

Bibliomaniacs

The "Collecting Bug" Has Bitten
Many Book Lovers in Washington



"EVERYONE should begin collecting a private library in youth," once counseled William Lyon Phelps. "The instinct of private property, which is fundamental in human beings, can here be cultivated with every advantage and no evils. One should have one's own book shelves, which should not have doors, glass windows or keys; they should be free and accessible to the hand as well as the eye. The best of mural decorations is books; they are more varied in color and appearance than any wall paper; they are more attractive in design, and they have the prime advantage of being separate personalities, so that if you sit alone in the room in the firelight you are surrounded with intimate friends."

A recent tour through a number of Washington homes, from that stately one at 1600 Pennsylvania avenue to town houses, apartments and suburban cottages, reveals that the "collecting bug"—virulent destroyer of sales resistance to fancied objects—has gained an epidemic hold on many book lovers here.

Private libraries, unobtrusively growing into valuable collections of from several hundred to five or ten thousands of carefully picked volumes, were discovered, and their owners, as reticent a group as ever cantered a hobby, were persuaded to discuss their fascination for books, old and new.

Most of these collectors have been building libraries since their primer and Mother Goose days. They can hardly recall the events which launched their quests. And each protested that his collection was barely a beginning. Common to all is an urge to gather writings from distant dates and places on particular subjects that intrigue them.

With Franklin D. Roosevelt, it was a boyhood fascination for the United States Navy that led him to acquire, from here, there and everywhere, everything printed on that subject until his collection is now invaluable.

With Supreme Court Justice Brandeis, it is his innate love of old English and Latin literature which explains the many shelves of rare first editions in his Florence Court apartment and the pleasure he derives reading them in their sixteenth century type and spelling.

With Mrs. Ralph Coolidge Mulligan, busy mother and wife, it is the early years she gave to the stage and later ones to managing a bookshop that account for her fine col-

lection of first editions of plays and modern prose masters.

With Peter Boris, local Spanish restaurateur, it is an intense interest in the philosophies of the three lands in which he has lived, Spain, France and the United States, that accounts for his small but growing library on these subjects.

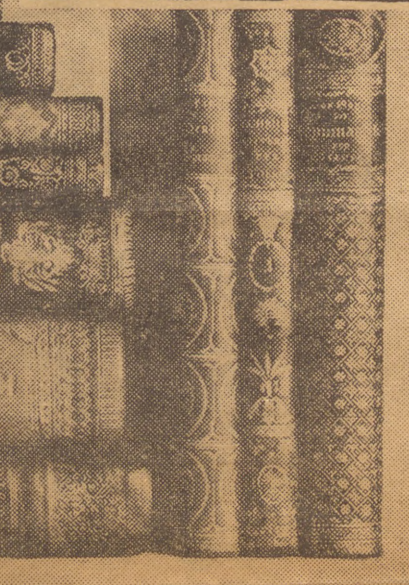
Book dealers here and in all parts of the world are on the alert to supply the varied calls of these Washington collectors. Catalogues from all quarters of the globe come periodically to tempt those who can read



forever on ornithology, cookery, occult, Americana, dreams, Indians.

Some day libraries will be the richer, researches of future generations will be facilitated because of the zeal with which these, our neighbors, are pursuing the subjects that hold such enchantment for them. Meanwhile the collectors are enjoying what they consider the best game in the world.

In addition to works on the Navy, President Roosevelt has read and collected many volumes on forestry and Hudson River history. Then, too, publishers at home and abroad present him with their publications. Some 4,000 volumes having reached him



since March 4. He may get around to reading them some day. Meanwhile, never a night brings sleep to his eyes until he has read from the little group, new or old, that he has fancied enough to want on the table by his bed.

In the cozy library of Mrs. Mulligan, in her Ninth street home, one can not help but "feel" books and discuss them and their authors. Many of her prized modern first editions bring to mind the Skylark Book Shop, which she managed several years ago. Her place was a rendezvous of statesmen and socialites. Three years ago, with the arrival of her baby daughter, she discontinued this business, but she and her husband, a newspaper correspondent, still live in a world of books.

Mrs. Mulligan recalled Owen D. Young's first visit to her shop and his purchase of her most treasured volume, an autographed biography of Sarah Bernhardt.

"I only had it on my shelf for show," she lamented, "and never intended to part with it. But he paid the price on it, so I had to let it go."

She reminisced about a number of "young collectors" who interested her, including several Junior League girls who assisted in her shop.

"We still talk books," she commented, "whenever we meet, and venture our predictions, as we used to, on future classics as new books appear. That is half the fun of this book collecting."

Among her more treasured volumes is a first edition of "Barren Ground," with Ellen Glasgow's personal greetings on the flyleaf; many of Cabell's, with his inscriptions; "We," with the autograph: "C. A. Lindbergh, Apr. 21, 1928."

"That was my birthday," she said. A visit to the crowded desk of Leroy S. Boyd, librarian of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is a treat. He pulls from shelves here and there books he loves to have around him, on subjects far removed from the commission's hundreds of transportation volumes. Most of his 3,000 items are in his nearby Virginia home. Secret societies are his chief interest. He considers his rarest item a copy of the Constitution and Ritual of the ancient Kuklos Adelpheon Fraternity of the Southern States, founded at the University of North Carolina in 1812.

"Sometimes I've played in luck in this game," he chuckled. "By chance I've gotten wind of works I've been running down for

years. I am going to will all my books to the Scottish Rite Library here."

"There's only one book I ever wanted badly," he lamented, "that I couldn't find anywhere. It is entitled 'Bevil Faulcon,' by Alexander Dromgoole Sims, a member of Congress from South Carolina, and published in 1842. It's the first book I ever owned. I lost it and I want it back. I'll give \$10 for it."

The entire top floor of Frank Hogan's Massachusetts avenue home has been made into one of Washington's most inviting private libraries. Sunlight streaks softly through high little stained-glass windows, touching gently on oak paneled walls that are lined with books—rare old classics printed two and three centuries ago, modern "firsts," rows of Shaw, O'Neill, Galsworthy, placed conveniently on lower shelves.

Easy chairs and soft-lighted lamps lure the visitor into overstaying minutes that turn into hours in the company of the great sages and wits of the ages. Mr. Hogan, although always a reader and book lover, confesses the bibliophile germ overpowered him three years ago when he read A. E. Newton's volume, "This Book-Collecting Game." Since then he has acquired between two and three thousand items, many of them of rare historical value.

Another inviting library is that of Mr. Boris, in his home at Seventeenth and Lamont streets. Though the room and its collection are of modest size, one feels here the reverence of the man for his books. There is a composite of American and foreign in its furnishings of Oriental rugs, couch with many pillows, flat desk and antique mahogany chair. Mrs. Boris, who is French, arranged it all for him.

"But," he explained, "it is my room. I have it alone."

"When I arrived in this country in 1910," he recalled, "I brought the few books I could then afford, and they were in Spanish. I could read little or no English then."

"My favorite authors are three philosophers," he explained, "Bergson, the Frenchman; Santayana, American, and Ortega Gasset, Spanish. And I love to read many times 'Don Quixote,' 'Sartor Resartus' and Emerson—anything by Emerson."

Today his English shows barely a trace of an accent.

Capt. William A. Rounds, of the adjutant general's office, treasures a rare lot of illustrated volumes in his home on Rodman street. The loveliest of his 2,600 gems are handy in his living room near a cheery fireplace. Especially attractive is his row of "Cranford Series and Allied Books," numbering 38 volumes, and, he tells you, one of the few complete sets in this part of the world. They include such favorites as "Old Christmas," "Gulliver's Travels," "Pride and Prejudice," and "Tales of the Punjab," each generously illustrated throughout in fine steel engravings. Another enticing volume is a 1900 edition of "Ben Hur," with illustrations of rare beauty on each page.

"Here is the proof of authenticity of this first edition," he explained about one volume, pointing out a certain "t" in the last chapter's last paragraph. "The serif on that 't' is missing. That's the proof."

Some 20 works on legal subjects also enrich Capt. Rounds' collection, although, like most collectors, his hobby serves more to remove him from his daily chores.

Not so with Lester Douglas, art director of the Nation's Business Magazine. His hobby and his work are one and the same thing. Widely known as a pioneer for a new art in the printing of books, he has deplored for years the clothing of modern thoughts in bindings, type and illustrations that belong to another period.

Bibliophiles are found in increasing numbers in the extensive ranks of Washington's authors and journalists. Among the former there is Mrs. Frances Noyes Hart, whose 4,000 items are being catalogued for her in her Washington home while she sojourns in California, and Mrs. Tracy Dows, who writes and collects poetry works, and also her son, Orin, an artist, who collects books on art. Among the journalists, there is George R. Holmes, who goes in for special limited editions, and Frank Baer, who is acquiring first editions.

Many assistants at the Library of Congress worship books both in and out of office hours, and have built up rare collections in their own homes on favorite subjects. George H. Milne has a valuable lot of art books, belles lettres and works on horticulture and private presses; H. H. B. Meyer has a rare collection of beautifully printed works, and Miss Helen Wright, recently retired after long service, has an extensive library of autographed first editions.

The Carabaos Are Still on the Warpath

Military Order Fights Filipino Campaign Every Year—In Stunts and Songs

By JOHN J. DALY.

IN Army, Navy and Marine Corps circles there is a saying to the effect that whenever two Carabaos meet there's a Wallow.

A carabao, in the animal kingdom, is a water buffalo.

A Carabao, in Army, Navy and Marine Corps circles is a member of that celebrated social, dining, and marching club known officially as "The Military Order of the Carabao."

Attendance at the Carabao dinners is considered "a high treat."

So it comes that just about this time each year admirals and generals start on their leaves of absence—to get to the Carabao dinner.

It would be just too bad if America ever went to war during February. At the time of the Carabao dinner, many ships are short-handed. Many Army posts are minus their commanding officers. Some of the Marine barracks are undermanned, while heads of outfits are in Washington attending the wallow.

The annual gathering has come to be a great tradition of the services. Anything can happen at a Carabao dinner, and usually does. Presidents have gone so far as to take official action. Secretaries of State have issued manifestoes and pronouncements—even though what the Carabao does is always in a spirit of fun.

Civilians may caper to their hearts' content, and hold up the Nation to ridicule; but let officers of the Army and Navy and the Marine Corps do the same thing and there is liable to be a Congressional investigation.

For the last 34 years members have been gathering around the festive board, once a year, in what is known as the Wallow. A favorite pastime of the water-buffalo is to wallow.

There is probably no other organization quite like the Carabao. It was started as a jest, shortly after the Philippine campaign, and as a burlesque on The Military Order of the Dragon.

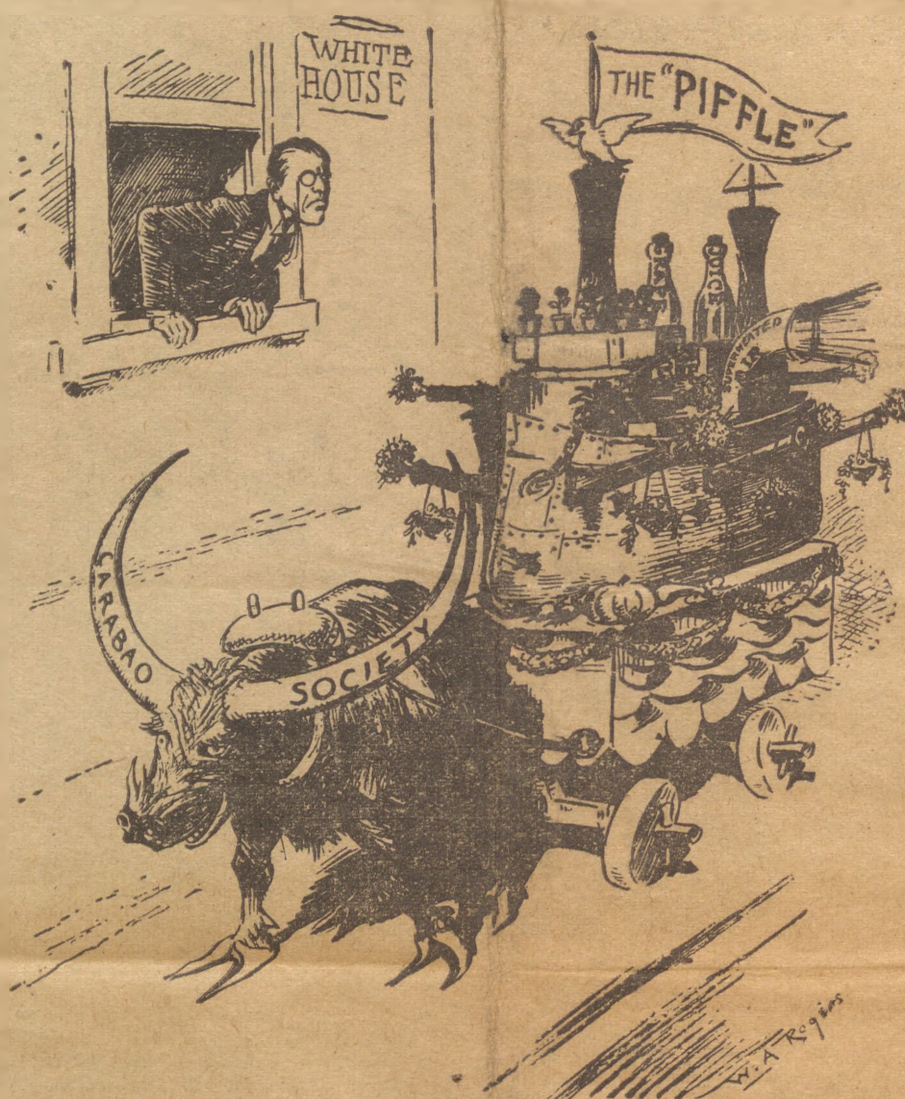
During the Boxer uprising, in 1900, a number of American troops in China had a grand time watching their European brothers, army officers all, strut through the cafes—after the rebellion—wearing insignia, a golden dragon on a green background. This was the Order of the Dragon.

The Americans started an order of their own—which accounts for the fact that once a year, as near as possible to the date of the Philippine insurrection, February 4—the Military Order of the Carabao prepares for the annual Wallow.

This year, the affair takes place in the Willard Hotel, on the night of February 10.

The only society ever organized that caters exclusively to members of the three branches of the service, the Carabao goes this one better and permits membership only to those who saw service in the Philippines during the insurrection—and to their grown sons.

Some of the distinguished journalists who served as war correspondents during the insurrection are admitted into the society



Lo, it is harder for a joke to pass through a monocle than it is for a Carabao to go through the eye of a needle.

as associate members. Among these are George Ade, the humorist; John T. McCutcheon, the cartoonist; Martin Egan, now publicity man for the House of Morgan; Burton Holmes, the travelogue artist, and Frederick Palmer, still a war correspondent.

William H. Taft and Woodrow Wilson were elected honorary members, also Henry L. Stimson, who afterwards resigned.

At the Wallow each year, members recall the days when they came back to America and started working their way up in the service. Top-kickers of old, and shave-tails, are now generals. Ensigns are admirals.

It makes no difference at the Wallow who they are, or what they are, as long as they are Carabaos.

It is said that no club in the history of America ever had a more distinguished membership. For instance, during the World War every general officer of the A. E. F. was a member of the society. The same was true of the Navy and of the Marine Corps.

All three branches share leadership. The presidency is rotated each year. But they do not call the head of the Carabao a president. They have much more colorful titles for all the officers.

What corresponds to the presidency is called the Grand Paramount Carabao. The incumbent is Admiral William H. Standley, Chief of Naval Operations.

The next ranking officer is called the Grand Patriarch of the Herd. Col. John P. Wade now holds the honor.

Then comes the Grand Bell Carabao, which is equivalent to the second vice presidency. Brig. Gen. Hugh Matthews, U. S. M. C., wears the bell around his neck this year. The Grand Councilor of the Herd—in reality the third vice president—is Col. Harold C. Reisinger, U. S. M. C., whose duty it is to see that the boys are given kindly advice, if needed.

The fourth vice president is known by the more dignified name of Grand Jeffe de los Banos. Rear Admiral Clark H. Woodward, U. S. N., has this office.

The fifth vice presidency is called the Grand Jeffe de los Bedidas. It is now held by Col. Henry H. Sheen, U. S. A., whose duties are to furnish the refreshments.

There is even a sixth vice president. He is called by the sonorous name of Grand Jeffe de los Cargadores. Cargadores, as the name suggests, means cargo. So, it is the old Spanish custom of getting a cargo aboard with which the Grand Jeffe de los Cargadores concerns himself. This year that pleasant duty falls to the lot of Col. James J. Meade, U. S. M. C. In other words, Col. Meade is the quartermaster general.

To see that the herd is never disturbed during dining hours there is a Main Guard—Capt. Neal B. Farwell, U. S. N.

In order to get the herd together the Winder of the Horn is called upon to blow a blast upon his huge trumpet, made from the right horn of a carabao. Col. Kenyon A. Joyce, U. S. A., commandant at Fort Myer, has this assignment.

Transportation must be furnished, of course, and the man responsible for this service is called by that quaint old Spanish name, Carretonero. The Carretonero at present is Brig. Gen. Nathaniel B. McClure.

The Gamboling Carabao, who starts the festivities at every Wallow, is Col. George R. Spaulding, U. S. A., and the Veterinario is Maj. William T. Davis, M. D.

Directors of the Fiesta are Lieut. Col. Charles L. Mitchell, U. S. A., and Maj. Richard D. LaGarde, U. S. A.

One officer is not named until the night of the banquet—and this happens to be the most important post of all, for the night, at least. It is the office of Bombinero.

The Bombinero is the head man at the Carabao parties. His word is law. As translated from the old Spanish, a bombinero is a combination fireman and water carrier.

The man who has kept the organization alive since its inception is the Grand Lead and Wheel Carabao, Col. Joseph M. Heller, Medical Reserve Corps, U. S. A.

With 1,000 members in this country and abroad, this office is no sinecure.

"We have members in every country on the face of the globe," Col. Heller says.

Once a year the Grand Lead and Wheel Carabao goes into action.

All of the stunts are written by members of the society. The order has its own song book. Behind this there is a story.

One of the Carabao songs that became famous is called "Little Brown Brother."

The Little Brown Brother was the Filipino. Although President Taft expressed his brotherly love for all the inhabitants of the Philippines, the soldiers sang:

"I'm only a common soldier in the blasted Philippines.

They say I've got brown brothers here, but I don't know what it means.

I like the word 'fraternity,' but still I draw the line;

He may be a brother of William H. Taft, but he ain't no friend of mine."

That song was sung, years ago, by George H. O'Connor, Irish tenor, with Matt Horn at the music box. The rendition drew upon the heads of the Carabao the wrath of statesmen who saw in it an affront to a great people. Nevertheless, when the song had been taken out of the old Carabao song book, Mr. Taft himself is said to have requested that it be sung at the next Wallow. Mr. O'Connor sang it then and is scheduled to sing it again this year.

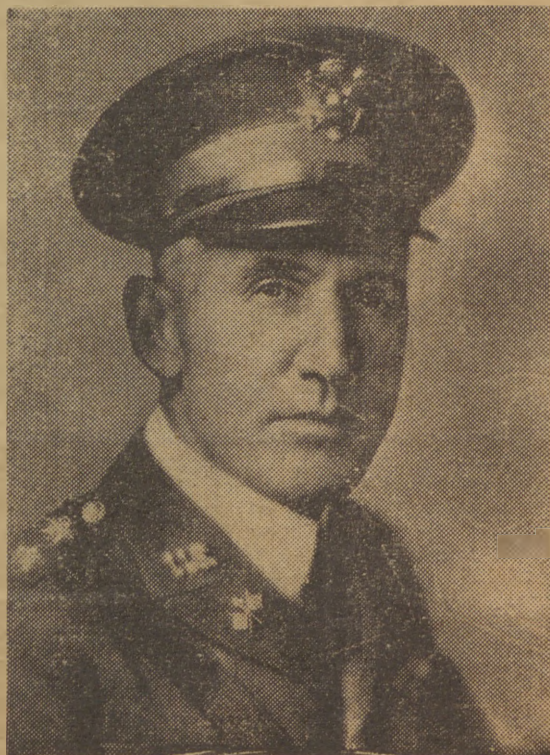
The late President Wilson once came very near putting the order out of business. It happened in this way; as Col. Heller tells the story:

"At the dinner on the night of December 13, 1913, there were three incidents which drew hearty applause. One was the vociferous singing of 'Damn, Damn, Damn the Filipinos.' The other was a satire on the Wilson policy in the Philippines. The third was a satire on Secretary of State Bryan's peace policy.

"Not on the program, a Carabao member jumped to the platform and started singing the Insurrectos Song.

"Then, mounted on the shoulders of stout seamen, three now famous battleships hove into sight. They were the U. S. S. Friendship, U. S. S. Fellowship and U. S. S. Piffle. This latter was rigged up with neseigays and other thrusts at the peace policy.

"Several days later the President called for an investigation. After receiving a report, he ordered that the offending officers of the society be reprimanded. The President was prodded by Secretary Bryan, it was said at the time."



Maj. Gen. Irving J. Carr, dinner committee chairman.



Admiral William H. Standley, grand paramount Carabao.

ALEX D. SIMS

On page 47 of Vol. 2, of Raymond's History of Union University, Alex. D. Sims was a Colonel, U. S. A., and W. C. from S. C. He was a student at the Univ. of N. C. in 1819.

From: Letter to Mr. Brown from Leroy S. Boyd, Librarian, Interstate Commerce Commission, 1921

Union College
Schenectady, New York

JAMES BREWSTER
LIBRARIAN

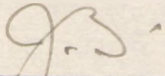
September 12, 1932

Professor Charles N. Waldron,
Graduate Council Office
Union College, CITY

Dear Professor Waldron:

I have a letter from Leroy S. Boyd, Librarian at Washington of the Interstate Commerce Commission in which he states that Alexander D. Sims of the Class of 1842 died November 16th, 1848 and not November 22nd, 1848 as given in the large Congressional Biographical Directory. You may wish to correct your records in case you have the later date as his death.

Yours truly,


James Brewster
Librarian

JB:S

1823.

ALEXANDER DRUMGOOLE SIMS

Alexander D. Sims, lawyer and congressman, was born in Brunswick county, Va., June 11, 1803. He pursued a course of studies at Chapel hill, N. C., and was graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1823. After acquiring a legal education he practiced law in his native county for a time. Subsequently he removed to South Carolina, where he taught in an academy at Darlington Court House for five years, and in 1829 commenced the practice of law; he became a prominent member of the bar in that state. During the nullification times he was active in politics. He served in the state legislature in 1840-44, and was a member of congress from South Carolina in 1845-48. He published a controversial paper on slavery and a novel, "Bevil Faulcon" (1842). His death occurred at Kingstree, S. C., Nov. 11, 1848.

The N. C. of A. B., Vol. XII, Page 558.

Congressional Directory
No. 1527
✓ **SIMS, Alexander Drumgoole**, a Representative from South Carolina; born near Randals Ordinary, Brunswick County, Va., June 12, 1803; attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.; assumed charge of the Darlington (S. C.) Academy in 1826; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1829, and commenced practice in Darlington, S. C.; member of the State house of representatives 1840-1844; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Congresses and served from March 4, 1845, until his death; had been reelected in 1848 to the Thirty-first Congress; died in Kingstree, Williamsburg County, S. C., November 22, 1848; interment in the First Baptist Cemetery, Darlington, Darlington County, S. C.

This gentleman represents the fourth Congressional District of South Carolina, commonly known as the Darlington District, which comprises the judicial districts of Chesterfield, Marlborough, Darlington, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg. He was born on the 12th of June, 1803, in the county of Brunswick, Virginia. His father, Doctor Richard Sims, was a native of Granville county, North Carolina, though descended from a family which settled more than a century ago in Hanover county, Virginia. His mother, whose maiden name was Rebecca Dromgoole, daughter of the late Reverend Edward Dromgoole, and eldest sister of the late representative in Congress, George C. Dromgoole, was a native of Brunswick county, Virginia. Her father came from Ireland; her mother, whose maiden name was Walton, descended from George Walton and Rebecca Roe, who settled at or near Williamsburg, Virginia, more than one hundred and fifty years ago.

Mr. Sims has four sisters and one brother living. A younger brother, the Reverend Edward D. Sims, an accomplished scholar and divine, and at the time of his decease Professor of English Literature in the University of Alabama, died in the spring of 1845.

Though the parents of Mr. Sims were in moderate circumstances, they were enabled, by economy and prudence, to afford him every opportunity for a thorough education. After the necessary preparation, at the age of 16 he joined the freshman class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, where he continued the assiduous prosecution of his studies until ~~the~~ near the close of the first session in his junior year, standing among the first in his class. At this time he left the University and entered Union College, New York--attracted there, perhaps, as much by the high character of Dr. Nott as any other consideration--where he took his first degree at Commencement in 1823. No honors were conferred at the close of the ~~respective~~ sessions upon individuals in the classes at Union College--as was the custom at the University of North Carolina--so as to mark distinctly the ~~relative~~ merit of the various members of the classes; but in the reports made by the faculty for the information of parents and guardians, Mr. Sims invariably received high commendation.

After the close of his collegiate course, he read law with General Dromgoole, in Brunswick county, Virginia, and was admitted to practice. For a year or two, he attended the courts of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, and Greenville; but, finding his business inadequate to his necessities, and the bar in that part of Virginia crowded with able and experienced practitioners, he removed, in the year 1826, to South Carolina, and settled at Darlington Court-house. In the year following, he took charge of the academy at that place, and continued to teach for several years. The school, under his management, was large and prosperous, and its patrons expressed much gratification with the conduct and the progress of the students. He was thought to possess great aptitude for imparting instruction as well as eminent skill on school discipline.

He took advantage of this period of his life to extend his scientific and literary knowledge, and to make a thorough and complete review of his entire collegiate course; but he also continued his study of the law, and in December, 1829, was admitted to practice in the courts of South Carolina. In 1830 he commenced his professional career, and soon met with very reasonable encouragement. His business continued to improve, and both in the Circuit and in the Court of Appeals, the dockets attest his success. He was soon enabled to meet, from the profits of his profession, not only his current expenses, but also to discharge his debts in Virginia, which, at the time of his removal, he was unable to pay, and to lay up a competency for himself and family. At the time of entering into public life, he was among the leading lawyers on his circuit, and in full practice. In every branch of his profession, as advocate, solicitor, or attorney, he had his full share of business.

He is represented from early youth to have been fond of politics, and to have devoted himself much to that kind of reading and study adapted to the duties of a statesman. The necessity which compelled him to attend to his private means, prevented him from entering very early into public life; but he was always a firm and decided politician, with fixed principles and a ready opinion. During the period of the Nullification strifes in South Carolina, he was active and decided, though not a candidate for any office. When General Jackson's "proclamation" reached the village of Darlington, Mr. Sims was at the post-office. He read it publicly to the assembled multitude, and, before he had completed the reading, he, together with thirty or forty others, had enrolled their names as volunteers, to be at the service of Governor Hayne at any moment, to assist in defending the state against "Federal aggression, and the threatened heresies of the President's proclamation." On the same evening he drafted resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a large public meeting, readily assembled under the existing circumstances of the times. These are believed to have been the first resolutions in condemnation of that state paper which were ever adopted in the country. They were as follows:

"Whereas we believe the government of the United States is limited in its powers by the Constitution, and that the substitution of Federal discretion in the place of such constitutional limitations is subversive of all the reserved rights of the states:

"And whereas we believe the Federal Union was intended to link the states together in the bonds of peace and amity, by fraternal feelings and congenial sympathies, and not by force:

"And whereas we believe that in no emergency can the general government employ force to control or subdue the regularly constituted government of the states, but that the employment of the military for such purposes would be in open conflict with the character and genius of our institutions, destructive of constitutional liberty, and inevitably subversive of the union of these states. Above all, because we believe the states

are sovereign, and not corporations, or counties, in a vast consolidated empire, and, as such, not rightfully subject to be driven from their course by the simple edict of a tyrant, drunk with power and unmerited popularity, much less to be crushed in the exercise of their legitimate rights by the unholy power of a flattered usurper or imbecile despot, Therefore,

Resolved, That we have received with mingled feelings of regret, abhorrence, and destitution, the proclamation of the President of the United States touching the ordinance of the people of South Carolina, published in convention on the 24th day of November, 1832,

Resolved, That we consider the views of the chief magistrate of the United States, as expressed in the aforesaid proclamation, as characterized by every mark that can define a tyrant.

Resolved, That the intention expressed in the same to resort to force for the purpose of coercing the obedience of South Carolina, evinces a recklessness of the restraints imposed by the Constitution, and a disregard of the peace, harmony, and safety of the Union.

Resolved, That we believe that the first drop of blood shed in this controversy will render reconciliation of the unhappy differences which exist between this government and that of the United States forever impracticable.

Resolved, That, living in an age and a country where controversies in regard to the powers of government are settled by the arbitrament of an enlightened public opinion and a spirit of mutual concession, not by brute force and lawless violence, we have confidence in the good sense and love of liberty, at all times, upon great occasions, manifested by the people of the United States, that they will repudiate and put down the unconstitutional and tyrannical doctrines promulgated in the proclamation of the President.

Resolved, That we still approve of the high and magnanimous course of South Carolina, and of her talented and patriotic sons who are guiding her destinies.

It was not, however, until the year 1840 that Mr. Sims entered public life. In that year, by an overwhelming vote, he was returned a member to the General Assembly for Darlington, in which service he remained until elected to Congress in the fall of 1844. While in the Legislature he was an active and useful member, never absent from his committees, and ready at all times to take part in the public discussions of the House. He served on various important committees, and was the author of several useful measures, which were adopted by the Legislature. Others, also, he introduced, which he regarded as highly important to the interests of the state, but which were ~~not adopted~~ not adopted. One measure, in particular, he urged more than once on the consideration of the House, and which he considered of great importance. In the State of South Carolina, lands are subject to levy, and sale, and execution, exactly as personal chattels. In a bill, the details of which he had taken great pains to mature, Mr. Simms

proposed to exempt a part of the landed estate of every citizen with a family from sale under execution, so as to leave a homestead and small farm for the family. By this measure, he proposed not only to find a shelter for the women and children against the contingencies and misfortunes of life, but also to counteract the effect of the pre-emption system of the general government, and the low price of the public lands, in drawing off the population of the state. He urged the measure both by an able report and speeches, and though it failed, yet he made many proselytes to it. Governor Hammond, in his annual message to the Legislature of 1844, recommended the adoption of that, or some similar system.

Mr. Sims took his seat in the national Legislature as a member of the twenty-ninth Congress. Perhaps at no period of our history have our foreign relations been more complicated, or has a deeper anxiety been manifested in the public mind as to the course of policy which might be adopted, than at the first session of that Congress. We trust we shall have done something, before the close of our labors, to give a concise view of the difficulties of the times as then existing, and to place in an intelligible form before the country the results of the deliberations of its representatives. In the discussion of all the important topics of the day, as well as of other matters of a less prominent character, Mr. Sims took an active part. In politics he was a Democrat, and he claims never to have changed or wavered in his faith.

When the bill to provide for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men was under consideration in the House, he opposed it, and expressed the opinion that the money ought to be restored to the British Chancery. Much has been said in praise of the munificent and splendid liberality of James Smithson. It had been said that, animated by a spirit of benevolence to his race, he had made his will, constituting the government of the United States his trustee to carry out his intentions, and that he had dedicated to the noble purpose of the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men an entire estate under its management. Disclaiming any intention to speak in terms of reproach of one who slept under the sod, Mr. Sims ~~was~~ could only see in the will of Mr. Smithson what he had seen in the wills of many other men. After having gripped, through their lives, every shilling that came into their hands, animated at last by some posthumous vanity, they sought to build up a name which should live after them; and such, rather than any feeling for humanity, so much lauded, was the motive that guided them. In the present case, he saw abundant evidence of this disposition in the appointment of the government of the United States as a trustee to carry out this splendid vanity. He thought that our government was not instituted for any such purpose as the administration of charities. He believed there was no grant of power in the Constitution admitting such an exercise. And as there was no such power, as this fund was still under our control, and as the trust had not been executed, he thought it became Congress to retrace the errors it had already committed. The fund might then be restored to England, and devoted there to purposes

similar to those which had been contemplated in the city of Washington. The only difference would be its locality.

Perhaps a brief notice of this eccentric gentleman may be acceptable to many of our readers. (There follow two paragraphs on Smithson).

Mr. Sims voted against appropriations for harbors and rivers, because he denies the existence of any constitutional power which authorizes them.

He voted against the notice for the termination of the joint occupancy of the Oregon Territory--not that he thought it expedient or improper that the notice should be given; on the contrary, he believed the interest and honor of the country, the preservation of its peace, and the preservation of the territory itself, alike demanded such a measure. But it was a matter, in his opinion, belonging clearly to the treaty-making power, and not to the Legislature. Still, he thought that the House might, as an advisory act, say to the Executive, "If you so conduct the important matters committed to you as to continue this convention, it will or will not be wise and prudent; and if you abrogate it, it will or will not be acceptable, in our opinion, to those whom we represent."

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He believes the Mexican war to be just and necessary; and he is in favor of its prosecution until such time as indemnity for injuries sustained and for expenses of the war shall have been made, and until our boundary to the Rio Grande and a suitable line from thence to the Pacific shall have been acknowledged. He thinks that the executive government of the United States had a constitutional right to do--and was, in fact, bound, under the high obligations of duty, to do--everything which it has done. He has co-operated heartily with the administration in all measures touching the war, not excluding the proposition for the appointment of a lieutenant-general. He regretted that Congress did not think proper to respond to the recommendation of the President in this respect. But he thinks that, in point of fact, the President is already invested with the direct authority to make such appointment, under the sixty-second article of war, which declares that "if, upon marches, guards, or in quarters, different corps of

the army shall happen to join, or do duty together, the highest officer in rank of the line of the army, marine corps, or militia, by commission there, on duty, or in quarters, shall command the whole, and give orders for what is needful to the service, unless otherwise especially directed by the President of The United States, according to the nature of the case."

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"Mr. Burt, of South Carolina, desired to ask his colleague whether he had expressed the opinion that the country conquered from Mexico south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes would be occupied with slave institutions, in consequence of the state of public opinion in the Northern, Western, and Middle States, or whether it was in consequence of the known determination of the Southern people that their institutions shall be carried into that country, if it be acquired.

"Mr. Sims. 'It is founded on the known determination of the Southern people that their institutions shall be carried there; it is founded on the laws of God, written on the climate and soil of the country; nothing but slave labor can cultivate profitably that region of country. I have no idea that the North or the West will resist to the death. The Union will never be dissolved on that question.

"Mr. Bradford R. Wood (Union 1824), of New York, here interposed, and protested against the gentleman answering either for the North or for God.

"Mr. Sims. 'I answer for God, because His opinion is written in His revealed Word. I can speak authoritatively on that point. I do not believe that, on the slave question or any other question, the child is born in this country, who shall witness a dissolution of this Union. I have no idea of the thing. Politicians may arise and flourish, and they will perish beneath the scorn and contempt of the large masses of the honest and well-thinking people in every portion of this Union, who shall attempt to subvert the institutions and government of their country. I repeat, that the child is not born who shall witness a dissolution of the Union on any question that has been suggested."

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Mr. Sims was married in the fall of 1830 to Margaret Dargan, daughter of Timothy Dargan, of Darlington, many years a member of the State Legislature. She died in 1844, leaving him with one child.

During his service in Congress he has been a member of the Committee on the District of Columbia; and it is known to us that, during the last Congress, most of the law cases which came under the cognizance of that committee were referred to him for examination and report.

He opposed, on constitutional grounds, the retrocession of the town and county of Alexandria to the State of Virginia. He believed that Congress had no power, after once having accepted a cession of the ten ~~square~~ miles' square, to legislate on the subject, either of retroceding a part or all, or accepting another ten miles' square. He believed that the power expired with its original exercise.

History of Congress
Vol. 1 pp. 366 -375
Henry G. Wheeler
Harper & Brothers
New York 1848

Portrait accompanies sketch.

1823

ALEXANDER DROMGOOLE SIMS:

Lawyer and Congressman, was born in Brunswick Co., Virginia, June 11, 1808. He pursued a course of studies at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and was graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. in 1823. After acquiring a legal education he practices law in his native state for a time. Subsequently he removed to South Carolina, where he taught in an academy at Darlington Court House for five years, and in 1829 commenced the practice of law; he became a prominent member of the bar in that state. During the Nullification times he was active in politics. He served in the State Legislature in 1840-44, and was a member of Congress from South Carolina in 1845-48. He published a controversial paper on Slavery and a novel "Bevil Faulcon."

National Cyclopaedia of American Biography
Vol. XII p. 558.

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CLASS OF 1823:-Alexander D. Sims.

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Mr. J. R. Brown Jr.
Albany N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The novel, "Bevil Fauleon," by Sims - is among the scarcest of early American novels. In my book hunting which has extended over forty five years I have handled only three copies.

Lyle H. Wright in his "American Fiction 1774-1750", just published by the Henry E. Huntington Library - locates but two copies that in the Charleston Library Charleston S. C. and New York ~~Pub~~ Public Library.

However, the book is by no means as scarce Wright's citations would indicate, since I feel certain I can name twelve or more copies in the hands of private collectors and institutions. The other of Sims' novels - "De Hall" seems about as difficult to find, but ~~it~~ does not seem to have attracted the attention given "Bevil Fauleon".

"Bevil Fauleon", in good condition, would

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Columbia, S. C. Sept. 8-39.

AUTOGRAPHS
MANUSCRIPTS

Mr. J. R. Brown Jr.
Albany N. Y.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Since writing you recently
I have come upon some more Sims
information. In Vol. 2. O'Neale's Bench &
Bar of South Carolina - is quite a good
sketch of the man - also the Eulogy
pronounced over his remains.

If this work is accessible to you in
any library convenient - I think you
will find the sketch interesting.

I did not know until now that Sims
had a daughter - and will endeavor
to learn if she had any descendants.

It also seems that he wrote an "Essay on
States Rights" which I have never seen.

Any additional informations I may dig
up I will pass on to you.

Very truly yours

Jas. Thornton Gittman

This gentleman represents the fourth Congressional District of South Carolina, commonly known as the Darlington District, which comprises the judicial districts of Chesterfield, Marlborough, Darlington, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg. He was born on the 12th of June, 1803, in the county of Brunswick, Virginia. His father, Doctor Richard Sims, was a native of Granville county, North Carolina, though descended from a family which settled more than a century ago in Hanover county, Virginia. His mother, whose maiden name was Rebecca Dromgoole, daughter of the late Reverend Edward Dromgoole, and eldest sister of the late representative in Congress, George C. Dromgoole, was a native of Brunswick county, Virginia. Her father came from Ireland; her mother, whose maiden name was Walton, descended from George Walton and Rebecca Roe, who settled at or near Williamsburg, Virginia, more than one hundred and fifty years ago.

Mr. Sims has four sisters and one brother living. A younger brother, the Reverend Edward D. Sims, an accomplished scholar and divine, and at the time of his decease Professor of English Literature in the University of Alabama, died in the spring of 1845.

Though the parents of Mr. Sims were in moderate circumstances, they were enabled, by economy and prudence, to afford him every opportunity for a thorough education. After the necessary preparation, at the age of sixteen he joined the freshman class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, where he continued the assiduous prosecution of his studies until ~~the~~ near the close of the first session in his junior year, standing among the first in his class. At this time he left the University and entered Union College, New York--attracted there, perhaps, as much by the high character of Doctor Nott as any other consideration--where he took his first degree at Commencement in 1823. No honors were conferred at the close of the respective sessions upon individuals in the classes at Union College--as was the custom at the University of North Carolina--so as to mark distinctly the relative merit of the various members of the classes; but in the reports made by the faculty for the information of the parents and guardians, Mr. Sims invariably received high commendation.

After the close of his collegiate course, he read law with General Dromgoole, in Brunswick county, Virginia, and was admitted to practice. For a year or two he attended the courts of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, and Greenville; but, finding his business inadequate to his necessities, and the bar in that part of Virginia crowded with able and experienced practitioners, he removed, in the year 1826, to South Carolina, and settled at Darlington Court-house. In the year following he took charge of the academy at that place, and continued to teach for

several years. The school under his management, was large and prosperous, and its patrons expressed much gratification with the conduct and the progress of the pupils. He was thought to possess great aptitude for imparting instruction, as well as eminent skill in school discipline.

He took advantage of this period of his life to extend his scientific and literary knowledge, and to make a thorough and complete review of his entire collegiate course; but he also continued his study of the law, and in December, 1829, was admitted to practice in the courts of South Carolina. In 1830 he commenced his professional career, and soon met with every reasonable encouragement. His business continued to improve, and both in the Circuit and in the Court of Appeals, the dockets attest his success. He was soon enabled to meet, from the profits of his profession, not only his current expenses, but also to discharge his debts in Virginia, which, at the time of his removal, he was unable to pay, and to lay up a competency for himself and family. At the time of entering public life, he was among the leading lawyers on his circuit, and in full practice. In every branch of his profession, as advocate, solicitor, or attorney, he had his full share of business.

He is represented from early youth to have been fond of politics, and to have devoted himself to that kind of reading and study adapted to the duties of a statesman. The necessity which compelled him to attend to his private means, prevented him from entering very early into public life; but he was always a firm and decided politician, with fixed principles and a ready opinion. During the period of the Nullification strifes in South Carolina, he was active and decided, though not a candidate for any office. When General Jackson's "proclamation" reached the village of Darlington, Mr. Sims was at the post-office. He read it publicly to the assembled multitude, and, before he had completed the reading, he, together with thirty or forty others, had enrolled their names as volunteers, to be at the service of Governor Hayne at any moment, to assist in defending the state against "Federal aggression, and the threatened heresies of the President's proclamation." On the same evening he drafted resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a large public meeting, readily assembled under the existing circumstances of the times. These are believed to have been the first resolutions in condemnation of that state paper which were ever adopted in the country. They are as follows:

"Whereas we believe the government of the United States is limited in its powers by the Constitution, and that the substitution of Federal discretion in the place of such constitutional limitations is subversive of all the reserved rights of the states:

"And whereas we believe the Federal Union was intended to link the states together in the bonds of peace and amity, by fraternal feelings and congenial sympathies, and not by force:

"And whereas we believe that in no emergency can the general government employ force to control or subdue the regularly constituted government of the states, but that the employment of the military for such purposes would be in open conflict with the character and genius of our institutions, destructive of constitutional liberty, and inevitably subversive of the union of these states. Above all, because we believe the states are sovereign, and not corporations, or counties, in a vast consolidated empire, and, as such, not rightfully subject to be driven from their course by the simple edict of a tyrant, drunk with power and unmerited popularity, much less by the unholy power of a flattered usurper or imbecile despot. Therefore,

"Resolved, That we have received with mingled feelings of regret, abhorrence, and destation, the proclamation of the President of the United States touching the ordinance of the people of South Carolina, published in convention on the 24th day of November, 1832.

"Resolved, That we consider the views of the chief magistrate of the United States, as expressed in the aforesaid proclamation, as characterized by every mark that can define a tyrant.

"Resolved, That the intention expressed in the same to resort to force for the purpose of coercing the obedience of South Carolina, evinces a recklessness of the restraints imposed by the Constitution, and a disregard of the peace, harmony, and safety of the Union.

"Resolved, That we believe that the first drop of blood shed in this controversy will render reconciliation of the unhappy differences which exist between this government and that of the United States forever impracticable.

"Resolved, That, living in an age and a country where controversies in regard to the powers of government are settled by the arbitrament of an enlightened public opinion and a spirit of mutual concession, not by brute force and lawless violence, we have confidence in the good sense and love of liberty, at all times, upon great occasions, manifested by the people of the United States, that they will repudiate and put down the unconstitutional and tyrannical doctrines promulgated in the proclamation of the President.

"Resolved, That we still approve of the high and magnanimous course of South Carolina, and of her talented and patriotic sons who are guiding her destinies."

It was not, however, until the year 1840 that Mr. Sims entered public life. In that year, by an overwhelming vote, he was returned a member to the General Assembly for Darlington, in which service he remained until elected to Congress in the fall of 1844. While in the Legislature he was an active and useful member, never absent from his committees, and ready at all times to take part in the public discussions of the House. He served on various important committees, and was the author of several useful measures which were adopted by the Legislature. Others, also, he introduced, which he regarded as highly important to the interests of the state, but which were not adopted. One measure, in particular, he urged more than once on the consideration of the House, and which he considered of great importance. In the State of South Carolina, lands are subject to levy, and sale, and execution, exactly as personal chattels. In a bill, the details of which he had taken great pains to mature, Mr. Sims proposed to exempt a part of the landed estate of every citizen with a family from sale under execution, so as to leave a homestead and small farm for the family. By this measure, he proposed not only to find a shelter for the women and children against the contingencies and misfortunes of life, but also to counteract the effect of the pre-exemption system of the general government, and the low price of the public lands, in drawing off the the population of the state. He urged the measure both by an able report and speeches, and though it failed, yet he made many proselytes to it. Governor Hammond, in his annual message to the Legislature of 1844, recommended the adoption of that, or some similar system.

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Perhaps a brief notice of this eccentric gentleman may be acceptable to many of our readers.

"Smithson," says Professor Henry, "was born in England in the year 1768. He was educated at the University of Oxford, was a man of amiable disposition, and devoted to science. He was the best chemist in Oxford, and, after his graduation, became the rival of Wollaston in minute analysis, and possessed most extraordinary skill in manipulation. The following anecdote to the point was related on the authority of the late President of the Royal Society:

"On one occasion he observed a tear trickling down the face of a lady. He caught it on a piece of glass, lost one half, analyzed the other half, and discovered a microscopic salt. He resided most of the time abroad, and was an illegitimate son of the Duke of Northumberland,

who recognized him, and left him a handsome property. He was the author of upward of twenty original memoirs on various subjects of science. He appears to have been proud of his scientific attainments, and on one occasion wrote thus: 'The best blood of England flows in my veins: on my father's side I am a Northumberland; on my mother's, I am related to kings. But this is of no consequence. My name shall live in the memory of mankind when the titles of Northumberland and Percys are forgotten.'

"Smithson died at Genoa in the year 1829, leaving his property to his nephew, the son of his brother, with a clause in his will leaving it in trust of the United States, for founding an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men, in case the nephew died without issue. He did so die, and the money, about \$500,000, came into the possession of our government."

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USC Lb A823 Sims - 2 - 0024

He published, in 1833, a pamphlet on Slavery, being a vindication of the morality of the institution. It is considered a well-written and strong defense of the system. In 1842 he published a popular novel, called "Bevil Faulcon," in one volume, the incidents of which were taken from the period of the Revolution. He has occasionally been in the habit, since he first settled at Darlington, of furnishing political essays to the public journals. Among his most admired literary productions is an oration delivered by him in Marlborough District, South Carolina, on the death of the late John Campbell.

Mr. Sims was married in the fall of 1830 to Margaret Dargan, daughter of Timothy Dargan, many years a member of the State Legislature. She died in 1844, leaving him with one child.

During his service in Congress he has been a member of the Committee on the District of Columbia; and it is known to us that, during the last Congress, most of the law cases which came under the cognizance of that committee were referred to him for examination and report.

He opposed, on constitutional grounds, the retrocession of the town and county of Alexandria to the State of Virginia. He believed that Congress had no power, after once having accepted a cession of the ten miles' square, to legislate on the subject, either of retroceding a part or all, or accepting another ten miles' square. He believed the power expired with its original exercise.

(Portrait accompanies this sketch)

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