ENGRAVINGS BY DAVID EDWIN.

(Hitherto undescribed.)

BY MANTLE FIELDING.

Several exceedingly rare engravings by the early American engraver David Edwin have recently come under my notice. The collector of American engravings is naturally surprised that such an important print as the portrait of Thomas Pinckney after Trumbull should not have been found before. Some years ago a Philadelphia artist in the course of his rambles in the South reported having seen such an engraving framed and hanging in the parlor of an old colonial mansion in Charleston, South Carolina. As years went by and no trace of the print was ever found it was thought to have been a mistake, until a copy appeared recently in an old scrap book in Philadelphia.

THOMAS PINCKNEY

Half length, in uniform, to left. (Under)
D. Edwin Sc./ Thomas Pinckney Esq./
Former Ambassador of United States, to the Court of G. Britain./
H. 11.4/16 W. 9.2/16 Rectangle.

Another much belated discovery is the original engraved copper plate of a very rare Edwin portrait of Washington (Baker 391, Hart 273). For years only an unlettered impression on satin was known. About a year ago one came into my hands printed on paper with the engravers name only, the title being cut off; this specimen I believe was unique, and it was afterwards purchased by the late Henry Whelen, of Philadelphia. In a sale of old copper plates
recently the original plate of Edwin's portrait of Washington (Baker 208, Hart 359) turned up with the remains of a defaced engraving on the back of it. This had the inscription complete and with a glass the general detail of the portrait could be distinguished, so the record of the print is now fully noted. The date of publication is February 12, 1798, and as the general drawing is bad and much below Edwin's usual work, and his other plate (Baker 208, Hart 359) being published on May 1, 1798, the extreme rarity of the first engraving is readily explained.

WASHINGTON, GEORGE
(William Birch Type)

Full bust, to left. Oval with border line 2/16".
T. B. Freeman Excudit—D. Edwin Sculpt/ George Washington Esquire/ Philadelphia Published by T. B. Freeman Feb' 12th 1798/ (Baker 391. Hart 273)
Height 7.6/16 Width 4.9/16

The portrait of the Rev. William Staughten is only known by one example, but as he was a Philadelphia divine, and was painted by Peale when a pastor of the Baptist Church in Sansom Street, it is likely that other copies may be hidden away in our old Philadelphia garrets. It is an unusual portrait with the right hand raised in preaching, and would be readily recognized.

STAUGHTON, REV'D WILLIAM

Born in England. January the 4th 1770 and died at

Height 14 13/16 Width 12''

**MILTON**

Milton Dictating Paradise Lost.
In decorated oval, laurel leaves at side.
(Under) Barralet Del* Edwin Sc*

Height 4.3/16 Width 4.4/16

**PIUS VII. IN HIS CAPTIVITY**

Half length in profile to right, hands clasped in prayer before crucifix. In broad oval frame to represent brick work.
(Under)—1811/ Pius VII. In His Captivity./
6 lines. Edwin sc. Philad.

Height 4. Width 3.8/16

The portraits of Pius VII and "Milton Dictating Paradise Lost" are extremely rare and only known to collectors by the copies in the Edwin collection of the late Charles Roberts.

Another late find is the portrait of Andrew Jackson. It is astonishing that this engraved portrait of so prominent and popular a hero should be known by only one example.

**JACKSON, ANDREW**

Full bust, in uniform to right, (Under)
Peale prinxt—D. Edwin sc./ "Honour & Gratitude, to the man, who has filled the measure of his Country's Glory!"/
Jackson./
— the States whole Thunder born to weild./ And shakes alike the Senate and the Field./ Phila./ Published for a Grateful People/

Rectangle Height 5'' Width 4''

It is of interest to many old Philadelphians to know that the society for the "Relief of poor and distressed Masters
of Ships, their Widows and Children,” incorporated in 1770, still uses the membership blank engraved for them a hundred years ago by David Edwin. In 1788 Stephen Girard became a member and the society also had as members Stephen Decatur, Richard Dale, and John Barry, and many other names well known to our naval and marine history are found among its membership lists. Some years ago the original copper plate certificate of membership was altered very materially as a form for honorary membership. The society, having a number of the original impressions struck off for use, afterwards destroyed the copper plate. These certificates are all extremely scarce, and the first state is No. 255 in my catalogue of Edwin’s work.