

third voyage of thristopher Columbus Open to All Students. For nobody can adequately write early American history-that is, with refer-ence to original documents-without visiting Providence, which has several libraries of prime importance. To the

in which the great explorer first discovered the South American continent and followed its coast line for some hundreds of milis. As the only surviving copy, as it was believed, of a work printed at Vetice in 1504 from ma-terial containe in some letters by Peter Martyr, ne of the courtlers in attendance on he Spanish soverign, it

happened upon an ancient volume bound in fragments of medieval manuscript, with its corners all nibbled away by mice. On examination he found that it consisted in the main of a sea-man's guide, printed at Venice in 1490such a one as Columbus himself may have been familiar with before he unsance, a perfect copy of the long-sought Libretto of 1304. From the copy in Venice the title page is miss-

municated by cable with the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, for he knew, as all students of American his-

tory know, that the library of Americana, or early American books and autograph letters, now connected with Brown University, is the most complete collection of its kind in the world, and that the rare volume would unquestionably be wanted in Providence if the means for its purchase were at

Keen Fight for Possession.

The bibliographer had judged wisely. A measure was hastly wired back to Florence to accept the proposition that the Libretto become at once the property of the John Carter Brown Library. the authorities of which have the am-bitious design of securing either a copy or a facsimile of everything printed in or about North or South America from Columbus' discovery through the year 1803. The cable message, it may be added,

arrived in the nick of time, for a rumor of the discovery had got abroad and telegrams were pouring in from libraries and individual collectors of Europe. The bibliographer was shortafter visited by a famous bookseller of Paris, who sought to secure the treasure, and a little later by a gentleman from Brazil, owner of one of the best South American libraries, who made the trip to Florence for the express purpose of securing the book,

The incident illustrates the international reputation which foresight exnding over the past three-quarters a century has brought to this col-ction of books either printed in America or in Europe about the American colonies prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Begun as a private library by John Carter Brown, of the class of 1816 at Brown Univer-

John Carter Brown library in the days when, under private management, it was still always courteously thrown attendance on he Spanish soverign, it was valued as low books are. Not many Lonthis ago, however, a distinguished bibliographer and booksoller of the Italian city of Florence on American subjects have frequently made studies among its treasures, as when not long ago a professor of the University of Ghent, in Belgium, who was writing a book about some of the early Flemish geographers, found in the library of the Rhode Island city maps and other information regarding his subject, of the existence of which he had no suspicion. Again, in condertook his memorable voyage in 1492. Bound with this "portolano," as it is called, was, according to a fashion that was common in the days of the Renals- Providence in consultation among original works relating to the founding of the earliest of English colonies. The present usefulness of such a

library, while it is already supreme ing: this has it in perfect state of preservation. Knowing that he had uncarthed a treasure, the bookseller forthwith com-

1801 or a photographic facsimile or a body of detailed information about it. This accompliabled, the materials for the study of early American history at Brown University will be absolutely complete.

Multiplicity of Publications.

Such an undertaking is a large one,

as every one knows who has ever dipped into "Americana" and discov-ered how very busy the printing presses of early times were. They had no

books which circulated into the hundreds of thousands, but of the making of little editions of a few hundred copies each there was almost no end, for the inkpots were stirred upon very slight occasion in the days of our disputatious ancestors. One bibliography of the works printed in the English coloules between 1439 and 1764 gives 9890 titles, and these are estimated by a good authority not to be more than one-quarter of all that actually were printed and bound in those years. In Pennsylvania alone, according to a bibliographer of that state, 3633 volumes were printed between 1684 and 1786. In the town of Worcester, Mass. 401 volumes were printed before 1801, and in Newark, N. J., no great literary center in the colonial and revolutionary period, 44 volumes. All this, of course, without any account of the immense number of works printed in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking

America, and without account of the works about America which were pub-lished on the other side of the Atlantic, but which properly belong in any col-lection of Americana. The Spanish colonles were by no means an illiterate peo-ple. In Lima, Peru, it is known that 1226 books were printed before 1765. In the City of Mexico more than 1200 were printed before 1700. Then again the Lanc colonies prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Begun as a private library by John Carter Brown, on his death, in 1874, presses of the mother country, Spain, are private library by John Carter Brown, of the class of 1816 at Brown Univer-sity, enlarged by his widow and his ond Brown, and recently bequeathed to Brown Curversity, it has a value which cannot be estimated by terms of money.

JOHN CARTER BROWN LINBARY.

A Building Housing the Most Important Collection of "Americana" in Existence, One Valued by a Literary Expert at More than a Million Dollars.

the conscience of a Unitarian without introducing any which right displease a Trinitarian," gave occasion to a cel-

watered liturgy."

the co-operation of scholars and collectors everywhere, to give it that transcendant importance which was the originator's idea. The habit of turning over valuable

reported along with the purchase of many treasures of prime value. The John Carter Brown collections are thoroughly accessible withal, as every-

one finds who wishes to consult the volumes, in a beautiful building at the southeastern corner of the middle campus of Brown University. In the the explorer dictated in Santo Domin-

go, while he was on his third voyage, and in which he set forth his various claims, rights and privileges, is also at Providence. whom a visiting Archbishop of Can-terbury had remarked: "I understand, sir, that you have in this church a sort of watered liturer."

Along with the Columbus letters are original editions of the descriptions written by Americus Vespucius. Fou have often wondered perhaps just whence came the suggestion that the

name of this Florentine navigator should be given to the new continents. In the John Cartor Brown Library is a modest little work on geography. "The Cosmographiae Introductio," printed at St. Die in the Vosges in 1507. In which appears for the first time the plea that henceforth the lands to the westward be known as "Amer-

1ca." In other directions of special patri-otic interest the John Carter Brown Library is strong; in works by and relating to that insignificantly named. large main gallery are thoroughly ad-equate means for displaying occasional exhibitions-just as on the 406th anni-versary of the death of Columbus, in 1506, a very remarkable group of Co-

Updike, a modern printer, which was printed through the co-operation of Har-old Brown, one of the gons of John Carter Brown.

Beginnings of the Library.

The beginnings of the John Carter Brown library date back into our early history. Members of the Brown family out all such expressions as would hurt for whom the university was named were ctors of books in pre-Revolutionary s. The gathering, however, of the ebrated repartee of Dr. Bellows, to present collection was due to John Carter

Brown, born in 1797, and generally con-sidered as the greatest connoisseur of Americans, probably outranking even James Lenox, of New York. Mr. Brown,

"Not watered, but washed, your reverat the outset of his collecting career, included various specimens of the s famous European exponents of the ing art, as of the Aldine family of George Washington's Notebook. Here, as is proper to a collection situbut presently he limited the scope of his ated in Rhode Island, is a large group of works relating to Roger Williams, in-cluding his "Key to the Languages of America," and many of controversial pable, bibliophile, an American resident treatises. Clustering above all, around the treatises. Clustering above all, around the great name of George Washington, is an immense mass of original literature of priseless worth. The visitor sees note-books, Fellow of (various learned sociebooks in which the methodical Father of His Country kept carefully every item of expense, whether it was \$15 for a case of partiarch of Skull and Bones of Yale, and member of (various historic societies), B. A. and M. A. of Yale Colexpense, whether it was 115 for a case of porter or 10 cents expended on a tip, A very interesting feature consists of 50-odd autographic letters of Washington to Joseph Reed, who served for a time as his secretary. In printed form there is the celebrated "Journal of Major G. Wash-ington." sent by Honorable Robert Din-widdle, Governor of Virginia, to the spot where the City of Pittaburg now stands. This work was published at Williamsburg in 1754

ly after, and the trustees who finally de-cided to give the library in trust to Brown University, were G. W. R. Matteson and Bobert H. I. Goddard, of Providence. Recently the commodious building in which general public, which is intensely interthe library is now housed was dedicated ested in the original documents of our

and thrown open to the public. It is commonly said that only rich men can afford to write American history, and the cases of Francis Parkman, John Cod-Providence, R. I., January 12.

ONLY WOMAN MASO Katle Sweet, 17 Years Old, Compels Lodge to Receive Her.

In a little pamphlet published by J. P. Babington at Bowling Green, Va., there is given the story of the circumstances by which one woman became 'a Blue Lodge Mason." This woman, we are told, is the only one of her sex who has gained the secrets of Masonry. In the school which she attended occupied the first floor of a two-story frame building. The top floor had been originally designed for a church, and a pulpit and other Masonic Lodge secured the place for their meetings. Under the unused pulpit, the girl, Catherine Sweet, one day discovered an excellent hiding place when playing bids and each an excellent hiding place when playing hide-and-seek. Later she utilized it dur-

unobserved attendant at all the meetings return he cannot his brothers and they went gated as a regular Masson, but not admit-into their office. After relating what he find set if possible, what she had barned about Massonry. She was summined to ap-pear for what she thought would be her while it was at work. She knew Masonry peat in sum ent thought would be defined to be-leve that no one was allowed to live who stole the secrets of Masonry. It was at this time that she showed her courage in a way that probably saved her a

vast amount of trouble. She entered the presence of her uncles, all of whom she have bootd her uncles, all of whom she who as she was seated the clear brother hecame spokesman and the following con-

which were you doing there?"

"No, eir." "How long have you been doing this "" "For a year and a half, or ever since John Williams was initiated."

¹ Will answer an questions you may ask me, for I am a Mason and am willing to answer questions when properly put to me, but I saunot give you me knowledge of Masonry in any other way." "Where shall I commence and what kind of questions shall I ask you?" "Begin at the beginning and ask such questions as you would ask a stranger if you wanted him to prove to you that he was a Mason."

Masonic information in any other way or manner, the brothers decided that it would be beat to put her through the regular cate-chism, which they proceeded to do. The Masonic reader can understand the looks and feelings of the five brothers as the exam-

The top floor had been originally designed for a church, and a pulpit and other church furniture had been installed, but inter this plan was abandoned and the Masonic Lodge secured the place for their the next day. When the lodge assembled it went into a committee of the after hours of deliberation adjo meet again the next day. Measur sent out and the oldest and wises ing sessions of the lodge and gained many secrets of Manorry. Of her discovery and further adventures we read: For more than a year she had been an of other lodges were called in to consuit

The laws of Masonry, which had been in of the lodge. She had, on several occas-force run some merrow secapes, but a day came when she failed in her calculations As before mentioned, the mernines of the lodge always carried their rifles when they attended the meetings. On this fatal day come of her uncles left his rife in the ante-room and had gone some distance before he hought of it. He retraced his sizes and he approached the building he saw Kate crawling out from her place of concesiment. She discovered him at about the same time and she knew that a reckouing was at hand. When she reached the ground her uncle told obligate her, in the regular way, and rick the consequences. Accordingly a mitable the consequences accordingly a mitable was taken to the lodge, where she was oblireturn he called his brothers and they went gated as a regular Mason, but not admit-

and kept herself posted up until a short time before her death, but never attempted to whit a bodge. Many instances are related in the

pamphlet in which she found her knowledge of Masonry of help when she needed assistance.-The Literary Digest.

Conflict.

CDinner parties are a struggie between ating and talking --Exchange.) London Globe Matilda when 1 took you in

To dinner t'other week, I know that you were wondering why I simply wouldn't speak. " "Is he annoysal?" you seemed to sek. "Can this be due to pique?"

Not so, Matilds. Dearly still T love you, as of old; But could I let the entree alide? The soup and figh grow cold?

And cease to eat ere I was filled As full as I could hold?

My brain was full of many a quip. Of many a lightsome jest.

Of many a trope, of many a fact of general interest. Of paradoxes that would beat Our G. B. S's best.

But that was not the time or place

To air the keenest wit: My appetite was keener still; I let it go a bit.

I'll talk to you some other time If I should think of it.

"Watching and listening." "Was this your first visit?"

ohn Williahs was indicated. "Have you been able to learn any of the edrets of the lodge?" "Xes, sir, all of them. "Well, tell us all you know." "I will answer all quastions you may ask

Seeing that she would not impart her

works to this library, on the principle John Smith; in prayer-books printed to that it can make best use of them, is an for the most part in England, but used in early American churches, together latest report of the librarian a large with the first to be printed on this number of recent accessions by gift are side of the water-one which, curiously chough, was not published by an Epis-copal Church, but by King's Chapel. Unitarian, in Beston, whose liturgy, designed, as was expressed, "to leave