# NEW YORK CITY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: BEING A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL PAPERS

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New York City During the American Revolution: Being a Collection of Original Papers by Mercantile Library Association

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# NEW YORK CITY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: BEING A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL PAPERS

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# NEW YORK CITY

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BEING

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(NOW FIRST FUBLISHED)

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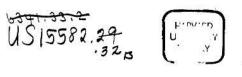
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1874, April 28. Bequeit of Vern. C. antes Jummer, of Boston. (46.26, 1830,)

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ON

#### THE TOMLINSON COLLECTION,

#### For 1860-61.

CHAS. E. KING SHERMAN, CHARLES W. MAY, Ja., CHARLES H. SWORDS, S. HASTINGS GRANT. For 1861-62. CHARLES F. ALLEN, CHARLES H. SWORDS, JOSEPH H. LECOUR, S. HASTINGS GRANT.

Entered according to A& of Congrefs in the year 1861, by CHARLES F. ALLEN, Prefident, for the Mercantile Library Affociation of the City of New York, in the Clerk's Office of the Diftrift Court of the United States for the Southern Diffrict of New York.

C. A. ALVORD, PRINTER.

THE accompanying work, which bears for its title "New York City during the American Revolution," may be confidered in fome degree as a free-will offering on the part of the Mercantile Library Aflociation to those of our Members and Citizens who, by their contributions, have fecured to the Library the possession of those Historical Manuscripts and Documents known as the *Tomlinfon Collection*.

It was confidered fitting that those whose liberality had been thus displayed toward us, should themselves be made partakers of the benefits they had conferred, and no more appropriate way prefented itself to those who had the matter in charge than publishing a few of the documents themselves and putting them in a convenient form for prefervation.

For this purpole, fuch of the papers have been felefted as pertained almost exclusively to the city of New York, and by means of them, a feries of panoramic views are given of the city, from the Stamp A& Riot in 1765, to the Evacuation by the British in 1783.

During the former part of this time—until September, 1776—the city was the fcene of no ordinary excitement. Patriots and loyalifts dwelt here together, but the lines which diffinguifhed them were faft being drawn. The Britifh foldiers and the Sons of Liberty were mutually exafperating each other, and their feelings could not be wholly kept in check. It was not then, indeed, that the ftruggle against foreign usurpation first commenced in this city. It had been going on for well nigh a century. But it was now taking that determined form which was to lead to victory and independence.

During the last feven years of the above period, the city was in the occupancy of the British army. The glimpse that we get of it, at this time, imperfect though it be, has a peculiar interest. Would that some truthful record of all that transpired here during these eventful years might be found and given to the public.

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There remains now but to thank those who have contributed in any manner to the interest of the volume. To Mr. Henry B. Dawson, the Historian, is especial credit due for the valuable Introductory Chapter, which embodies a defeription of the most important localities of New York city and island at the time the volume commences; and to the same gentleman is the reader indebted for, with few exceptions, the historical notes which accompany the feveral papers.

Interesting biographical sketches have been contributed by John L. Curtenius, Esq., of Buffalo, S. S. Purple, M. D., of New York, and Henry T. Drowne, Esq., also of this city. To Mr. Drowne we are further indebted for copies of feveral interesting letters written from the city by his grandfather, Dr. Solomon Drowne, of Rhode Island, contributed with the most unaffected modestry and generofity.

To D. T. Valentine, Efq., the invaluable clerk of our Common Council, we are under obligations for the ufe of the map engraved for one of the annual iffues of his "Manual."

The historical student will appreciate the fidelity with

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which the original Documents have been followed by the Printer, as regards the fpelling, punctuation, and even the manifest errors, which are retained; while the general reader will catch the fpirit of the times all the more faithfully from the very want of artificial elegance, which these unpretending letters and narratives difplay.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY, CLINTON HALL, June 20, 1861.

Norz.—The "Tomlinfon Collection," from which the materials for this volume have been drawn, confifts of feveral hundred hiftorical papers relating chiefly to the American Revolution and events immediately connected with it. Thefe documents, comprifing public and private correspondence, army rolls, orderly books, and other matter of like nature, with appropriate illuftrations, have been brought together, during feveral years of refearch, by Mr. Abraham 'Tomlinfon of this city, with the defign of having them ultimately placed in fome public inflitution.

The whole collection was offered to the Mercantile Library Affociation on fuch terms that it was thought definable to fecure it for the infpection and perufal of its members; and this refult has been accomplifhed through the liberality of friends of the Affociation. It is propofed, when opportunity favors, to have the most interefling portions of the collection arranged in fuch a manner as that they can be early feen and fludicd.

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