

**LIFE AND WORKS OF
ALEXANDER ANDERSON,
M.D., THE FIRST AMERICAN
WOOD ENGRAVER**

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Life and works of Alexander Anderson, M.D., the first American Wood engraver by Frederic M. Burr

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FREDERIC M. BURR

**LIFE AND WORKS OF
ALEXANDER ANDERSON,
M.D., THE FIRST AMERICAN
WOOD ENGRAVER**

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA



Dr. Alexander Anderson at the age of ninety-two.

LIFE AND WORKS
OF
ALEXANDER ANDERSON, M.D.,

THE
FIRST AMERICAN WOOD ENGRAVER.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BY
FREDERIC M. BURR, A.M.,
(Member of New York Historical Society.)

*THREE PORTRAITS OF DR. ANDERSON, AND OVER THIRTY
ENGRAVINGS BY HIMSELF.*

NEW YORK
BURR BROTHERS

1893.

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Only 725 copies of this work
have been printed.

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Frederic M. Burr

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1891



From "The Looking Glass for the Mind." One of Dr. Anderson's earliest wood-cuts.

PREFACE.

A DISTINGUISHED author has said that illustration stands second only to printing as a means of civilization. We should therefore regard the men who place the beauties of art within the reach of the multitude as most important factors in the improvement of the world. In this work the Father of American Wood-Engraving took a prominent part, accomplishing for his native country what Bewick had already done for England.

The opportunities for studying the life and character of this interesting man have been very limited, as the only information generally accessible was

contained in a Memorial written by Benson J. Lossing, the historian, and read before the New York Historical Society in 1870. This was printed for the subscribers and had a small circulation. In addition several fugitive articles have appeared in different periodicals, and the "History of American Wood-Engraving" contains a brief account of its founder.

In preparing the present work, the author has carefully studied the existing material, and has made numerous extracts from the Diary of Dr. Anderson for the years 1795-1798. These extracts are particularly interesting as throwing a side light on the details of an uneventful but worthy and useful career.

The illustrations, nearly forty in number, have been selected as showing his progress in the art from his earliest wood-cuts for "The Looking Glass for the Mind" to his own portrait, engraved in his best style in his eighty-first year.

Thanks are due to the many kind friends who have given their advice and assistance, and the author gladly takes this opportunity of acknowledging his special obligation to the following gentlemen: To Mr. George H. Baker, Librarian of Columbia College, for the unrestricted use of Dr. An-

derson's Diary, now preserved in manuscript in the Phoenix Collection; to Mr. William Kelby, Librarian of the New York Historical Society, for much valuable information, and to Mr. W. W. Pasko of "The Typothetæ."

F. M. B.

NEW YORK, March, 1893.



From "The Looking Glass for the Mind." One of Dr. Anderson's earliest wood-cuts.

