

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

## Notes.

ANECDOTE ACCOMPANYING SOME VERY OLD PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY.

A Captain of one of the British Frigates, a man of undaunted bravery, had a natural antipathy to a cat. A sailor, who for some misconduct had been ordered a flogging, saved his bacon by presenting to his Captain the following petition:

By your honours command,  
A Culprit I stand,  
An exampel to all the ships Crew;  
I am pinion'd and strip'd,  
And condem'd to be whip'd,  
And if I am flogged 'tis my due;  
A Cat I am told,  
In abhorrence you hold  
Your honour's aversion is mine,  
If a Cat with ONE tail  
Makes *your* stout heart fail;  
O! save me from one that has NINE!

## Book Notices.

WILLING LETTERS AND PAPERS, EDITED WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY OF THOMAS WILLING OF PHILADELPHIA, 1731-1821. By Thomas Willing Balch, L. H. D., 1922. Limited Edition.

On the present reviewer's deciding in 1920 to prepare a work on Thomas Willing, "The Father of American Banking," the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, through Mr. Thomas Willing Balch, a Vice-President, asked the reviewer to give an address on the great financier in 1921, the hundredth year since his death. The reviewer accepted, and suggested that Mr. Balch, a great grandson of President Willing, also speak and give the events of his ancestor's life, while the reviewer confine his address to Willing as a great Financier. This Mr. Balch did, and in preparing his address collected letters and papers and a number of illustrations. It is these, with some enlargement, that Mr. Balch has just published in a small volume of the extremely limited edition of seventy-two copies, under the above title.

While, at Mr. Balch's request, some of the main points of the second address on Willing the Financier are included, his sketch or essay is almost wholly on the detailed incidents of President Willing's life, with some account of his ancestry and descendants. It is not illustrated, as the address itself was, with excellent lantern-slide views. The essay, however, is but one-third of the volume, two-thirds of which is devoted to publishing letters to and from President Willing and some letters of his ancestors, together with public papers with which he was connected, his autobiography and will with certain miscellany. These the present reviewer has already found useful in his own larger work on *Thomas Willing and the First Half Century of American Finance*, and it is to be hoped that more will as dutifully perform such filial family service to the great men of our state. These letters throw great light on the financial phenomena of the Revolution and the lofty character of this patriot in those "times that try men's souls." They also show the great brotherly friendship and complementary qualities that bound the members of the firm of Willing and Morris together; and especially the peculiarly warm and affectionate nature of "The Old Regulator" of American finance for the first thirty years of our national life.

BURTON ALVA KONKLE.