

THIRD EDITION

THE OXFORD  
COMPANION  
TO AMERICAN  
LITERATURE

BY

JAMES D. HART



NEW YORK

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1956

© 1941, 1948, 1956, BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, INC.

THIRD EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED, 1956

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGUE CARD NUMBER. 56-6557

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PREFACE

DESIGNED to serve as a useful companion for students and general readers of American literature, this volume provides ready references, not only to materials concerning the written word in America, but also to many allied subjects. It attempts to deal briefly with the American mind and the American scene, as these are reflected in and influenced by American literature.

In alphabetic arrangement, the work includes, first of all, short biographies and bibliographies of American authors, with information regarding their style and subject matter; nearly nine hundred summaries and descriptions of the important American novels, stories, essays, poems, and plays; definitions and historical outlines of literary schools and movements; and information on literary societies, magazines, anthologies, co-operative publications, literary awards, book collectors, printers, and other matters related to writing in America. Literary terms that are sufficiently defined in the dictionaries are not discussed, except when they have a distinctive history in the United States. Thus there are no entries on the conventional terms of prosody, but free verse, polyphonic prose, and stream-of-consciousness fiction are briefly treated, and there are lengthy articles on such subjects as the tall tale, the ballad, local color, and romanticism.

As is indicated by the Chronological Index, the scope of the volume includes far more, however, than literature considered as *belles-lettres*. Much of the writing that is discussed in these pages is undistinguished by beauty of style, but it is all important for a comprehensive review of expression in America. The printed word does not exist in a vacuum, and the writer of this book has constantly kept in mind the idea that the understanding of works of literature depends upon an informed knowledge of the entire social atmosphere of their place and time. This view has led to the inclusion of the social, economic, aesthetic, scientific, military, political, and religious forces and events that have affected the course of history and hence the thought in the lands now forming the United States, from the time of their discovery to 1941.

There are, accordingly, biographies of persons who are not authors but who have been important in the nation's social history and culture, articles on religious sects, wars, laws and documents, educational institutions, important cities and regions, political parties, popular slogans, and outstanding newspapers and periodicals. Entries will be found

on subjects ranging from the American Expeditionary Force to the Zuñi Indians; while Jesse James, the New York *Sun*, Jamestown, and the Reconstruction receive as much attention as Father Tabb, *The North American Review*, Brook Farm, and Realism. Reference to these articles will provide the reader with at least an elementary grasp of the social background of the work with which he is concerned. All such materials have been deliberately viewed through a literary lens. This practice may distort the information from the point of view of, say, theology or of political science, but it is meant to clarify the meaning for literary students and readers. In nearly every case there are references to novels, plays, poems, and other works that are related to the subject under consideration.

The explorers and colonial historians of neighboring countries are also treated, as is the major Canadian literature down to the present time. Foreign authors are discussed only when they have written important books about the United States, or when they bear some other relation to American literature. The biographical entry on Dickens, for example, tells only of his visits to the United States, and of his works only *Martin Chuzzlewit* and the *American Notes* are summarized. The same method has been applied in the articles on foreign statesmen, scholars, travelers, and others who have figured directly or indirectly in the shaping of American culture.

The length of an article should not be considered as marking the relative importance of its subject. Many considerations have upset precise standards of length, although an attempt has been made to allot space according to a careful judgment of what is significant in American social and literary history. Even among the authors, such considerations must be recognized as the duration of the various careers, the scholarly controversies about them, the differences between those who were recluses and those who entered actively into the life of their times, and the distinctions between those who wrote many books on different subjects and in varying forms, and those whose books were all cut on the same pattern. This is true also of the descriptions and plot summaries, which, irrespective of the literary qualities of the books, may be lengthened or shortened according to the diffusion or simplicity of the subject matter. The same forces operate in the general articles. Thus, although Boston's population is less than one quarter of Chicago's, its literary history is far longer and more complex and requires a more detailed entry.

Every precaution, within the limits of time and energy at the disposal of one man, has been taken to make the book accurate. Equally

## Preface

well, care has been taken to make it comprehensive. Nevertheless, certain arbitrary limits had to be drawn. Along with accuracy, compactness has been an essential aim. It has therefore been necessary to reduce the bibliographies, even of the most important authors, to checklists of their major works, and to neglect any reference to certain peripheral matters, which would have so enlarged the book as to take it outside the scope of a one-volume 'companion.'

If this volume succeeds in its primary aims of comprehensiveness and accuracy, it will be largely because of my indebtedness to previous publications on American literature and history, and to my friends and correspondents.

It was my intention upon beginning the work, in 1936, to call upon various experts for contributions on special subjects, but this plan proved to be impracticable, and only one such entry exists. That is the biography of Emily Dickinson by Professor George F. Whicher, which, in addition to its intrinsic value, has been of great worth as a model for other articles of the same nature. There are no other entries wholly by other persons, but friends have in some cases prepared material that has been altered only slightly to conform to the general plan. My sister, Mrs. Joseph M. Bransten, provided the material on all painters, sculptors, and architects; Professor George R. Stewart is responsible for the information on Bret Harte, the Donner Party, and George Horatio Derby, the subjects of three of his books; Randall V. Mills has provided some of the synopses of novels by Simms and other 19th-century authors; and others who have furnished material or otherwise aided me include: Robert F. Almy, Henry G. Alsberg, Mrs. Caroline Camp, Robert Clarke, John Finch, Charles F. Haas, Robert B. Haas, Alfred Kazin, Mrs. John R. Marsh, Walter L. Pforzheimer, many student workers, Dr. Howard F. Lowry and Miss Margaret Nicholson of the Oxford University Press, and the staff of the University of California Library. Above all I am indebted to my brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Bransten, and to my wife, Ruth A. Hart, who during the five years of work on this volume furnished constant encouragement, listened with interest to the problems that it provoked, and ever gave stimulating and valuable suggestions. Any attempt to thank them must inevitably fall short. Mr. Frederic R. Gunsky, my typist and secretary during most of this time, has come to know the work as intimately as I, typing and retyping the various articles. He has gone far beyond the limits of the work required of him, and I can have no praise too high for his aid in every possible matter, from research and the compilation of materials to excellent suggestions concerning the general

## Preface

plan. To all these persons I owe my thanks for aid in bringing to its fulfillment the purpose of the book, of helping readers and students to comprehend the materials and the background of American literature.

*Berkeley, California*

*May 1941*

J.D.H.

## NOTE ON THIRD EDITION

EIGHT YEARS have passed since this book was last revised. During this time enough new authors have come to prominence and enough previously established authors have issued significant books to warrant their inclusion in a revised edition. To bring this work up-to-date, eighty new entries have been added and substantial changes have been made in four hundred and eighty old entries. I particularly want to thank my colleagues, Professors John Edwards, Mark Schorer, Henry Nash Smith, and George R. Stewart for their valuable suggestions. Other users of the book have also given helpful advice, especially Curtis Carroll Davis.

*Berkeley, California*

*March 1956*

J.D.H.

THE OXFORD  
COMPANION  
TO AMERICAN  
LITERATURE



## NOTE

CHARACTERS and REAL PERSONS are entered under their surnames, the former in ordinary bold type, the latter in capitals (e.g. Natty Bumppo under '**Bumppo**, **NATTY**' and Henry James under '**JAMES**, **HENRY**'), unless the surname is little known, or the two names are generally considered an indissoluble whole (e.g. '**John Henry**' and '**Little Eva**'). For the sake of convenience, a few famous characters are also entered under their Christian names.

AUTHORS and other persons are entered under their proper names rather than their pseudonyms (e.g. '**CLEMENS**, **SAMUEL**' rather than Mark Twain, and '**CODY**, **WILLIAM**' rather than Buffalo Bill). In all cases the pseudonym is entered with a cross reference to the proper name. Upon rare occasions, when the real name is forgotten or little known, the entry is under the pseudonym (e.g. '**CALAMITY JANE**' rather than Martha Jane Burke).

FULL NAMES are given; those parts not ordinarily used are enclosed in brackets (e.g. '**CATHER**, **WILLA** [SIBERT]' and '**MENCKEN**, **H[ENRY] L[OUIS]**'). Variant spellings and originals of altered names are enclosed in parentheses (e.g. '**FAULKNER** (or FALKNER)' and '**O'SHEEL** (SHIELDS)').

When more than one member of a family is mentioned, the entry is under the name which is most celebrated (e.g. '**WILLIS**, **NATHANIEL PARKER**' followed in a separate paragraph by 'SARA PAYSON WILLIS'). When several members of a family are equally famous, separate entries are made (e.g. the James family).

A TITLE consisting of a Christian name and a surname is entered under the Christian name (e.g. *Tom Sawyer*). The TITLE OF A BOOK OR PAMPHLET is italicized; at the head of an article it is given in bold italics (e.g. *Mosses from an Old Manse*). The title of a work not separately issued, i.e. printed in a periodical or as part of a book, is enclosed in quotation marks (e.g. 'Young Goodman Brown'); at the head of an article it is given in bold italic type.

All publication DATES, except as otherwise indicated, are American. Plays are dated in reference to first production rather than publication, although both dates are given for plays which are separately summarized. All dates are based on the New Style Calendar.

## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>b.</i>	= 'born.	<i>i.e.</i>	= <i>id est</i> , that is.
<i>c.</i>	= <i>circa</i> , about.	MS. (MSS.)	= manuscript (manuscripts)
<i>d.</i>	= died.	<i>q.v.</i>	= <i>quod vide</i> , which see.
<i>e.g.</i>	= <i>exempli gratia</i> , for example.	<i>qq.v.</i>	= <i>quæ vide</i> , both which, or all which, see.
<i>ff.</i>	= following.		
<i>fl.</i>	= <i>floruit</i> , flourished.		



**A.E.F.**, see *American Expeditionary Force*.

**F. of L.**, see *American Federation of Labor*.

**ABBEY, EDWIN AUSTIN** (1852-1911), began his artistic career as a book illustrator, but later became known for his murals, which show an obvious debt to Millet and Rossetti. The large *Quest of the Holy Grail*, in the Boston Public Library, is typically literary in its approach, each fresco telling its own story without a flowing continuity in the series.

**Abbotsford and Newstead Abbey**, volume in Irving's *Crayon Miscellany* (1835).

**ABBOTT, JACOB** (1803-79), Massachusetts educator and Congregational clergyman, whose first book, *The Young Christian* (1832), was followed by some 200 similar works. The best known are the 28 volumes of the Rollo series (1834ff.), which are instructive stories for children in the genre of *Sanford and Merton*. Many of Abbott's books were written in collaboration with his brother, John S.C. Abbott (1805-77). His granddaughter, Eleanor Hallowell Abbott (1872- ), was also an author of children's books, including *Molly Make-Believe* (1910).

**LYMAN ABBOTT** (1835-1922), his son, was the successor of Henry Ward Beecher both in the pulpit of his Plymouth Congregational Church (Brooklyn) and as editor of *The Outlook* (originally *The Christian Union*). He was a leader of the modern rational outlook upon religion, opposing ultra-refined theological controversy and championing scientific views such as the reconciliation of the Darwinian theory with Christianity. His books include *Christianity and Social Problems* (1897), *The Theology of an Evolutionist* (1897), *Henry Ward Beecher* (1903), *Reminiscences* (1915), and *What Christianity Means to Me* (1921).

**ABBOTT, WILBUR CORTEZ** (1869-1947), professor of history at Yale (1908-20) and Harvard (1920-37), is best known for his *Expansion of Europe, A History of the Foundations of the Modern World* (1917, revised 1924). His other writings include: *Conflicts with Oblivion* (1924); *The New Barbarians* (1925); *New York in the American Revolution* (1929); and *Adventures in Reputation* (1935).

**Abe Lincoln in Illinois**, play by Robert Sherwood (q.v.), produced in 1938 and awarded the 1939 Pulitzer Prize. It was published in 1939 with an extensive commentary by the author on its 'Substance' and composition.

The 12 scenes of the play carry the hero from his young manhood as an unsuccessful storekeeper at New Salem, through the years of his marriage and legal career, to his election to the presidency and departure for Washington. Considering Lincoln's achievement to be 'the solidification of the American ideal,' the playwright has chosen critical episodes to show 'the solidification of Lincoln himself—a long, uncertain process, effected by influences some of which came from within his own reasoning mind, some from his surrounding circumstances, some from sources which we cannot comprehend.' Most of Lincoln's words in the play have been selected from his actual recorded utterances, and the whole work is based on careful documentation. Among the chief influences on the development of the hero's character, as presented by Sherwood, are the Abolitionism of his clerk and partner, Billy Herndon; the patient sincerity of his early teacher, Mentor Graham; the faith and encouragement of his friend, Bowling Green, and his brother-in-law, Ninian Edwards; the fierce pride and ambition of his wife; his own 'awareness of the West,' tragic sense of life, sincere liberalism, and relentlessly thorough personal and social philosophy.

**Abe Martin**, character in a series of books by F.McK.Hubbard (q.v.).

**Abie's Irish Rose**, comedy by Anne Nichols, produced in 1924. Its sentimental plot is concerned with the love of a Jewish youth and an Irish girl in New York's East Side. The play is credited with being one of the most popular ever produced in the U.S., having had a New York run of 2,532 performances.

**Able McLaughlins**, *The*, novel by Margaret Wilson (q.v.).

**Abolitionist**, name applied to one who aimed at or advocated the abolition of slavery (q.v.). The term may be found at least as early as 1790, during the period when Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce, and the younger Pitt attacked the

slave trade. In 1806-7, Prime Minister Fox secured the abolition of slave traffic between England and her possessions, and in 1808 the traffic was abolished in the U.S. Despite universal outlawry, the slave trade continued illegally. During the 1830's, the territorial expansion of the U.S. made slavery and its abolition a vital issue, but though the North had freed its slaves it was still economically dependent on the cotton industry of the South, to which slavery was indispensable. Out of this conflict emerged three schools of Abolitionist thought: (1) radical Abolitionism under W.L. Garrison (q.v.); (2) Free-soilism (q.v.) under Lincoln; and (3) the philosophical attacks of Channing and Wayland. Two events in 1831 accelerated the Abolitionist movement and the hostility to it: the South was alarmed by the defeat, by only one vote, of a bill in the Virginia Senate providing for the colonization of free Negroes and encouraging private emancipation; and the first issue of *The Liberator* (q.v.). The New England Anti-Slavery Society was organized by Garrison and others in 1831, and in 1833 the American Anti-Slavery Society was established at Philadelphia by this and other local societies. The American Anti-Slavery Society, including such members as Wendell Phillips, Whittier, Edmund Quincy, Arthur Tappan, James G. Birney, and Amos Phelps, was not dissolved until 1870, although a schism occurred in 1840 and most of the membership resigned to join other groups. In 1859 John Brown (q.v.) and his followers captured the armory at Harpers Ferry, intending to establish a base from which to free slaves by armed intervention. From then until the firing upon Fort Sumter, the Abolitionist cause and the opposition to it became increasingly powerful, being among the principal causes of the Civil War and influencing the Emancipation Proclamation and the Fourteenth Amendment (qq.v.). The earliest antislavery prose is to be found in such works as Sewall's *The Selling of Joseph*, Franklin's 'On the Slave Trade,' and the ninth of Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. Hildreth's *The Slave* (1836) is credited with being the first antislavery novel, but of the realms of literature—sermons, tracts, treatises, periodicals, poems, plays, and novels—for this cause, the most popular and influential were Mrs. Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) and H.R. Helper's *The Impending*

*Crisis of the South* (1857). Other prominent antislavery authors were Lowell, Whittier, Benjamin Lundy, John Rankin, Samuel Crothers, T.D. Weld, Horace Mann, and Frederick Douglass.

**Abominations**, **TARIFF OF**, was devised (1828) in an atmosphere of political intrigue and represents the high-water mark of pre-Civil War protective legislation, bringing the average duty up to 44 per cent. Such New England representatives as Webster wished both to reduce the competition from imports and to make industrial employment a counterattraction to the agricultural lands of the West, which were draining the New England population. The rival presidential candidacies of Adams, Clay, and Jackson led the Jacksonian free-traders to load the bill with such unpalatable duties on manufacturers' raw materials that Adams's New England backers could not swallow it. Although satisfactory to almost no one, the tariff was passed. It was denounced in the legislatures of the cotton states, and in the fall of 1832 the South Carolina legislature, at the instigation of Calhoun, called a special convention which defied the duties as unconstitutional, and passed an Ordinance of Nullification. Although President Jackson was authorized to use armed force, a compromise led by Clay was effected, and upon passage of the new tariff the former Ordinance of Nullification was rescinded.

**Abraham**, **PLAINS OF**, adjoining Québec, are noted as the site of the battle between Wolfe and Montcalm (1759), which ended the French and Indian War. The most famous historical treatment is Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe* (1884).

**Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight**, poem in iambic pentameter quatrains, by Vachel Lindsay (q.v.), published in *The Congo and Other Poems* (1914). The poet describes his vision of the 'mourning figure' of Lincoln, which paces the streets of Springfield on the eve of the World War, 'sleepless' because of 'the bitterness, the folly, and the pain' that are abroad in the world:

Too many peasants fight, they know not why,  
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

**Absalom, Absalom!**, novel by Faulkner (q.v.).

**Acadia**, early Canadian province corresponding with the present Nova Scotia,

though of greater area, was claimed by the English but mainly settled by the French. When the Acadians refused to take an oath of allegiance to the British, during the last French and Indian War, several thousands of them were deported (1755) to British provinces farther south. Many families were accidentally separated, although most of the French sought refuge in Quebec and Louisiana. Longfellow's *Evangeline* is the most famous account of these events. In Louisiana the Acadian exiles and their descendants are called 'Cajuns,' and have been described by Kate Chopin and other local-color writers.

**Accent** (1940- ), eclectic 'quarterly of new literature' published at the University of Illinois, but not an official university organ. Contributors include Katherine Anne Porter, Kay Boyle, Kenneth Burke, Thomas Mann, Wallace Stevens, R. P. Blackmur, Irwin Shaw, and J. C. Ransom.

**ACO, MICHEL** (fl. 1680-1702), French explorer, was a lieutenant of La Salle, who sent him to explore the upper Mississippi. The expedition is described in the writings of his companion, Hennepin (q.v.).

**Across the Plains**, autobiographical narrative by R. L. Stevenson (q.v.), was published in an abridged version in *Longman's Magazine* (1883) and in book form in 1892. A sequel to *The Amateur Emigrant* (q.v.), it is an account of his journey by railroad (1879) from New York to San Francisco.

**Actors' Equity Association**, founded in 1915 to protect the business interests of American actors. Affiliated since 1919 with the A.F. of L., it has obtained the right of collective bargaining.

**Actress of Padua**, *The*, romantic tragedy by R. P. Smith (q.v.), produced in 1836, which survives only in his narrative version published the same year.

This adaptation of Victor Hugo's *Angelo, Tyran de Padoue* is set in 16th-century Venice. Angelo the tyrant is jealous both of his wife, Catherina, whom he does not love, and of the actress Thisbe, whom he does love. They are both in love with Rodolpho. When Angelo condemns Catherina to death, Thisbe gives her a sleeping potion, but Rodolpho, believing it a poison, kills Thisbe, who would really have made their escape secure.

**ADAIR, JAMES** (c. 1709-c. 1783), Irish-born trader with the Indians in the South, came to America about 1735. His book,

*The History of the American Indian* (1775), is valuable as an account of the customs and languages of the Chickasaws and other tribes, despite its thesis that Indians are descended from the ancient Jews.

**ADAMIC, LOUIS** (1899-1951), born in Yugoslavia, has written of his life in the U.S. in *Laughing in the Jungle* (1932), and of his native land in *The Native's Return* (1934). Besides several translations, his other books include: *Dynamite: The Story of Class Violence in America* (1931, revised 1934); two novels, *Grandsons: A Story of American Lives* (1935) and *Cradle of Life: The Story of One Man's Beginnings* (1936); *The House in Antigua* (1937), the history of a colonial house in Guatemala; *My America, 1928-1938* (1938); *From Many Lands* (1940); *Two-Way Passage* (1941), proposing that European-Americans be returned to their homelands to educate Europeans in democracy, a scheme that led to Adamic's conference with Roosevelt and Churchill, described in *Dinner at the White House* (1946); *What's Your Name?* (1942); *My Native Land* (1943); and *A Nation of Nations* (1945), stressing the role of non-Anglo-Saxons in U.S. history. Adamic was the first editor of *Common Ground* (1940-42).

**ADAMS, ABIGAIL** (1744-1818), wife of John Adams, whose charming letters were published by her grandson, Charles Francis Adams: *Letters of Abigail Adams* (1840) and *Familiar Letters of John Adams and His Wife during the Revolution* (1876).

**ADAMS, ANDY** (1859-1935), born in Indiana, moved to Texas to become a cowboy, and during the mining boom went to Colorado, where he later wrote his stories of the cattle kingdom. He is one of the few authors of cowboy stories who are considered to have achieved high literary merit. Among his books are: *The Log of a Cowboy* (q.v., 1903), a novel of the cattle drive north from Texas; *The Outlet* (1905), treating a similar subject, and the sharp methods of the railway companies, contractors, and congressional lobbyists concerned with the drive; *Cattle Brands* (1906), short stories of frontier life in the 1880's; and *Reed Anthony, Cowman: an Autobiography* (1907), a novel about a Confederate army veteran who becomes a cattle rancher in Texas.

**ADAMS, BROOKS** (1848-1927), historian, whose works include: *The Emancipation of Massachusetts* (1887), an iconoclastic

study of the religious and political bondage of the colonists; *Law of Civilization and Decay* (1895); and *Theory of Social Revolution* (1913). He wrote a lengthy history of the intellectual tradition of his family as a preface to the 'Letter to American Teachers of History' by his brother, Henry Adams (q.v.), and published both under the title, *The Degradation of the Democratic Dogma* (1919). He was a grandson of John Quincy Adams and a son of Charles Francis Adams:

**ADAMS, CHARLES FOLLEN** (1842-1918), author of comic verse, is best known for his sentimental 'Leedle Yawcob Strauss' (1876), in Pennsylvania Dutch. His verses were collected in *Yawcob Strauss and Other Poems* (1910).

**ADAMS, CHARLES FRANCIS** (1807-86), son of John Quincy Adams, entered politics as a 'conscience' Whig, founded the *Boston Whig*, and in 1848 ran for the vice-presidency as a Free Soil candidate. He later entered Congress as a Republican, and in 1861 was appointed minister to England, where he served during the Civil War. His diplomacy prevented England from continuing to furnish ironclad vessels to the Confederacy, and he was an arbitrator of the Alabama Claims. He edited the *Works of John Adams* (1850-56), the letters of Abigail Adams (q.v.), and the *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams* (1874-7). Henry Adams and Brooks Adams were his sons.

**CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS** (1835-1915), another son, was active in civic affairs, and president of the Union Pacific Railroad (1884-90). His writings indicate the wide scope of his interests: *Chapters of Erie and Other Essays* (1871), written with his brother Henry; *Railroads: Their Origin and Problems* (1878); a biography of Richard Henry Dana (1890); *Three Episodes of Massachusetts History* (1892); and *Studies: Military and Diplomatic* (1911). He also wrote a biography of his father (1900), edited Morton's *New English Canaan* (1883), and wrote an interesting autobiography (1916).

**ADAMS, FRANKLIN P[IERCE]** (1881- ), columnist, radio performer, and humorist, began his journalistic career in Chicago (1903). He has worked on various New York papers, and is best known for his column, 'The Conning Tower,' which features satirical verse and a personal diary in the manner of Pepys. Among his

books are: *Tobogganing on Parnassus* (1911), *Christopher Columbus* (1931), and other collections of verse, from which *The Melancholy Lute* (1936) is a selection; and the *Diary of Our Own Samuel Pepys* (2 vols., 1935), edited from his newspaper column. *Nods and Becks* (1944) collects newspaper pieces and poems. His work is usually signed with his initials.

**ADAMS, HANNAH** (1755-1831), is generally considered the first professional woman author of America. Her popular works included: *Alphabetical Compendium of the Various Sects . . . from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Present Day* (1784); *A Summary History of New England* (1799); *The Truth and Excellence of the Christian Religion* (1804); and *History of the Jews* (1812).

**ADAMS, HENRY [BROOKS]** (1838-1918), grandson of J.Q. Adams and son of C.F. Adams, claims in his autobiography that his conventional education was defective, despite the best Boston and Quincy background, Harvard College, German post-graduate training, and his position as secretary during his father's ministry to England at the time of the Civil War. His first writing, an article on Captain John Smith published in 1867, was followed by other contributions to periodicals, including a review of Lyell's *Principles of Geology* (1868), clearly showing the importance of the evolutionary theory in human history and Adams's own divorce from the absolute standards of his ancestors. Returning from England to Washington, D.C. (1868), he continued to write carefully considered articles, and, completely out of sympathy with Reconstruction politics, abandoned former ideas of a political career to teach history at Harvard (1870-77), for most of this period also editing *The North American Review*. He next went to Washington to write history and to seek the companionship of such men as Secretary of State Evarts, John Hay, and Clarence King, for he said ironically, 'So far as [I] had a function in life, it was as stable-companion to statesmen.' There he wrote *Democracy* (q.v., 1880), an anonymous novel on Washington politics, and *Esther* (q.v., 1884), a pseudonymous novel of New York society. In 1872 he was married to Marian Hooper, whose suicide in 1885 tragically affected his life. Although he never mentions her in his writings, she probably served as a model for the heroine



in *Esther*. Adams commissioned his friend Saint-Gaudens to design for her grave in Washington a symbolic statue, which he called 'The Peace of God.' When he could no longer endure life at Washington, he made a long trip through the Orient, from which he returned to complete his *History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison* (9 vols., 1889-91), portraying politics and diplomacy in the early republic. He traveled widely during the following years, and among the literary results was the *Memoirs of Marau Taaroa, Last Queen of Tahiti* (1893, revised 1901). He 'drifted back to Washington with a new sense of history' after a summer in Normandy (1895) and a visit to the Paris Exposition (1900), where he saw the huge dynamo. *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres* (q.v., 1904) was the first result of his determination to measure the life and thought of a century in terms of Force. A sound scholarly descriptive work, the book is important for its interpretive study of a unified universe. In 1910 he published 'A Letter to American Teachers of History,' reprinted in *The Degradation of the Democratic Dogma* (1919) by his brother Brooks Adams (q.v.). This work sets forth Henry Adams's dynamic theory of history. The second law of thermodynamics supposes a universal tendency to dissipate mechanical energy, and thus vitiates the idea of human history as evolving toward a state of perfection. On the contrary, according to Adams, human thought is a substance passing from one phase to another through critical points determined by attraction, acceleration, and volume (equivalent to pressure, temperature, and volume in mechanical physics), and he points out that history must be studied in the light of these principles. The complementary work to *Mont-Saint-Michel* is a study of 20th-century multiplicity, *The Education of Henry Adams* (q.v., 1907). The skepticism and cynicism in the account of his self-termed failures pass beyond autobiography to a study of the garment of education draped on the 'manikin' Henry Adams, a figure used to measure motion, proportion, and human conditions. In later chapters, the use of his dynamic theory of history is made explicit. Other books include *Chapters of Erie* (1871), written with his brother, Charles Francis Adams; *The Life of Albert Gallatin* (1879); *John Randolph* (1882); and *The Life of*

*George Cabot Lodge* (1911). His letters have been printed in various collections, and those of his wife were published in 1936.

**ADAMS, HERBERT BAXTER** (1850-1901), a leader of the scientific school of American historians, was a professor at Johns Hopkins, where he organized his teaching on the model of German seminars. He edited *Studies in Historical and Political Science* (1882ff.), and founded the American Historical Association (1884). Among his writings are *The Study of History in American Colleges and Universities* (1887), *Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia* (1888), and *Public Libraries and Popular Education* (1900). His letters, published as *Historical Scholarship in the United States* (1938), include correspondence with such students of his as Woodrow Wilson, J.S. Bassett, and F.J. Turner.

**ADAMS, JAMES TRUSLOW** (1878- ), New York historian, educated at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and Yale, was in business in New York for 13 years before he devoted full time to historical writing. He won the 1922 Pulitzer prize for *The Founding of New England* (1921), the first of a trilogy completed in *Revolutionary New England* (1923) and *New England in the Republic* (1926), reinterpreting the ideals and achievements of the Puritans and their descendants. Other books include *Provincial Society, 1690-1763* (1927), *The Epic of America* (1931), *The March of Democracy* (2 vols., 1932-3), *The American: The Making of a New Man* (1943), *Frontiers of American Culture* (1944), on adult education, and *Big Business in a Democracy* (1945). He has written two works on the Adams family of Massachusetts, although not related to them: *The Adams Family* (1930) and *Henry Adams* (1933). He was general editor of the *Dictionary of American History* (q.v., 1940) and its companion works, *Atlas of American History* (1943) and *Album of American History* (3 vols. to date, 1944-6). *Building the British Empire* (1938) and *Empire on the Seven Seas* (1940) reflect his interest in English history.

**ADAMS, JOHN** (1704-40), clergyman, scholar, and writer of verse. His *Poems on Several Occasions: Original and Translated* (1745) consisted of Biblical paraphrases, translations from Horace, and devotional pieces.

**ADAMS, JOHN** (1735-1826), 2nd President of the U.S. (1797-1801), was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard (1755), was admitted to the bar (1758), and soon entered public life. He opposed the Stamp Act and the Boston Port Act, was a delegate to the first Continental Congress, where he aided in drafting a petition to the king and a declaration of rights, and returned to the second Congress, in which he proposed Washington for military commander, hoping to draw Virginia into greater support of Revolutionary policies. He worked for independence, but disliked Paine's plan of government suggested in *Common Sense*, and set forth his own ideas in *Thoughts on Government* (1776), one of his several energetic publications on current questions, which also included letters to Daniel Leonard (q.v.). He helped draft the Declaration of Independence, and, according to Jefferson, was 'the pillar of its support on the floor of Congress,' where he also served on many important committees. From 1777 to 1779 he was a commissioner to France, and in the latter year also consulted the French government concerning peace negotiations with England, although he failed to achieve anything because he alienated their foreign minister. His negotiations with the Dutch to secure a treaty and loan were ultimately successful. In 1782-3 he accompanied Jay and Franklin to England, where they negotiated the treaty of peace, and in 1785 he was appointed envoy to the Court of St. James's. During his residence in England, Adams wrote a three-volume *Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America against the Attack of Mr. Turgot* (1787). Upon his return (1788) he was elected the first Vice President of the U.S., and, although his office was mainly a matter of routine, he worked without party alignment on the side of the Federalists. His *Discourses on Davila* (1791), drawing a moral for the U.S. from the history of France, alienated Hamilton, who thought the work tended to weaken the government, while Jefferson considered it as leaning toward hereditary monarchy and aristocracy. After another term as Vice President, Adams was elected to the presidency in 1796, despite the opposition of Hamilton. Jefferson was antagonistic to Adams's administration, and Hamilton, with a strong influence in the Cabinet,

particularly opposed Adams's conciliatory policy toward France, by which war was averted. (See *XYZ Affair*.) Hamilton's animus, as displayed in his *Letter Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams*, played into the hands of the Jeffersonians, and after he failed of reelection (1801) Adams retired to private life in Quincy. His *Works* were collected in ten volumes (1850-56), and many separate volumes of his correspondence have been issued, of which the most important are the letters addressed to his wife Abigail and the communications with Jefferson.

**ADAMS, JOHN QUINCY** (1767-1848), 6th President of the U.S. (1825-9), son of John and Abigail Adams, was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts, and received his early training by accompanying his father on diplomatic missions to France and Holland. He graduated from Harvard (1787), after which he was admitted to the bar (1790) and entered politics and political discussion. His answer to Paine's *Rights of Man*, signed 'Publicola' (1791), and similar essays, led Washington to appoint him minister to the Netherlands (1794). In 1797 his father appointed him minister to Berlin, and he remained abroad until 1801. Literary results of this residence were his translation of Wieland's poetic romance, *Oberon* (first published 1940), and his *Letters on Silesia* (1804). In 1803 Adams was elected to the Senate, where his want of allegiance to Federalist tradition caused his resignation (1808). He had already been appointed Professor of Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres at Harvard, and his college lectures were published (1810). In 1809 he was appointed minister to Russia, and six years later minister to England, to remain until Monroe invited him (1817) to be secretary of state. In this capacity he postponed the Oregon boundary question by treaty with England, secured Florida from Spain, and recognized the revolting Spanish colonies. The principles underlying his policies were drafted by him in the Monroe Doctrine (q.v.), as enunciated by Monroe in 1823. After four years of independent policies as President, he was elected to Congress (1831) without any definite party support, and continued to serve until his death 17 years later. He was considered to be without peer as a parliamentary debater, and worked hard to oppose the extension

of slavery and consequently the admission of Texas and the Mexican War. All his actions were characterized by an independence of party. His *Memoirs* (1874-7) cover half a century, and are valuable both as political commentary, and as a study in American letters; they have been described by Allan Nevins in his edition (1928) as written 'with malice towards all.' His independent mind is indicated by the diversity of his other writings, which include the minor *Poems of Religion and Society* (1848), which he himself treasured, and the celebrated *Report on Weights and Measures* (1821), in which the subject is examined with the exactness of mathematical science, the sagacity of statesmanship, and the wisdom of philosophy.

**ADAMS, JOHN TURVILL** (1805-82), New England novelist, whose books include: *The Lost Hunter* (1856), laid in 19th-century Connecticut; and *The White Chief Among the Red Men*; or, *The Knight of the Golden Mellice* (1859), dealing with Sir Christopher Gardiner and the Pequot War.

**ADAMS, LÉONIE [FULLER]** (1899- ) New York poet, whose books, *Those Not Elect* (1925), *High Falcon* (1929), *This Measure* (1933), and *Poems* (1954), have been described as works of a modern metaphysical poet because of their sensitivity, austere intensity, and emphasis on intellect. She has taught English at New York University and Bennington College.

**ADAMS, MAUDE** (1872-1953), stage-name of Maude Kiskadden, who began her theatrical career as a child, later played with John Drew, and became a star in 1897 acting the role of Lady Babie in Barrie's *Little Minister*. Her fame was increased with her appearance in other Barrie plays, *Peter Pan* (1906), *Quality Street*, *What Every Woman Knows*, and *A Kiss for Cinderella*. She was also known for her Shakespearean roles, and for her part in Rostand's *Chantecler*.

**ADAMS, OSCAR FAY** (1855-1919), Massachusetts author and teacher, who is best known for his books, *Through the Years with the Poets* (12 vols., 1886) and *A Dictionary of American Authors* (1897).

**ADAMS, SAMUEL** (1722-1803), born in Boston, graduated from Harvard (1740), studied law, was unsuccessful in business, and after 1764 turned to the serious use of his talent for political agitation. He was a leader in directing popular hatred against

the conservatives, and strongly opposed the Sugar Act of 1764, the Stamp Act, and the Townshend Acts. From 1765 to 1774 he was a member of the lower house of the Massachusetts general court, serving after 1766 as recording clerk, in which capacity he showed great skill as a polemical writer, drafting many important Revolutionary documents. As early as 1765 his writings pointed the way toward the Declaration of Independence, and at times, when revolutionary feeling was waning, he fanned the embers with bitter contributions to periodicals. He helped organize the Sons of Liberty, aided in the formation of the nonimportation association of 1768, and emphasized the revolutionary doctrines of the 'rights of man,' 'the laws of nature,' and American independence of Parliament. Inflamed by Lord North's Tea Act, he was the guiding spirit of the Boston Tea Party. As a member of the intercolonial congress, which he had proposed, and as a delegate to the Continental Congress, he worked for colonial union and against any compromise with England. After the signing of the Declaration of Independence his career waned, for he was essentially a revolutionary agitator and not a constructive statesman. His later career included membership in the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention (1779-80), and the lieutenant-governorship (1789-93) and governorship of Massachusetts (1794-7). His various writings were collected (4 vols., 1904-8).

**ADAMS, SAMUEL HOPKINS** (1871- ), journalist and author, from 1900 to 1916 was associated with *McClure's*, *Collier's*, and the New York *Tribune*, for which he wrote muckracking articles. His books include: *The Great American Fraud* (1906), on patent nostrums; *Success* (1921), a novel about modern journalism; *Revelry* (1926), a fictional account of the Harding administration, of which he also wrote a history, *Incredible Era* (1939); *The God-like Daniel* (1930), a biography of Webster; *The Harvey Girls* (1942), a novel of the Fred Harvey restaurants; *Canal Town* (1944), a novel set in Palmyra, N.Y., in 1820; and *A Woolcott: His Life and His World* (1945).

**ADAMS, WILLIAM TAYLOR** (1822-97), Boston author and school teacher, who adopted the pseudonym Oliver Optic (c.1850), and began to write juvenile books and magazine tales, comparable in



manner and popularity to the works of Horatio Alger. In 1865 he quit teaching to give all his time to authorship and to the editing of such magazines as *Oliver Optic's Magazine for Boys and Girls* (1867-75). He wrote more than 1,000 short stories, and more than 115 novels, most of the latter in series, which included The Boat Club Series (1854), Woodville Series (1861-7), Army and Navy Series (1865-94), Starry Flag Series (1867-9), Onward and Upward Series (1870), Yacht Club Series (1872-1900), and Great Western Series (1875-82). His heroes, like Alger's, were rather priggish, but Adams's were more concerned with patriotism and adventure than with rising in the business world.

**Adams and Liberty**, patriotic song written in 1798 by the younger Robert Treat Paine (q.v.), was popular during the period when John Adams was opposing French aggression. The tune was that later used for *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

**ADDAMS, JANE** (1860-1935), reformer and sociologist, founded the Chicago social settlement, Hull House, in 1889. Among her books are: *Democracy and Social Ethics* (1902); *A New Conscience and an Ancient Evil* (1912); *Twenty Years at Hull House* (1910); *Peace and Bread in Time of War* (1922); and *The Second Twenty Years at Hull House* (1930).

**Adding Machine, The**, expressionistic play by Elmer Rice (q.v.), produced and published in 1923.

Mr. Zero, employed for 25 years as an accountant, is discharged when adding machines are installed, and in a fit of temporary insanity kills his employer. Executed, he goes to the Elysian Fields, where he declines to associate with such indecent company as Swift and Rabelais, but enjoys himself in operating a Heavenly adding machine, and renews his friendship with Daisy Diana Dorothea Devore, the middle-aged office worker who has committed suicide to be with him. Mr. Zero rebels at the order that he be sent back to earth, until he is told that he has been doing this in successive incarnations, and is scheduled to continue until he is the complete slave with a worn-out soul who will 'sit in the gallery of a coal mine and operate the super-hyper-adding machine with the great toe of his right foot.'

**ADE, GEORGE** (1866-1944), Indiana author, whose books are noted for their

racy use of vernacular and sympathetic portrayal of country characters. His *Fables in Slang* (1899) are often credited with being the most acute literary examples of the language of the common American. The satire and speech of this book appear also in *People You Knew* (1903) and *Hand-Made Fables* (1920). Ade was also known as a playwright, being the author of several musical comedies, notably *The Sultan of Sulu* (1902), and such plays as *The College Widow* (1904) and *Just Out of College* (1905), farcical satires on student life.

**ADELER, MAX**, see *Clark, Charles Hever*.

**Adrea**, romantic tragedy by David Belasco and John L. Long (qq.v.), produced in 1904 and published in 1928.

Adrea, a princess of an Adriatic island in the 5th century, is barred by her blindness from inheriting the throne, and therefore is deserted by her betrothed, Kaeso, who marries her eldest sister, Julia. Thinking she is going to marry Kaeso, Adrea is tricked by Julia into a marriage with the court jester, but upon regaining her sight and becoming queen, she stabs Kaeso to death, and yet indicates her constant love for him in the epilogue when years later she blinds herself and puts Vasha, the son of Kaeso and Julia, on the throne.

**Adrienne Toner**, novel by Anne Sedgwick (q.v.), published in 1922.

A wealthy, ingratiating, and forceful American girl, Adrienne Toner, shatters the complacency of the Chadwick family, typical English gentry, when she marries their elder son, Barney, who has been intended for Nancy Averil, a girl of his own station. The family is at first fascinated by her, but later hates her because she rules their affairs from her own point of view, rather than subscribing to their conventions. Against their judgment, she supports the younger son, Palgrave, in his determination to be a conscientious objector during the World War, which eventually leads to his death. When the daughter Meg falls in love with a married man, Adrienne, believing in frankness, urges the girl to elope with him, and this causes Barney to leave her and their child, who soon dies. Through the bitterness that she and the others suffer as the result of her actions, Adrienne learns humility and understanding. Instead of attempting to continue her domination,

she serves as a nurse, and attempts to restore the health of Roger Oldmeadow, Barney's friend, a disillusioned author, who falls in love with her. Though she refuses Oldmeadow's love, because she feels she must be faithful to her husband, she helps Barney to obtain a divorce so that he can marry Nancy.

**Adulateur**, *The*, satirical play by Mercy Otis Warren (q.v.), published in 1773. Purporting to occur in Upper Servia, the tragedy deals with Thomas Hutchinson (q.v.), the Massachusetts governor who claimed to be an American patriot, but was revealed by the Hutchinson Letters to be working against colonial liberties.

The bashaw Rapatio (Hutchinson) and his cohorts (members of the Hutchinson and Oliver families) suppress the move for liberty instituted by Brutus (James Otis), Cassius (probably John Adams), Junius (Samuel Adams), and Portius (John Hancock). He orders the chief of his Janizaries, Bagshot (probably General Gage), to fire on the people, in an incident reminiscent of the Boston Massacre. Although temporarily successful, Rapatio is stricken by his conscience, and Brutus prophesies a civil war that will bring victory to the party representing liberty.

**Adventists**, see *Millerites*.

**Adventures of Alonso**, romance attributed to T.A.Digges (q.v.).

**Adventures of Captain Bonneville**, *The*, see *Bonneville*.

**Adventures of François**, *The*, novel by S.Weir Mitchell (q.v.).

**Adventures of Robin Day**, *The*, novel by R.M.Bird (q.v.).

**Advertisements for the Unexperienced Planters of New England . . .**, work by Captain John Smith (q.v.).

**Advice to the Privileged Orders**, work by Joel Barlow (q.v.).

**Afloat and Ashore**, romance by Cooper (q.v.,1844). *Miles Wallingford* (q.v.) is a sequel.

Miles and Grace Wallingford, orphaned children of a Revolutionary naval officer, are raised on their Hudson River estate by the Rev.Mr.Hardinge, with his children Rupert and Lucy. Miles and Lucy have already fallen in love when the two boys run away to New York, accompanied by the Negro slave, Neb. They sign on the

*John*, a ship bound for the Indies, which is commanded by Captain Robbins, a friend of Miles's father. Miles and Neb become favorites of the mate, Mr.Marble. In the Straits of Sunda the *John* escapes capture by Malay pirates, but is afterward wrecked off Madagascar. The survivors reach the isle of Bourbon and ship home on the *Tigris*, but Robbins dies during the voyage. Rupert and Miles reach New York in time to deny reports of their death, and Rupert enters a lawyer's office. Miles ships under Mr.Marble as third mate of the *Crisis*, enlisting Neb as a seaman. After various adventures, they reach England and sail for the Pacific. They engage in trade on the South American coast, have their ship stolen by the crew of a wrecked French privateer, rebuild the privateer, retake the *Crisis*, and sail for China. When he returns to America after this voyage, Miles becomes master of his own ship, the *Dawn*.

**Agapida**, FRAY ANTONIO, fictitious Spanish priest through whom Irving expresses the attitude of 'monkish zealots' in *Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada* (q.v.).

**AGAR,HERBERT**[SEBASTIAN](1897- ), historian and critic, whose books include: *The Garment of Praise* (1929), a study of English poetry, written in collaboration with his wife, Eleanor Carroll Chilton; *The People's Choice* (1933, Pulitzer Prize 1934), a study of American Presidents; *Land of the Free* (1935), a survey of American culture; *The Pursuit of Happiness* (1938), a history of the Democratic Party; and *Who Owns America?* (1936), a compilation edited with Allen Tate. As the editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* (1940-42) and the author of *Beyond German Victory* (1940) he helped arouse public opinion before the U.S. entered World War II. Other books include: *A Time for Greatness* (1942), appraising American culture and indicating a role for the U.S. in the world crisis; *The Price of Union* (1950), on the U.S. political system; and *A Declaration of Faith* (1952), calling for a revival of Natural Law.

**AGASSIZ, JEAN LOUIS RODOLPHE** (1807-73), Swiss-born scientist and educator. In 1831 he went to Paris, became associated with the Jardin des Plantes, and assisted in and continued the work of his friends Cuvier and Humboldt.