
This is the third volume in the history of the Philadelphia theatre produced under the direction of Professor Quinn of the University of Pennsylvania, and has been preceded by those from the pens of Dr. Thomas Pollock and Dr. Reese D. James covering respectively the eighteenth century and the period before 1835, the latter history centering about Old Drury and William B. Wood its manager as well as chief actor. From 1835 to 1855 there is evidenced a multiplication of theatres; this is also the heyday of the so-called stock company as well as of the romantic tragedy in verse. The last named year is significant not only for the disappearance of Old Drury, but the rendition of Boker's Francesca da Rimini "a crowning glory to the romantic age of tragedy" and the termination of Charles Durang's invaluable record of the Philadelphia stage upon which Dr. Wilson and the writers of the series have been able to lean. It also witnessed the appearance of the actor-manager Boucicault who was destined to lead in a movement that brought about the destruction of the old local stock companies in favor of troupes coming from New York with a new type of realistic play.

The twenty-one year period under consideration comprehended the meteoric rise of William E. Burton, comedian, singer, playwright, and theatre manager before his departure for New York and even greater success. P. T. Barnum's extraordinary resourcefulness was already being displayed at his Philadelphia museum-theatre. As Dr. Wilson makes clear there is to be found a continued interest in Shakespeare, with the leading rôles taken as a rule by a visiting and high priced star, but lurid and cheap melodramas, such as The Avenger of Blood, or Richard Hurdis and the Idiot Girl and Henri and Louise, or the Two Murderers were as common a century ago on the stage as today on the silver screen. There was also a demand for great spectacles. And such a performance as Zanthe in 1835 required a full military brass band and six drummers with as many as one hundred and thirty-two supernumeraries, costing respectively some twenty-five dollars and thirty-two dollars and fifty cents respectively per night, which certainly indicates that no extravagant rate of compensation had to be paid to such participants. On the other hand stars were paid salaries that ultimately brought bankruptcy to most of the managers. We are informed that the French melodramatic actress and dancer, Mademoiselle Celeste, received during that same season of 1835 for her services in various theatres about $70,000 which led the United States Gazette to contrast editorially the payment of a college professor with that of a danseuse. It may also be noted in passing that the public in 1850 did not hesitate to pay from five to seven dollars a seat to hear the great Swedish singer, Jenny Lind, whose appearance in America Barnum had long promised.

The dramatic performance during the period that left the most lasting
impression was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This was produced in the fall of 1853 at the Chestnut Street Theatre in six acts, ten tableaux and thirty scenes and made a record run of twenty-five successive nights playing to crowded houses. In the same year it is of interest to note that an attempt to answer it appeared in the form of a melodrama entitled *The White Slave of England, or the Age We Live In* and the following year came a still more serious and direct attempt by southern sympathizers in *Cabin and Parlor, or a Picture on the Other Side of Jordan to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, dramatized from the once popular but now forgotten novel of that name.

The volume comprehends an exhaustive chronological record of performances, together with elaborate play, player, and playwright lists and it, therefore, will be especially valued by all who are interested in the history of the American theatre.

**Lawrence H. Gipson.**


Robert Tyler, son of President John Tyler, was born in 1816, was educated in William and Mary College, and began the practice of law in Philadelphia in the eighteen thirties. He married a Pennsylvanian and was “devoted to his adopted State” until he was driven into exile soon after the outbreak of the Civil War. Poet, leader of the Irish Democracy of Eastern Pennsylvania, and Buchanan lieutenant in the forties and fifties, he held minor public offices and was a party leader in Philadelphia in the two decades before the war. He was, withal, “a true son of old Virginia and bent all his political energies toward cementing the Pennsylvania-Virginia Democracy.” A consistent champion of Southern Rights, he was driven from Philadelphia by threats and mobs in May, 1861. After serving the Confederacy in various capacities in Richmond throughout the war, he retired to Alabama where he lived to become the editor of *The Montgomery Mail and Advertiser* and for several years the chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Alabama.

The author, editor, or compiler has taken letters and extracts from the published Tyler and Buchanan collections, and from the manuscripts of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Library of Congress, and the private collections of Lyon G. Tyler and woven them with running comment into a narrative of the activities and interests with which Robert Tyler was associated. About three fourths of the space is given to the series of events beginning with the presidential campaign of 1856 and ending with secession and the failure of compromise in 1861. A list of the principal characters, author and subject, might include James Buchanan, Henry A. Wise, John Tyler, John Tyler, Jr., R. M. T. Hunter, John W. Forney, Stephen A. Douglas, and Robert J. Walker. Next to the political success and advancement of Buchanan, Robert Tyler was solicitous of that of his friend Governor Wise of Virginia. Hunter appears as the chief rival of Wise in Virginia; Forney, as Tyler's special aversion and the chief danger to Buchanan and the true Democracy in Pennsylvania; Douglas and Walker as traitors
to Buchanan and the proper Democratic Party. Robert Tyler's chief concerns were the rights of the South, the success of the Buchanan Democracy in Pennsylvania and the nation, and the perpetuation of a Buchanan-Wise alliance in some sense symbolic of the unity and harmony of the Pennsylvania-Virginia Democracy. In Pennsylvania politics, Tyler's view seemed rather definitely limited to Philadelphia. The Kansas question naturally loomed large, and there are in the letters many interesting comments on men and events of Pennsylvania and the nation during those years.

The printing leaves something to be desired. It is the impression of the reviewer that the desire for a consecutive narrative led to an undue avoidance of the trappings of scholarship, particularly in view of the probability that the work will appeal primarily to those with a special historical interest. The notes would be more serviceable as footnotes. The bracket, a useful device in a work of this kind, has been entirely avoided; it is sometimes uncertain whether parenthetical expressions are in the original or are editorial insertions. The transitions from the author's narrative to the quoted material are not always clear. It is evident that the manuscripts were read with difficulty, and it is frequently uncertain whether errors in spelling and other defects, not a few, were original, editorial, or typographical errors. There are several awkward and obscure sentences. The material has hardly been given the treatment it deserves.

WILLIAM J. MARTIN.


The second volume of the *Annals of the Sugarloaf Association* is a worthy contribution to local history and is an example of what local historical societies everywhere may accomplish. The number includes the address of Charles Rhoads Roberts, on "Pennsylvania Germans and the Revolution," delivered at the 154th commemoration of the Sugarloaf massacre. An article on "Revolutionary Soldiers" gives brief biographies written by various authors. Among other articles are "William Hart Wilson's Tavern," by Karl Goedecke; "Reminiscences of an Early Railroader," by Alfred Righter Longshore; and "The Company Store in the Early Mining Communities," by Beider Wellington Wilde.

ARTHUR C. BINING.


This brief volume records the proceedings at the presentation of Professor Cheyney's portrait to the University of Pennsylvania in honor of his lifelong service as a distinguished scholar and teacher. The book contains, in addition to introductory remarks concerning the presentation and acceptance of the portrait by officials of the university, the addresses made by Dr. J. Franklin Jameson and Dr. Conyers Read, together with Professor Cheyney's academic "Last Will and Testament" and a bibliography of his works. The portrait by the late Adolph Borie, Jr., a distinguished son of Pennsylvania, is reproduced as a frontispiece.