them practically indestructible. Each letter is mounted on a separate sheet and if the writing is on both sides of the page it is on hinges. It is the finest manuscript preparing of the world and is better than that of the Vatican, which has long stood at the head as to the beauty of its manuscript preservation.

Only Three Great Ones.
 During my chat with Mr. Hunt I asked as to the other great manuscript collections of the world. He replied: "There are only three really great historical collections, that of the British Museum in London, the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris and the one we have here. The British Museum has been the largest collector of more than 30 years, while the Parisians have been working at it ever longer. Our collection began only ten years ago, and at the present rate of progress it will soon have a larger and more complete collection than they have. We shall have more documents relating to the history of the United States than the British have relating to the history of England."

"These papers are separate and apart from our government archives, are they not?"
 "Yes. These are private papers and letters. The official archives are the papers of the government. As far as they are concerned we are lamentably wanting. Not a single department of our government has all of its archives, and not one of them knows as to what it has and what it has lost. An inventory has never been taken. Indeed, there is not a country in Europe that does not keep its official documents in better shape than we do."

Age of Documents.
 "What is the oldest official document in existence?"
 "It is not so very, very old. People did not begin to write until modern times, and the earliest written English document dates back only to the thirteenth century. The first English author who wrote was Chaucer. He lived in the fourteenth century, and that is not long ago. The earliest modern official document in any language is in the archives at Milan, Italy. This was written on parchment paper about A. D. 828 by King Otto and Queen Anstata. There is another document written just a little later in the archives of Dresden, and another in those of Magdeburg."

"Tell me something about the Vatican collections?"
 "The Vatican is a library of itself. It is composed exclusively of manuscripts—that is, of manuscript books written mostly before the age of printing. These books are chiefly religious and are not

individual manuscripts. The Vatican has the oldest official document which, as I have said, was of the ninth century. The oldest piece of manuscript on paper dates back to the second century, and there is one from the third century. Both of these are in perfect state of preservation. One of them is a copy of some of Virgil's poems, and the other is a transcript of a prayer."
 "In addition to the Vatican library, Italy has a number of other valuable manuscript collections. The library of Florence has the papers of Galileo, most of which were written before he went blind and a few afterward. In the archives there they have also the papers of Dante. I have seen them all and they are wonderfully preserved."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

"Who can tell me the name of a liquid that will not freeze?" asked the teacher. "Hot water," piped the youngest child present.
 Small Elsie told her aunt she was a "chump." She was reprimanded by her mother and told to apologize. Taddling up to her insulted relative she said: "Auntie, I'm sorry you are a chump."
 The newly accepted young man was "making up" to the greatest girl's impish small brother. Willis evincing a desire to inspect his watch charm, the visitor lifted Willis to his lap. In a pause of the general conversation Willis piped shrilly: "Am I as heavy as sister Mabel?"

Watch Carefully the Child's Diet

Start Them Off Right With a Good Laxative and Then Watch Their Food

Mothers are often unconsciously very careless about the diet of their children, forcing all to eat the same foods. The fact is that all foods do not agree alike with different persons. Hence, avoid what seems to constipate the child or to give it indigestion, and urge it to take more of what is quickly digested.
 If the child shows a tendency to constipate it should immediately be given a mild laxative to help the bowels. By this is not meant a physic or purgative, for these should never be given to children, nor anything like salts, pills, etc. What the child requires is simply a small dose of the gentlest of medicines, such as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which, in the opinion of thousands of watchful mothers, is the ideal remedy for any child showing a tendency to constipation. So many things can happen to constipated child that care is necessary. Colds, piles, headaches, sleeplessness, and many other annoyances that children should not have can usually be traced to constipation.
 Many of America's foremost families are never without Syrup Pepsin, because one can never tell when some member of the family may need it, and all can use it. Thousands endorse it, among them Mrs. M. E. Patten, Valley Junction, Iowa, who is never without it in the house. Mrs. Patten says that Syrup



Pepsin has done wonders for her boy Ralph, who was constipated from birth but is now doing fine. Naturally she is enthusiastic about it and wants other mothers to use it. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is sold by druggists at fifty cents and one dollar a bottle, the latter size being bought by those who already know its value, and it contains proportionately more.
 Everyone likes Syrup Pepsin as it is very pleasant to the taste. It is also mild and non-gripping and free from injurious ingredients.
 Families wishing to try a free sample bottle can obtain it postpaid by addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 419 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. A postal card with your name and address on it will do.

The Doctor's Advice

By Dr. Lewis Baker
 The questions answered below are general in character; the symptoms or diseases are given and the answers should apply to a great many similar cases. Those wishing further advice, free, may address Dr. Lewis Baker, College Building, College Street, Dayton, O., enclosing self-addressed stamped envelope for reply. Full name and address must be given, but only initials or first letters need appear in the answers. The prescriptions can be filled at any well-stocked drug store. Any druggist can order of wholesale.

Elizabeth says: "I am troubled with a constant headache which also affects my eyes. My breath is awful, as I have a severe case of catarrh in the head and throat."
Answer: I receive daily hundreds of letters from people who have suffered as you do, and I have been relieved with the following prescription. Make a wash by mixing one-half teaspoonful of Vaseline powder, which you can purchase from any druggist in 2 oz. packages, and add to this one pint of warm water, use this in the nostrils daily to thoroughly cleanse them. Catarrh of the throat should be treated with this. This is made by mixing one teaspoonful of Vaseline powder with one ounce of water or vasoline and apply well up into the nostrils twice a day. If this is used daily your catarrh should soon vanish. It should, however, be used occasionally to prevent a return of the disease.

"C. G." writes: "If you know of anything that will cure dandruff, itching scalp and premature baldness, please let me know at once."
Answer: For several years I have prepared plain yellow myrrin as a superior to anything known for the treatment of diseased scalp. Get it in four-ounce jars with full directions. It quickly overcomes all diseases of hair and scalp and gives new vigor and intense natural color to the hair. Try it fairly and you will advocate its use for your friends.

"Mildred" writes: "I am constantly embarrassed because of the fact of my extreme thinness. I have absolutely no color in my face and lips and I am weak and lifeless most of the time. Please advise me what to do."
Answer: If your face and lips are pale and your lips and cheeks are colorless it is because your blood is deficient in red corpuscles. This can be easily overcome by the use of three-grain hypodermic tablets, which can be had from any druggist in sealed cartons with full directions for taking. When the blood is enriched by the use of these tablets your weight will increase, the color will come back into your face and lips, and you will improve your general system so that you will become strong and healthy.

"Edna" writes: "I suffer with rheumatism all the time and I shall be very glad if you can tell me something to relieve me."
Answer: I can give you a prescription which will not only relieve, but should obliterate your rheumatism. This is my favorite remedy and from the number of letters received from people who have used it proves its value in rheumatism. The following is made by taking well, taking a teaspoonful at meal times and again before retiring: Comp. essence cardiol, 1 oz.; comp. fluid balsamwort, 1 oz.; syrup sarsaparilla comp., 5 oz.

Farmer's Wife asks: "Will you please tell me how to overcome obesity?"
Answer: Obesity is burdensome. Excessive fat on the human body is unnatural and frequently results seriously. The best medical method to reduce is to take regularly five-grain arbolon tablets. They are put up in sealed tubes with directions for use. They are a well-stocked druggist can supply them.

"Sara C." writes: "I am constipated and have a grayish skin. Suffer from headache, indigestion and some kidney trouble. I wish you to recommend a remedy."
Answer: The best remedy to relieve and master chronic constipation is called three-grain sulphur tablets made from sulphur, castor oil, tartar and herb medicines. Taken regularly the blood is purified, the bowels and liver stimulated into healthy action and health established. They are packed in sealed tubes with full directions. These tablets are especially for children, as they do not grip or sicken.

"Mamma" writes: "I know of nothing better for bed-wetting than 3 drams of tincture cubeba, 1 dram of tincture rhus aromatic and 1 oz. comp. fluid balsamwort. Mix. The dose is 10 to 15 drops in water one hour before meals."

J. G. HUTZELL, R. P.
 You who are suffering the tortures of Eczema, Itch, Skin Rheum or other skin diseases, or those who are miserably itchy, please write me at once, less by the terrible itching, burning pain, let me send you a trial of a soothing, healing treatment which has cured hundreds, which I believe will cure you. I will send it free, postage paid, without any obligation on your part. Just fill the coupon below and mail it to me, or write me, giving your name, age and address. I will send the treatment free of cost to you.

J. G. HUTZELL, 380 West Main St., Fort Wayne, Ind.
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