

**THE HUNTINGTON
LETTERS, IN THE
POSSESSION OF
JULIA CHESTER WELLS**

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The Huntington letters, in the possession of Julia Chester Wells by W. D. McCrackan

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W. D. MCCRACKAN

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THE HUNTINGTON LETTERS

THE HUNTINGTON
LETTERS

Complete

IN THE POSSESSION OF
JULIA CHESTER WELLS

EDITED BY

W. D. McCRACKAN

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

AUTHOR OF

"THE RISE OF THE SWISS REPUBLIC," ETC.

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TO MISS
ABBOTT

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THE HUNTINGTON LETTERS.

A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

THESE letters are contained in a folio marked "Invoices." On the inside of the cover is pasted a slip of paper with the words:

1856.

MRS. FANNY T. WELLS.

Found among the papers of her mother,

MRS. R. TRACY.

Then follows an engraved portrait of Judge Benjamin Huntington, member of Congress from Connecticut, 1789. It is the same portrait which is to be found in "A Genealogical Memoir of the Huntington Family," by Rev. E. B. Huntington, A. M., and is painted by a grandson,

Daniel Huntington, the well-known portrait painter, and engraved by A. H. Ritchie. The words "from an original miniature" appear at the bottom of the portrait.

After this come the letters, spread out flat, but having once been folded and addressed in the old-fashioned way, without envelopes. The collection is by no means complete, many letters having been given away in course of time, or scattered in such a manner that they can no longer be traced.

The correspondents are various members of the family of Benjamin Huntington, of Norwich, Conn., the period covered being from 1761 to 1799. Most of the letters passed between the Hon. Benjamin Huntington himself and his wife Anne, when he was serving in the General Assembly of Connecticut at Hartford, or in the Continental and United States Congresses at Philadelphia, Princeton, and New York. Others were written by a daughter, Rachel

Huntington, when on visits in New York, Stamford, and Rome, N. Y., to her sisters, Lucy and Anne, in Norwich. There are letters also from the sons, George and Benjamin Huntington. The folio, furthermore, contains a more or less miscellaneous collection of letters and documents, only a few of which have been deemed of sufficient value for publication.

While it would be too much to claim that these letters are capable of arousing widespread, popular interest, they are nevertheless of real value to close students of American history, as showing the life of an American family which bore its part in the struggles of more than a century ago. The spirit of the Revolutionary era pervades them in very truth. Especially will they deserve the attention of the descendants and family friends of the persons mentioned in the following correspondence. In fact, it is for the sake of this comparatively small group of readers that Miss