

**THE HARPER CENTENNIAL,
1817-1917: A
FEW OF THE GREETINGS
AND CONGRATULATIONS**

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The Harper Centennial, 1817-1917: A Few of the Greetings and Congratulations by Various

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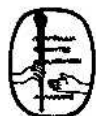
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THE
HARPER CENTENNIAL

1817—1917

A Few of the Greetings
and Congratulations



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FOREWORD

It was in March, 1817, that James Harper and his younger brother John, both practical printers, began business for themselves in a little room on Dover Street, New York City. It was in August, 1817, that they printed "Seneca's Morals," in an edition of two thousand copies, for the elder Duyckinck. The title-page of the first book to bear the Harper imprint is reproduced in this volume, while the entire book has been reprinted with various reproductions in a beautiful limited edition, a feature of the Harper Centennial year. James and John Harper were the first members of the firm. The two younger brothers, Joseph Wesley and Fletcher, worked as compositors upon the book. The former became a member of the firm in 1823, the latter in 1825, but the title of the firm continued to be J. & J. Harper until 1833, when it was changed to Harper & Brothers.

Before this change, the increasing business of the young firm had made larger quarters necessary, and in 1825 these were found on Cliff Street, on a site included in the Harper holdings ever since. The subsequent development of a great business is a part of national history. An intimate record is to be found in Mr. J. Henry Harper's book, "The House of Harper," which amplifies outstanding events like the birth of Harper's Magazine in June, 1850, and the destruction of the entire Harper plant by fire in December, 1853, which was promptly followed by the erection of the present buildings, the first important example of "fireproof construction" in New York.

The century of literary achievement which the House of Harper represents began with Seneca