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AUTOGRAPHS OF THE LATE
CHARLES W. FREDERICKSON,
MAY 24-28, 1897**

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Catalogue of the Library, Manuscripts and Autographs of the Late Charles W. Frederickson,
May 24-28, 1897 by Anonymous

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1897

Bangs & Co.
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New York



CATALOGUE OF THE
LIBRARY
OF THE LATE
CHARLES W. FREDERICKSON

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THE SALE WILL BEGIN MONDAY, MAY 24th, AT 3 O'CLOCK, AND WILL BE
CONTINUED TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, AT 10.30 A. M. AND
3 P. M., TWO SESSIONS DAILY, AND WILL BE CONCLUDED
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, COMMENCING AT 3 O'CLOCK

THE AUCTIONEERS WILL MAKE PURCHASES FOR BUYERS WHO CANNOT BE PRESENT. THIS IN
ALL CASES TO BE MADE BY THE VOLUME OR PIECE

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERICKSON was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 1, 1823, the next to the youngest of seven children. His father, John Frederickson, came from Denmark, where the family dates back to the 12th century, when the founder of the family, John Frederickson, was knighted. Mr. Frederickson's book-plate bears the family crest.

Mr. Frederickson's mother was of the New York family McAlpin, her father having moved to Nova Scotia on account of his adhesion to the British crown during the American Revolution.

Only two of the seven children survive: a brother, John Frederickson, eighty-five years old, who had arranged to spend the remainder of his life with Charles W., when the latter's unexpected death prevented the completion of the arrangement. The other surviving member is Mrs. Mary Rosbough, the youngest of the children, now seventy-two years of age.

Mr. Frederickson begun his life as a printer on the *Brooklyn Eagle*, but falling in love with and marrying Mary E. Truesdell, daughter of Thomas Truesdell, of Providence, R. I., a cotton manufacturer, he became associated with the latter in the manufacture of cotton goods. During the Civil War he was the Government agent for the purchase of cotton, and, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts of the politicians to secure his removal, on account of his condemnation of the war, President Lincoln refused to remove him, commending him for the faithful discharge of his duties. Probably this accounts for his valuable collection relating to Lincoln and his profound admiration of him.

After the war he became a cotton broker, and retired from active business about twenty years ago, devoting his time largely to book collecting.

His wife had been an invalid for many years and died December 26, 1896, leaving no children. Her husband, unable to recover from the shock of her death, died January 29, 1897.

Mr. Frederickson was a Mason, a life member of the St. George's Society of New York, and of the National Academy of Design and a corresponding member of the Rhode Island Historical Society. He was a man of marked personality. He was a student of human nature as well as of books, and took keen delight in puncturing some foible or folly of the time. He was never more interesting than when driven to express his views upon some question of the day, or some literary fad. He prided himself on being old-fashioned, and hated the new when not as good as the old. The writer well remembers his righteous wrath when it was decided to turn over the Lenox Library to the trustees of the New York Library. Mr. Frederickson felt highly indignant at—what he considered—the disregard of Mr. Lenox's avowed wishes.

In dress and manner Mr. Frederickson was *sui generis* and commanded attention wherever he went. He never forgot a kindness nor an injury. He read continually and discriminatingly and was fully conversant with our own literature, knowing many of the older writers personally. He once told me that when a boy he had called at Bartlett & Welford's, under the Astor House, and looked longingly over the books for sale from Lamb's library, registering a vow that some day he would own some of them. He lived to be the possessor of six or more. This was in 1848.

The Library here offered for sale is in some respects the most remarkable ever offered in America. It may not bring as much as many others of recent years, but it illustrates the effectiveness and use of pursuing one aim. Mr. Frederickson, about twenty years ago, conceived the idea of having the larger portion of his buying concentrated upon Shelley. He might be tempted to other loves—but the highest place in his affections was reserved for the poet who, as some one has said, "never had his feet on the ground." We say that this Shelley library is the most remarkable ever collected in this country—for so we believe it to be. In Mr. Frederickson's opinion it was unequalled by any single library either here or in England. Not only does it contain all the works of the poet in first editions, in immaculate condition, but in many cases duplicated, and in some instances unique copies. Several of the first editions are the only ones known in this country.

Mr. Frederickson was not content to own the poet's works in first editions, but he had all the known editions, from the first to the present. To form some idea of the extent and completeness of the Shelley and Shelleyana, one is obliged to mention figures. The catalogue descriptions number from 1552 to 1872, or over three hundred numbers, which probably means that this collection numbers upwards of two thousand volumes, pamphlets, etc., etc., relating to the poet. Every known edition is here, as well as many privately printed books—and books which only mention the poet in a chapter or paragraph. One can only point out the rarer and most important items to show the importance of the collection. Of Shelley's own works in first editions here are: "Zastrozzi," "St. Irvyne," "Queen Mab" (privately printed by Shelley himself); a presentation copy of the same book (with title and imprint missing) "to Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. P. B. S.", with MSS. by Mrs. Shelley herself; "Alastor" (Barry Cornwall's copy), "An Address to the people on the Death of the Princess Charlotte by the Hermit of Marlowe" (rigidly suppressed), "Laon and Cythna," "The Revolt of Islam," "Rosalind and Helen," "The Cenci," "Prometheus Unbound," "Œdipus Tyrannus," "Adonais" (printed at Pisa in 1821), (another copy, which A. H. Hallam had given Samuel Rogers), "Posthumous Poems" (printed by Leigh Hunt), "The Masque of Anarchy" (with a preface by Leigh Hunt), Shelley's "Letters," Moxon, 1852, with introductory essay by Browning (these were spurious), "Relics of Shelley" (Barry Cornwall's copy), Trelawny's "Recollections" (presentation copy to Matilda Detmold). A fine lot of privately printed books, by H. B. Forman.

All of Mrs. Shelley's works are here in first editions: Mary Wollstonecraft's

"Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (with autograph) and many others of her works. Many of the privately printed books had only twenty-five copies made, and many were never sold at all, so the opportunity for securing them may not come again.

Although Mr. Frederickson's library is best known for his collection of Shelley, he retained his love for some of his earlier favorites, and the library is rich in many other first editions. Mr. Frederickson seems to have had a love for books once owned by famous men. It remains only to point out a few of his treasures to whet the appetite of the book-lover.

Among the more conspicuous books in first editions contained therein may be mentioned A'Beckett's "Comic England and Rome"; Bewick's "Quadrupeds" and "Select Fables"; Vincent Bourne's "Poemata" (William Cower's copy); Braithwait's "Survey of History" (from the Maidment Collection); Camden's "Remains," London, 1674 (Gray's copy, with autograph); Cartwright's "Comedies," London, 1651; Coleridge's "Christabel" and "Lyrical Ballads," London, 1799; Coryat's "Crudities," London, 1611; Donne's "Poems," London, 1669 (a poor copy but enriched with Coleridge's annotations); Drayton's "Works," London, 1748 (with MS. extracts in the handwriting of Charles Lamb); Fenton's "Certaine Tragical Discourses," London, 1597 (Black Letter); Fortescue's "The Forest, or Collection of Histories," London, 1571 (Black Letter); Breton's "Cornucopia," London, 1612; Sir Thomas Browne's "Pseudodoxia Epidemica," London, 1669; Byron's "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," London, 1809; the third edition of the same book published in 1816—this copy contains MS. notes by Lord Byron, in which he expresses regret at ever having written it; a unique copy of Leigh Hunt's "Lord Byron and his Contemporaries," with MS. notes by Mr. Cooke, John Murray's partner; Byron's "The Vampire," a Tale, privately printed, London, 1819; Fulwood's "The Enimic of Idleness," London, 1568 (Black Letter); William Godwin's "Novels and Works"; Goldsmith's "The Traveller" and "Deserted Village" (beautifully bound by Rivière); Gray's "Elegy Wrote in a Country Churchyard" and his "Odes," the first book printed by Horace Walpole at his Strawberry Hill Press. The collection of Gray is the most complete we have ever seen. The various editions of the "Elegy" down to the eleventh are here, as well as all the important modern editions. Besides the English there are numerous editions in other languages. Amongst the interesting matter relating to the poet is a collection of MS. music made by the poet, with 15th Psalm, etc., in his own autograph. In all 83 leaves. Several books from his library with his MS. notes, etc., complete the lot.

Greene's "Phylomela," London, 1615; Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," Boston, 1850. Heywood's "A True Description of His Majesties Royal Ship," London, 1637 (poor copy); Homer's "Iliads," Chapman's translation; Homer, "The Whole Works of," n. d. (this copy contains numerous notes and an autograph letter of S. T. Coleridge); Leigh Hunt's "Imagination and Fancy," London, 1845 (presentation copy from the author to his brother); the MS. of W. H. Ireland's (the Shakespeare forger) tragedy called "Vortigern";

Keats' "Poems," London, 1817, in the original boards (presentation copy "from the Author to his Friend Thos. Richards); Keats' "Endymion," London, 1818 (presentation copy to "G. Keats from his affectionate brother the author"); Keats' "Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of St. Agnes, and other Poems," London, 1820; Lamb's "Works," London, 1840 (presentation copy to Wm. Hazlitt from his old friend Mary Ann Lamb, Jan. 18, 1842); Lamb's "Essays of Elia," London, 1823 (presentation copy to Allan Cunningham, Esq., "with Elia's best respects"). From Lamb's Library imported by Bartlett & Welford in 1848, his copies of "History of Philip de Commines," London, 1674; "The Life of John Bunce," London, 1756; Godwin's "Antonio," London, 1800; More's "Philosophicall Poems," Cambridge, 1647; Suckling's "Fragmenta Aurea," London, 1646; Reynolds' "Triumphs of Gods revenge against Murder," folio, London, 1657; Jonson's "Works," London, 1692; Lanfranke's "A most Excellent and Learned Worke of Chirurgerie," London, 1565; Longfellow's "Evangeline"; Marlowe's edition of Ovid, 1598; Morland's "Life," London, 1806 (with five originals inserted); Thomas Muffet's "Silkwormes and Their Flies," London, 1599; Pecke's "Parnassi Puerperume," London, 1659; Robson's "The Choice of Change," London, 1585; W. H. Russell's "The War" and "My Diary in India" (from Thackeray's Library, with his monogram).

In Shakespeare the library is not as rich as it once was, but here are some choice bits, namely: "A collection of Plays from the first folio of 1623," an imperfect copy of "The Second Folio," London, 1632, The Halliwell Edition, in 16 folio volumes (Large Paper copy). "Diana, of George of Montemayor," translated by Young, London, 1598 (from which Shakespeare took the plot of "Two Gentlemen of Verona"); Thomas' "History of Italy," London, 1561 (with autograph of John Evelyn on title-page); Warner's "Albions' England" (poor copy); Young's "The Complaint, or Night Thoughts," London, 1807 (Thackeray's copy, with a poem in 18 lines in his handwriting).

Besides the books only partially enumerated above there are several curiosities, numerous portraits and engravings, and some framed pictures.

If this library is unique as a collection of books, it is no less so as a collection of autographs. It was expected that it would excel in Shelley and his family, but it was not generally known that the collection was so representative in other lines, or that it contained so many original letters of the famous poet. First, there are here over sixty letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley himself, extending all the way from a brief business note to a six-page letter, several of these being unpublished, and all of great interest. Some of these are quoted for the first time in Professor Dowden's "Life," and others are used in the same editor's charming selection of "Shelley's Letters," published in London in 1883. When a good specimen letter of his is worth from £6 to £30, one can estimate what a remarkable value these have.

Second, the members of Shelley's family are here represented by characteristic specimens. Here are four MS. poems in the handwriting of Mrs. Shelley, viz.: "Summer and Winter," "A Dirge," "The Tower of Famine," and "To L——d C."; besides these there are twenty-six letters of Mary Wollstone-