

Good old Dr. Miller, of Princeton... A less  
merdenary, or more guileless piety than Dr. Miller's,  
I never knew, and he would have been universally  
reckoned a pattern of Christian manhood... God love  
and bless his honored head for ever!"

-- Henry James, Sr., The Nature of Evil,  
New York, 1855, pp.124-6.

Princeton University Library  
Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

Exhibition Catalogues

Number 11

A LANDMARK IN  
AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

SAMUEL MILLER'S

"A BRIEF RETROSPECT OF THE 18th CENTURY"

1803

An Exhibition Commemorating the 150th Anniversary  
of Its Publication

Princeton University Library

Princetoniana Room

March 30 - May 17, 1953

Catalogue of the Exhibition  
compiled by  
H. G. Rice, Jr. and A. D. Wainwright

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## FOREWORD

The exhibition commemorating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Samuel Miller's A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century was suggested by Professor Gilbert Chinard, whose article on the subject was published in the Winter 1953 issue of The Princeton University Library Chronicle.

The Library thanks Professor Chinard, and Mr. Kenneth Gapp, Librarian of the Princeton Theological Seminary for their helpful interest in the exhibition. The Library is also greatly indebted to the Princeton Theological Seminary for the loan of books, manuscripts and the Neagle portrait of Miller, and to the Hon. Samuel Miller Breckinridge Long (a descendant of Samuel Miller) for the loan of the Sully portrait of Miller and the Jarvis portrait of Mrs. Miller.

The following books and articles were particularly useful in the preparation of the exhibition:

Samuel Miller [Jr.], The Life of Samuel Miller, D.D., LL.D., Second Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, at Princeton, New Jersey. Philadelphia, 1869, 2 vols. [P94.S33 .022.01]

Harold S. Jantz. "The Samuel Miller Papers at Princeton." In The Princeton University Library Chronicle, Vol. IV, no. 2 & 3 (February - April 1943), pp. 68-75.

Harold S. Jantz. "Samuel Miller's Survey of German Literature, 1803." In The Germanic Review, Vol. XVI (1941), pp. 267-277.

Gilbert Chinard. "A Landmark in American Intellectual History, Samuel Miller's A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century." In The Princeton University Library Chronicle, Vol. XIV, no. 2 (Winter 1953), pp. 55-71.

## I.

"A Brief Retrospect of the 18th Century" --  
Publication and Reception.

1. Gilbert Chinard. "A Landmark in American Intellectual History: Samuel Miller's A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century." In The Princeton University Library Chronicle, Vol. XIV, no. 2 (Winter 1953), pp. 55-71.

"One hundred and fifty years ago a young Presbyterian minister of the Presbyterian Church, the Reverend Samuel Miller, published in New York, under the title of A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century, a little-known work which might well be considered one of the earliest and most important contributions of America to cultural history. The date should not pass unnoticed at Princeton since its author was a trustee of the College of New Jersey from 1807 until his death in 1850. He was also the second professor to be appointed in the Princeton Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, where he occupied the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government from 1813 to 1849. The major part of his papers and many of his books are now preserved in the Princeton University Library, the gifts of descendants, the Misses Miller and the Honorable [Samuel Miller] Breckinridge Long '03. At one time Dr. Miller had five sons in Princeton and wrote for them and their classmates his Letters from a Father to His sons in College, Philadelphia, 1843."

2. Samuel Miller. A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century... containing a Sketch of the Revolutions and Improvements in Science, Arts, and Literature, during that Period. New York, Printed by T. and J. Swords, no. 160 Pearl-Street, 1803. 2 vols. [P96. 6468.04]

A  
BRIEF RETROSPECT  
OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

PART FIRST;  
IN TWO VOLUMES:

CONTAINING  
A SKETCH OF THE  
REVOLUTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS  
IN  
SCIENCE, ARTS, AND LITERATURE,  
DURING THAT PERIOD.

---

BY SAMUEL MILLER, A. M.

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES  
IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, AND CORRESPONDING  
MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

---

VOL. I.

---

*PUBLISHED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS.*

---

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY T. AND J. SWORDS,  
NO. 160 PEARL-STREET.

1803.

TO

JOHN DICKINSON, ESQ. LL. D.

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE,

AND

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DEAR SIR,

IN finding your Name prefixed to the following pages, without permission, I trust you will feel no emotion more unfavourable than that of surprize. I know not, indeed, to whom I could dedicate such a work as this with more propriety than to an elegant Scholar, a comprehensive Observer of a large portion of the century attempted to be reviewed, a Master of so many of its literary and scientific improvements, a conspicuous Actor in some of its most memorable and important transactions, an able and eloquent Defender of his country's rights, a munificent Patron of American literature, and (if personal or local feelings may be allowed to intrude) a uniform and affectionate Friend of my honoured Parents, and one of the most illustrious of those who owe their birth to my native State.

6/11/17 = COP. 2



Among the numerous opinions expressed in these volumes, you will, no doubt, find some which totally differ from your own; and others which more attentive and enlarged views would have taught me considerably to modify or amend. Of the former you will not consider this public address as implying or soliciting your approbation. Of the latter I am confident you will be disposed to form a candid and even an indulgent estimate.

But with respect to some of the leading opinions delivered in the following sheets, I am happy in the assurance that you perfectly coincide with me. To all that is said of the perfect harmony between the **RELIGION OF CHRIST** and genuine Philosophy, and of the illustration and support which the former has received at every successive step of the latter in the last age; to every unfavourable judgment pronounced on those theories, falsely called philosophy, which pervert reason, contradict Revelation, and blaspheme its divine **AUTHOR**; and to every expression of satisfaction at the progress of elegant letters and substantial science, as tending to promote the dignity and happiness of man—to opinions and sentiments like these, I know too much of your character to doubt of receiving your sanction.

Those who, like yourself, contemplate every department of human affairs through the medium of Christian principles, while they see much to deplore, see also much to approve and

admire in the history of science for the last age. What effect the knowledge bequeathed by that age may have on the harmony, virtue and happiness of mankind in the one on which we have entered, is known only to infinite Wisdom. Let us, however, indulge in favourable anticipations as long as we can. In all events we are assured, that this, as well as all the other fruits of human genius and activity, will be made conducive to the welfare of the good, in a more enlightened and a more happy world.

I am, dear Sir,  
With much respect,  
Your obliged and obedient servant,

SAMUEL MILLER.

*New-York, Nov. 25, 1803.*

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Miller's own copy of his book, with his autograph signature on the title-page.

a. Table of contents of the two volumes (photostats).

b. Dedication of the work (pp. ii-v) to John Dickinson (1732-1808), the American statesman who played an important role in Pennsylvania and Delaware during and after the Revolution. On January 28, 1804, Miller sent a copy of his book, with an accompanying letter to Dickinson. Shown with photostats of Miller's printed dedication, was the original of Dickinson's reply, dated February 11, 1804, [PUL, Miller papers]. Among other things, Dickinson writes:

"One Circumstance recorded in thy address comes, I am sure, from thy Heart, and goes directly to mine -- the Friendship between thy honored Parents and Myself."

c. Another copy of the Brief Retrospect [14091.644] was opened to the following passages:

"Should any reader be offended by the language of panegyric which is frequently bestowed on the intellectual and scientific endowments of some distinguished abettors of heresy or of infidelity, he is entreated to remember that justice is due to all men. A man who is a bad Christian may be a very excellent mathematician, astronomer, or chemist; and one who denies and blasphemes the Saviour may write profoundly and instructively on some branches of science highly interesting to mankind. It is proper to commiserate the mistakes of such persons, to abhor their blasphemy, and to warn men against their fatal delusions; but it is surely difficult to see either the justice or utility of withholding from them that praise of genius or of learning to which they are fairly entitled. (Preface, vol. I, pp. xii-xiii)

"The circumstances attending the establishment of this College [the College of New Jersey at Princeton]; the zeal for the promotion of literature, which was indicated by its erection, and which it served afterwards greatly to increase; and the many distinguished characters which it has contributed to form, render it, beyond all doubt, one of the most conspicuous institutions in our country, and one of those whose history and influence are most worthy of being traced." (Chapter XXVI, "Nations Lately Become Literary," Vol. II, p. 346)

3. Miller's working notes. [Lent by the Library of the Princeton Theological Seminary]

Two folders of miscellaneous reference slips, memoranda, clippings drafts, etc.

These were apparently assembled by Miller for the projected additional volumes of his Brief Retrospect. One folder contains material on theology, presumably collected for the section on the history of the church, which Miller planned but did not complete. The other folder is more miscellaneous in nature; it includes an outline of chapter headings for a section on political, economic and social history.

These scraps of paper -- not so different, fundamentally, from a modern scholar's notes -- provide a good example of Miller's working methods, his use of sources, etc.

4. Notes on Hebrew Language and Scholarship during the 18th century. Prepared by John Christopher Kunze, professor of Oriental Languages at Columbia College, New York. 8 pages in finely-written script [PUL, Miller papers]

Samuel Miller used these notes in the section on Hebrew Literature of his Brief Retrospect (Chapt. XIV, section 1) -- and there acknowledges the help of his friend J. C. Kunze.

In the introduction to his work Miller states: "It will not be supposed that the author has attentively read all the works concerning which he delivers opinions. Some of them he never saw, and has ventured to give their character entirely on the authority of those whom he considers better judges than himself."

Miller frequently acknowledges the help of friends whom he had consulted for information relating to specialized fields. For example, his brother, Dr. Edward Miller, supplied material for the survey of medical science. Kunze's notes on Hebrew literature are another example. Thus, the Brief Retrospect might be considered an early American venture in cooperative scholarship.

5. Samuel Miller, A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century....Printed at New York. London: Reprinted for J. Johnson, St. Paul's Churchyard. 1805. By S. Hamilton, Shoe-Lane, Fleet Street. In 3 volumes. [Lent by the Library of the Princeton Theological Seminary].

Miller's own copy of the London reprint of his book, with his autograph signature on the title-page.

6. Two letters from J. Johnson, publisher of the English edition of A Brief Retrospect, to Samuel Miller. [PUL, Miller papers]

In the first of these (London, April 8, 1805), Johnson relates his difficulties in finding collaborators to revise Miller's work -- remarking, "Had you written a work addressed to your own congregation or party, it might have passed, but you have undertaken a history, & the requisites of a historian will be expected from the intelligent among your readers, they will look for a fair statement of facts and opinions to enable them to form a judgment, & not for oracular dogmatism..."



In the second of these letters (London, August 4, 1805), which accompanied a copy of the English edition of the Brief Retrospect, the publisher explained that a few "severities" had been lopped off, and added: "...the time I hope is not very distant when thinking men will be as liberal in America as in England, and when it will not be necessary to embrace any set of opinions in order to obtain the good will of the orthodox."

7. Note from Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Miller, February, 29, 1804, acknowledging a copy of A Brief Retrospect. A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

"Th: Jefferson returns his thanks to the revd Mr. Miller for the copy of his Retrospect of the 18<sup>th</sup> century which he has been so kind as to send him, and shall with pleasure avail himself of his first leisure to read it. He salutes him with respect & friendship.

Feb. 29. 04.

Addressed: The revd Samuel Miller, New York. Postmarked "Washington City Feb 29," stamped "Free", and endorsed "free Th: Jefferson Pr. U.S."

Miller, at the time he wrote his Brief Retrospect, was a warm supporter of Jefferson, although he later regretted his early enthusiasm. At the time of the Election of 1800 he had written: "I think myself perfectly consistent in saying that I had much rather have Mr. Jefferson President of the United States, than an aristocratic Christian."

For other documents on Miller and Jefferson, see no. 38.

3. Letter from Reverend James Madison, president of the College of William and Mary, to Samuel Miller, acknowledging a copy of A Brief Retrospect. A.l.s.

Williamsburg, July 23, 1804. [PUL, Miller papers]

"....in my Judgement, few American Publications have better deserved the most liberal public Patronage. To condense in the short Compass of two Volumes whatever was most interesting to be known in that astonishing as well as diversified March, which the human Intellect has made during the last Century, required a vast Fund of real Information, as well as the most judicious Selection from the great Mass of Materials, which presented themselves in almost every Department of Science. I am rejoiced to see that an American has undertaken so difficult a Task, & that he has executed it in a Manner, which cannot fail to do Honour to his Talents, & to communicate both useful & agreeable Instruction to every Reader. It is true, the Extent of the Subject might well claim many Volumes, & the united Efforts of many Men, the most enlightened; but you have, by your efforts alone, concentrated much in a small Space, & produced a Work, which will, I trust, meet with an Appreciation & Encouragement not unworthy of its Merit. For myself, I shall not fail, as far as may be in my Power, to recommend it to the Attention of our Students, & others....."

I shall take the Liberty to propose to our College to confer on you, at our next Session the Degree of D. D."

9. Letters from Charles Brockden Brown to Samuel Miller, Philadelphia, March 16, 1803, and June 20, 1803. A.l.s. [PUL, Miller Papers]

The novelist Charles Brockden Brown (1771-1810), author of Arthur Mervyn, Wieland, Ormond, Edgar Hartley and other "Gothic tales," was one of Miller's acquaintances during his residence in New York.

Two letters from Brown are preserved among the Miller Papers at Princeton -- both of them

shown in the exhibition. In the first of these (Philadelphia, March 16, 1803) Brown, who had just read the first volume of A Brief Retrospect, comments on it thus: "...my superficial knowledge requires just such historical and summary views as you have given...."

In the second letter (Philadelphia, June 20, 1803), Brown encloses three pages of notes which he had apparently written at Miller's request, and which were perhaps designed to be suggestions for the last part of the Brief Retrospect -- the section on theology and politics, which was never completed. Brown discusses certain dominant features of the 18th century such as the controversy concerning the truth of Christianity, and the extension of European influence to Asia. In this latter connection Brown writes:

"Two very important kingdoms of Asia, Korea & Japan have been altogether unvisited & undescribed by any rational traveller, during this century. Some very important projects have lately been set afoot in Russia which will probably unfold the present state of these remote countries to the present age in a very satisfactory manner."

10. Letter to Samuel Miller, dated Manchester [England], June 30, 1804, from John Fox, Secretary of the Philological Society of Manchester, informing him that he has been elected a corresponding member of the Society. A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

"The favourable Opinion our President Mr. Adam Clarke has formed of your literary Character from the perusal of your valuable Work entitled 'A Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century,' has induced him to propose you as a corresponding member of the Philological Society in this Town..."

11. Letters from Lindley Murray to Samuel Miller, 1804-1805. [PUL, Miller papers]

Lindley Murray, the American-born grammarian, then residing in England, wrote to his friend Samuel Miller to inform him of the publication of the London edition of A Brief Retrospect, commenting: "That this work will be approved and much read, in Great Britain, I have not any doubt...."

Among the other letters from Murray to Miller, preserved among the Miller Papers in the Princeton Library, is one dated York, July 26, 1804, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the American edition of the Brief Retrospect which Murray characterizes as "a judicious and interesting work."

12. Letters from Christoph Daniel Ebeling, of Hamburg.  
[PUL, Miller papers]

"Your retrospect of the 18th century has been reviewed in several of our German literary papers with praise...." Miller received this news concerning the fortune of his Brief Retrospect in Germany from his Hamburg correspondent, Christoph Daniel Ebeling (1741-1817), in a letter dated August 24, 1811.

Ebeling was a German scholar who devoted many years of his life to the publication of a monumental work on America entitled Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika, the first volume of which was published at Hamburg in 1793 and the seventh in 1816. Although he never set foot in America, Ebeling corresponded with scholars in America and collected a fine library of Americana (which was acquired by Harvard College after his death).

Samuel Miller was one of Ebeling's American correspondents, and twelve of his letters (1798-1815) are preserved among the Miller papers at Princeton. The correspondence began in 1798, when young Miller, then planning a history of New York, wrote to the German scholar for information about early Dutch books on New York.

In a letter of January 10, 1805, Ebeling acknowledges a copy of Miller's Brief Retrospect in these words:

"First of all my sincere thanks for the valuable present you made me of your excellent work. I have already been able to read it at least in a cursory manner from beginning to end, and I shall read it more diligently a second time at my first leisure. The idea and plan of your work are very happy, and tho' I cannot pretend to judge of the execution of every part as an artifex de artifice, yet I dare say the execution is equally happy. I find the matter well chosen, the reasoning on the facts philosophical and true. The only thing I regret is not to be imputed in the least to you - You were by the situation of America and of American literature necessitated to take a great deal of what belongs to the northern and German literature, as also to the Italian etc. from English Books and Reviews. I have been a continual reader of five English reviews since the beginning of them to this day, but I can prove that notwithstanding the effort since about ten years to give reviews of German books (exceedingly seldom of Danish, Swedish, and almost never of Russian, or Polish or Hungarian ones) they make a very queer selection, and judge very often with much ignorance of the true state of our literature."

13. Christoph Daniel Ebeling. Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika. Hamburg. 7 vols: 1793-1816. [PUL set, 1053.317, lacks vols, 6 and 7; complete set in Princeton Theological Seminary]

Ebeling dedicated the seventh and last volume of his Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika to four of his American correspondents: William Bentley of Salem, Mass.; Samuel Latham Mitchell, of New York; Henry St. George Tucker, of Virginia; and SAMUEL MILLER. The 7th volume of Ebeling's book, shown here, was opened to his dedication. This copy, unbound and uncut, [Lent by the Library of Princeton Theological Seminary]

✓  
Christoph Daniel Ebelings,

Professors der Geschichte am hamburgischen Gymnasium  
und Bibliothekars,

Korrespondenten der königl. preuß. Akademie der Wissenschaften,  
Mitglieds der königl. baierischen Akademie der Wissenschaften,  
der historischen Gesellschaft von Massachusetts, der antiquarischen  
von Nordamerika und der deutschen zu New-York.

# Erdbeschreibung

u n d

## Geschichte von Amerika.

---

Die vereinten Staaten von  
Nordamerika.

Siebenter Band.

---

Hamburg 1816,  
bei Hoffmann und Campe.

Den verehrungswürdigen Herren

**William Bentley,**

Prediger zu Salem im Staate Massachusetts, Mitglied  
der historischen Gesellschaft von Massachusetts und der  
antiquarischen von Nordamerika;

**Samuel Miller,**

der Theologie Doktor, Prediger der vereinten presbyterianischen  
Kirchen in der Hauptstadt New-York, Mitglied der amerika-  
nischen philologischen Gesellschaft zu Philadelphia und der  
historischen Gesellschaft von Massachusetts;

**Samuel Latham Mitchill,**

der Rechte Doktor, Professor der Naturgeschichte, Chemie  
und des Ackerbaues auf der Universität zu New-York,  
vormals Abgeordneter dieses Staates zum Kongresse,  
Mitglied der Gesellschaft zur Beförderung des Landbaues,  
der Künste und Manufakturen zu New-York;

**Henry St. George Tucker,**

der Rechte Doktor und Professor auf der Universität des  
Staates Virginia, einem der Richter des Allgemeinen  
Gerichts, und gegenwärtig virginischem Abgeordneten zum  
Kongresse,

dankbar gewidmet

von

dem Verfasser.

Sie haben mich, Verehrungswürdige Herren, seit vielen Jahren in meinem Unternehmen, eine so viel mir möglich war, vollständige und genaue Beschreibung der Vereinten Staaten von Nordamerika zu liefern, so gütig unterstützt, Ihnen verdanke ich nicht nur die Bekanntschaft mehrerer Gönner in Amerika, sondern auch so viele handschriftliche und seltene gedruckte Hülfsmittel, deren Daseyn ich ohne Ihre zuvorkommende Gewogenheit zum Theil nicht einmal erfahren hätte, daß ich es nicht länger aufschieben darf, Ihnen meinen innigst-gefühlten Dank dafür öffentlich abzustatten.

Schon vorlängst würde ich diese Pflicht erfüllet haben, wenn nicht die viele Jahre hindurch wütenden Kriege, theils alle Gemeinschaft mit Amerika unterbrochen, theils mich an der Fortsetzung dieses Werkes gehindert hätten. Mögte mir doch die Benützung Ihrer lehrreichen Beiträge so gelungen seyn, daß Sie die geneigte Beförderung meines Unternehmens nicht gereuen dürfte!

Wie



Wie glücklich würde ich mich schätzen, wenn ich Ihren Namen noch die so vieler vortreflichen, auch Ihnen hochachtungswürdigen Männer hätte beifügen können, denen ich gleichfalls reiche Hülfsmittel zu verdanken habe: die Namen meines Freundes Joel Barlow, des Generals Mühlenberg, der freiwillig seiner edlen Brüder Stelle bei mir vertrat, der so gelehrten als dienstfertigen Prediger Dr. Belfnap und Dr. Eliot, und der berühmten Naturkundigen und Aerzte Dr. David Ramsay und Dr. Smith-Barton. Allein diese hat auch mir der atwaltende Tod während jener traurigen Zeiten entrissen.

Mit lebhaftem Dankgefühl füge ich die Bitte hinzu, daß Sie mir ferner Ihre höchstschätzbare Wohlgeogenheit erhalten wollen.

Hamburg, den 1 Mai 1816.

C. D. Ebeling.

is the one sent by Ebeling to Miller; on the inside of the front cover he has written:

"To the Reverend Divine and eminent  
Historian Dr. Sam. Miller  
at present Professor in the Presbyterian  
Theological Seminary at Princeton N.  
[Jersey  
offered with respect and gratitude  
by the Author."

Volume II was opened to pp. 462-463; Ebeling's description of "Nassa-Hall zu Princeton", included in his section on the State of New Jersey.

14. The Monthly Magazine; or, British Register, London, Printed for Richard Phillips. Vol. XVIII, No. 119 (September 1, 1804), pp. 125-126. [0901.M794 v. 18]

Miller's Brief Retrospect is reviewed favorably in this English magazine.

"The author, has, however, surmounted the difficulties that lay in his course with a degree of success which reflects much credit on his diligence and learning...."

"This publication will be rendered more interesting to foreigners, in consequence of the fullness of the information it contains...concerning the state of literature and science in the United States...."

15. The Annual Review, and History of Literature; for 1805. Arthur Aikin, editor. London. Vol. IV pp. 721-728. [0901.A619 v.4]

".....It is flattering to Europe that the celebrity of her authors should so speedily cross the Atlantic: It is honourable to America that her curiosity should be so alert and so comprehensive. Mr. Miller has deserved well of both worlds."

These words conclude the long and favorable review of Miller's Brief Retrospect, published in The Annual Review, and History of Literature for 1805.

## II.

SAMUEL MILLER and PRINCETON

Although Samuel Miller did not attend Princeton (he was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania), as a Presbyterian minister he naturally acquired an early interest in the College. In 1792 Princeton awarded him a master's degree and in 1801 he married Sarah Sergeant, a member of a family long identified with the College and a great-granddaughter of its first president, Jonathan Dickinson. In 1807 he was made a trustee, a position which he held until his death, and soon became the most influential member of the board. Miller was one of the founders of the Princeton Theological Seminary (which has no connection with the University) and in 1813 was appointed Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government at the Seminary, the second professor to be appointed to its faculty. He moved to Princeton from New York in the fall of 1813 and Princeton was his home until his death in 1850. Shortly after his arrival in Princeton Miller erected a house on property on Mercer Street which had belonged to his father-in-law, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant (Princeton 1762). This house, enlarged in 1911, is now occupied by the Nassau Club.

16. Samuel Miller. The Sermon, delivered at the Inauguration of the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D.D. as Professor of Didactic and Polemical Theology in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church.... New York, printed by J. Seymour, No. 49. John-street, 1812. [P96.6468.75]

At the inauguration of the Rev. Archibald Alexander as Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology in the Princeton Theological Seminary, August 12, 1812, Samuel Miller, then pastor of the Wall Street Church in New York, one of the founders of the Seminary, delivered a sermon entitled "The Duty of the Church to Take Measures for Providing an Able and Faithful Ministry." Alexander was a trustee of Princeton College from 1824 until his death in 1851.

17. Letter from Samuel Miller to Samuel Bayard, New York, June 21, 1813. A.L.S. [PUL, Miller papers]

A letter from Miller to Samuel Bayard at Princeton, announcing that he has accepted the professorship at the Seminary and requesting assistance in finding a house in Princeton. "Although, in the present state of utter uncertainty as to the time of my removal, no definite arrangements concerning a house can be made; yet it may not be improper to be looking round, & feeling pulses."

18. V. Lansing Collins. Princeton Past and Present. Revised edition. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1945.

Opened to photograph of the Nassau Club, Mercer Street.

"On the site next to the Sheldon House Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant (Class of 1762), the Princeton lawyer and patriot, who seems to have drafted New Jersey's first Constitution, had built a handsome residence which was burned to the ground by the Hessians in December 1776, during the absence of Sergeant in Congress. The property came into possession of his son-in-law, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Miller of the Theological Seminary, who erected about 1813-1814 the present house, enlarged by the [Nassau] club in 1911. The walls of the original (west) section are of stone and more than a foot thick; the old fireplace, paneled mantelpieces and other woodwork are still in place, as is the Dutch oven under the rear porch. Before Mercer Street was opened in 1807 the garden and orchard of this property extended north to Stockton Street (toward which it will be noticed the house faces), south to Dickinson Street, and west to Alexander Street."

19. Letter from Samuel Miller to the Reverend James Carnahan of Georgetown, D. C., Princeton, May 15, 1823. A. l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

Writing as a trustee of Princeton College Miller assures James Carnahan that he has been elected president of the college by the Board of Trustees without a dissenting vote and that they are all hopeful that he will accept the office. Carnahan, a member of the Class of 1800, was president of Princeton from 1823 to 1854.

20. Letter from Samuel Miller to George and John Laurie, wine merchants of New York, Princeton, December 10, 1817, A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

"I wish to obtain a Quarter cask of good Madeira, for my own use -- such as can be recommended for an invalid, who drinks only two glasses a day, & who is advised to drink none but what is genuine & sound." He is more interested in the soundness of the wine than in its class.

21. Letter from Samuel Miller to Reverend Dr. McDowell, Princeton, May 6, 1829. A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

Miller asks the Rev. Dr. McDowell -- probably John McDowell, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary -- for some La Fayette peas for seed.

22. Samuel Miller. A Brief Account of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States at Princeton; including the Constitution of the said Seminary; a Catalogue of those who have been Members, and A List of the present Officers and Students. Philadelphia, published by A. Finley, N.E. Corner of Chestnut and Fourth Streets, 1822. [P96.6468.32]

Ashbel Green's copy with his signature on the inside of the front cover.

P. 79, lists among the Professors: "Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D. Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government."

23. Samuel Miller. Letters on Clerical Manners and Habits; Addressed to a Student in the Theological Seminary, at Princeton, N. J. New York, 1827. [P96.6468.28; and 3rd edition, 1835: P96.6468.77]

Miller was intensely concerned with the deportment of the students in both the Seminary and the College and kept an eye ever open to spot infractions of "good behavior." These Letters constitute a manual of behavior for the Presbyterian minister and cover almost every conceivable subject, from not putting the feet on the table and not marrying for money to "going from the pulpit to the knees."

24. Printed letter, from Archibald Alexander, Samuel Miller, and Charles Hodge, Princeton, September, 21, 1829. [PUL. Miller papers]

An appeal from the three professors at the Theological Seminary for assistance in raising funds necessary to erect a chapel.

"The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, having, at their last stated meeting, authorized the Professors to take such measures as they may deem proper and necessary for the erection of a Chapel, for the use of the Institution; and the Students of the Seminary having, with commendable promptness and zeal, offered their services to aid in obtaining the requisite funds; we beg leave, in pursuance of the authority vested in us, to call the attention of the friends of the Seminary to this undertaking, and, more particularly, to solicit the patronage of the former Students of the Institution, for the attainment of what we cannot but deem a very important object...."

25. Photographs of the Miller Chapel.

Erected in 1833, the chapel at the Theological Seminary was named after Samuel Miller. In 1934 it was moved a bit back from its original location near Alexander Hall and facing Mercer Street; it now faces the Graduate College.

- a. Photograph showing Miller Chapel in its original location adjoining Alexander Hall.
- b. Photograph of the Miller Chapel in March 1953. [By H. C. Rice,]

26. "Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, Princeton, N. J." Wood engraving by Alexander Anderson.

This engraving by the most famous 19th century wood engraver, shows the Seminary buildings as they were in the 1840's. The large building in the center is Alexander Hall (erected 1815-1817, and still standing); the building to the left of it is the Miller Chapel in its original location. The companion building to the Chapel, shown in the engraving to the right of Alexander Hall, was never erected.

27. Samuel Miller. Letters from a Father to His Sons in College. Philadelphia, Grigg and Elliot, 1843. [P96.6468.08]. Another edition: Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1852. [P96.6468.68].

A manual of behavior for the undergraduate, ostensibly addressed to the author's five sons who attended Princeton, covering such subjects as religion, rebellions, temperance, associations, dress, care of rooms, and vacations. Miller was opposed to the reading of novels. Of the novels of Dickens, for example, he states, "They impart nothing which can be considered as an equivalent for that which is lost."

The 1843 edition shown bears on fly-leaf the following autograph inscription: "The Rev. Professor J. A. Alexander, with much regard from the





No. 25. Miller Chapel, 1953.

No. 26



DR. ALEXANDER

DESIGNED

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRINCETON, N. J.

1844

author. Princeton, May 11, 1843."

28. Diploma of John Miller from the Theological Seminary May 16, 1842. [PUL, Mss. Division]

John Miller's diploma from the Seminary is signed by his father, Samuel Miller, and the other professors at the Seminary. John Miller was a member of the Class of 1836 at Princeton College.

29. A "Samuel Miller" Relic. [PUL, Graphic Arts Division]

A fragment of the log building known as "The Log College," -- this fragment being from a larger fragment presented by Rev. Robert B. Belville to Samuel Miller as the oldest professor at the Princeton Theological Seminary.

The "Log College" at Neshaminy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, founded about 1726 by the Rev. William Tennent, leader of the evangelical group known as the "New Lights", was in some ways a forerunner of the College at Princeton, and an important landmark in the religious history of this region. It therefore, seemed appropriate, about the year 1840, to present this relic of the Early Church of colonial days to Samuel Miller, one of the leaders of the Presbyterian Church in his day.

The presentation of the relic to Miller is mentioned in Dr. Alexander's Biographical Sketches of the Founder, and Principal Alumni of the Log College (Princeton, 1845), p. 12. This reference incited Mr. Elmer Adler (formerly curator of the Graphic Arts Division) to search out the Log College relic, shown here.

30. Letter from Samuel Miller to the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey, Princeton, December 18, 1849. A.L.S. [PUL, Miller papers]

Less than a month before his death Samuel Miller tenders to the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey his resignation as a member of the board. "I bid the College and all its interests, and yourselves, my beloved and honored associates, the profoundest and most affectionate farewell!" When Miller died, on January 7, 1850, he had been a trustee of Princeton for forty-three years.

31. William B. Sprague. A Discourse, commemorative of the Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., late Professor in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, delivered in the Second Presbyterian Church, Albany, on Sabbath Evening, January 27, 1850. Albany, Erastus H. Pease & Co., 1850. [P98.8278.01]
32. Samuel Miller's Grave in the Princeton Cemetery.
- a. Two photographs, March 1953. [By H. C. Rice]
  - b. The inscription on the gravestone.

Cf. Samuel Miller [Jr.], The Life of Samuel Miller, D. D., LL.D., Philadelphia, 1869, Vol. II, p. 548.



No. 32. Samuel Miller's Grave. Princeton Cemetery. 1953.

## III.

SAMUEL MILLER (1769-1850): A Brief Survey of  
His Life and Times.

Samuel Miller was born near Dover, Del., the eighth child and sixth son of the Rev. John and Margaret Millington Miller. He was educated at home by his father and brothers and studied for one year at the University of Pennsylvania, which he entered in 1788 as a member of the senior class. After his graduation he studied theology under his father and under the Rev. Charles Nisbet, first president of Dickinson College.

In 1793 he moved to New York, where he was ordained and became associated with Dr. John Rodgers and Dr. John McKnight in the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregations of that city. From 1809, when the three Presbyterian churches (Wall Street, Brick, and Rutgers Street) were separated, until 1813, he was pastor of the Wall Street -- now First Presbyterian -- Church.

In 1813 he was called to Princeton as the second professor to be appointed in the Theological Seminary, of which he was one of the founders. At his death in Princeton, January 7, 1850, he was one of the recognized leaders of the Presbyterian Church -- a man who was, according to his contemporaries, well termed the "Divine" Miller.

## 33. The Call to New York, 1792.

In the fall of 1791 Miller was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Lewes, Delaware, and the next year received calls from the churches at Dover -- his father's church -- and at New York. Following his decision to accept the call to New York, he delivered at Dover a valedictory address, the manuscript of which was exhibited. [PUL, Miller papers]

"In taking leave of the county I feel all that painful regret which a departure from my native place, added to many other considerations, is calculated to inspire. To bid adieu to a place in which my earliest and strongest attachments are fixed, and to which I am bound by numberless endearing ties, is indeed a melancholy task, which I undertake with peculiar reluctance."

34. "The Boy Minister"

Miller arrived in New York early in 1793 and in June of that year was ordained. He became associated with Dr. John Rodgers and Dr. John McKnight in a collegiate pastorate of the Presbyterian congregations -- the Wall Street, Brick and Rutgers Street Churches. In 1809 the three churches were separated and from that date until 1813 Miller acted as sole pastor of the Wall Street -- now First Presbyterian -- Church.

Because of his youthful appearance, he was known as "the boy minister." An exceptionally energetic and active clergyman, he delivered several long addresses every week and made frequent and prolonged pastoral calls.

a. A Sermon, Preached in New-York, July 4th, 1793. Being the Anniversary of the Independence of America: at the request of the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order. By Samuel Miller, A. M., one of the Ministers of the United Presbyterian Churches, in the City of New-York. New-York - Printed by Thomas Greenleaf. [P96.6468.22]

The subject of the sermon was: "Christianity, the Grand Source, and the Surest Basis, of Political Liberty."

b. A Sermon, delivered May 9, 1798, recommended by the President of the United States, to be observed as a Day of General Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. By Samuel Miller, A. M.... New-York, Printed by T. and J. Swords, 1798. [P96.6468.21]

pp. "Literary Work and Authorship."

Although he took most seriously his pastoral duties, Miller's early inclinations were for "literary work and authorship." As early as 1797 he wrote to the geographer and historian the Rev. Jedidiah Morse to inform him of his intention of collecting materials for a history of the state of New York. In 1798 he had an act passed by the Legislature of the state authorizing him to search the public records without paying the ordinary fees. In 1801 he addressed a memorial to the Legislature stating that he had been making progress on the proposed history and requesting that the Dutch records in the Secretary's office be translated at the state's expense.

Eventually pressure of work forced him to abandon his ambitious project but he did not lose his interest in the history of the state. He was one of the founders of the New-York Historical Society (1804) and delivered in 1809 the main address at the Society's first meeting.

- a. Letter from Governor DeWitt Clinton to Samuel Miller, Albany, January 25, 1798. A.l.s [PUL, Miller papers] (A.L.S. & enclosure)

Clinton encloses a copy of the act authorizing Samuel Miller to search the public records of New York State without paying the ordinary fees. "An Act to encourage the writing of a History of this State. passed January 19th 1798."

- b. Samuel Miller. "A Discourse, designed to commemorate the Discovery of New-York by Henry Hudson; delivered before the New-York Historical Society, September 4th, 1809; being the completion of the second century since that event." In Collections of the New-York Historical Society, for the Year 1809, Vol. I (New York, 1811), pp. [17] -40. [1190.677.5, v.1.]

Miller's address on Hudson was delivered at the first meeting of the New York Historical Society.



36. Samuel Miller. A Sermon, Delivered December 29, 1799; occasioned by the Death of General George Washington, late President of the United States, and Commander-in-chief of the American Armies. New York, printed by T. & J. Swords, 1800. [P96.6468.47]

a. Letter from John Jay to Samuel Miller, Albany, February 28, 1800. A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

John Jay, then Governor of New York, thanks Miller for a copy of the sermon and comments on what he considers certain incorrect ideas contained in it. Such, for instance is Miller's phrase "our glorious Emancipation from Britain....."

37. Edward Miller, M. D. The Medical Works....Collected, and accompanied with a Biographical Sketch of the author by Samuel Miller, D.D. New York, Collins and Co., 1814. [P94.831.019.01]

Edward Miller (1760-1812), an older brother of Samuel Miller, received his M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1789. After practicing medicine in his native Delaware for a number of years, he joined his brother Samuel in New York in 1796 and they lived together until the latter's marriage in 1801. At the time of his death Edward Miller was Professor of the Practice of Physic in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1814 his medical papers were published by his brother.

38. Samuel Miller and Thomas Jefferson

In his younger days Miller was a warm supporter of Jefferson, but later in his life he regretted his early enthusiasm and took pains to make certain that posterity should know of his change of heart.

In 1808 Miller wrote to Jefferson, then President of the United States, suggesting that the latter should appoint a day of fasting and prayer.

Jefferson's reply, dated Washington, January 23, 1808, is a remarkable exposition of the doctrine of separation of Church and State, in which he stated that, "civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States, and no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents."

The original letter from Jefferson to Miller, preserved among the Miller papers in the Princeton/ Library, was shown here.

Also preserved among the Miller papers is a note in Miller's hand, written in 1833, entitled "Respecting Mr. Jefferson's letter of Jan<sup>y</sup> 23, 1808;" -- beginning: "I never can read this letter but with regret & shame...."

It is obvious that Miller wished his 1833 note to be preserved with the Jefferson letter; indeed, one of Miller's descendants has also left with the note a pencilled memorandum stating "It seems very desirable to insert or carefully refer to, along with the Jefferson letters, Dr. Miller's repudiation of all the approving views which he at that time held of him...."

It is significant that Miller's probity as a historian prevented him from destroying the Jefferson letters in his possession. Thus the Library today can show both sides of the controversy: Jefferson's letter, and Miller's recantation.

a. Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Miller, Washington, January 23, 1808. a.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

b. "Respecting Mr. Jefferson's letter of Jan<sup>y</sup> 23, 1808." Note in Miller's hand, ca. 1833. [PUL, Miller papers]

c. Engraved "physiognotrace" portrait of Jefferson, by C. B. Fevret de Saint-Mémin, 1804. In "Gagne-pain d'un exilé aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, de 1793 à 1814," an album of proof prints compiled by the artist, Dijon, 1842. [Greenville Kane Collection, PUL]

## 39. The Episcopal Controversy

In the first decade of the 19th century the Presbyterian Church in New York became involved in a controversy with the Episcopal Church over episcopacy and high churchism. As a staunch Presbyterian, Miller was naturally opposed to the claims of the Episcopal Church and wrote Letters concerning the Constitution and Order of the Christian Ministry (1807) to refute those claims.

Noah Webster (in the letter exhibited) agreed with Miller's opinions as expressed in the Letters but others violently attacked them. Among those attackers was the Rev. John Bowden, of Columbia, who wrote a book "addressed to the Rev. Dr. Miller" entitled The Apostolic Origin of Episcopacy Asserted. From the annotations in Miller's copy of Bowden's book, Miller's unconverted attitude toward the latter's arguments is clearly evident.

Another Episcopal clergyman who attacked Miller's position was Thomas Y. How, of the Princeton Class of 1794.

a. Samuel Miller. Letters concerning the Constitution and Order of the Christian Ministry, as deduced from Scripture and Primitive Usage....New York, Printed by Hopkins and Seymour, 1807. [P96.6468.78]

b. Letter from Noah Webster to Samuel Miller, New Haven, August 10, 1807. A.L.S. [PUL, Miller papers]

Acknowledges copy of Miller's Letters and expresses approval of them.

c. John Bowden. The Apostolic Origin of Episcopacy Asserted, in a series of Letters addressed to the Rev. Dr. Miller. New York, Printed & sold by T. & J. Swords, 1808. 2 vols. [P97.6468.03. Miller's copy with his annotations].

d. Thomas Y. How. Letters addressed to the Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D. in reply to his Letters concerning the Constitution and Order of the Christian Ministry. Utica, Printed by Seward and Williams, 1808. [P94.794.014.02]

40. A Serious Inquiry into the Nature and Effects of the Stage: and a Letter respecting Play Actors. By the Rev. John Witherspoon Also A Sermon, on the Burning of the Theatre at Richmond, &c. By Samuel Miller, D. D. New York, Whiting & Watson, 1812. [P96.9070.53]

Miller, like President Witherspoon, was opposed to the stage. The burning of the theatre in Richmond in December, 1811, when over 70 prominent Virginians lost their lives, was the subject of a sermon by Miller in which he attacked theatrical entertainments.

41. Letter from Samuel Miller to Benjamin Rush, New York, July 16, 1808. (Miller's draft). Benjamin Rush to Samuel Miller, Philadelphia, July 22, 1808. A.1.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

In 1803 Miller was elected to the presidency of Dickinson College, where he himself had studied under the first president, Dr. Charles Nisbet, but declined to accept the office. Exhibited were: Miller's draft of his letter giving his reasons for not accepting the presidency, addressed to Dr. Benjamin Rush, Princeton 1760, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the founders of Dickinson College, and Rush's letter of regret at Miller's decision.

42. Letter from Robert Williams to Samuel Miller, Raleigh, North Carolina, November 25, 1811. A.1.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

Williams, as Secretary, notifies Miller that the University of North Carolina has granted him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. The following year Miller was offered the presidency of the university, an offer which he refused.

43. Letter from Samuel Miller to Jonas Platt et al, trustees of Hamilton College, New York, August 17, 1812. (Miller's draft). [PUL, Miller papers]

Miller informs the trustees of the newly-founded Hamilton College that he regrets the impossibility of accepting the presidency of the college, to which he had been elected.

44. Letter from Thomas C. Searle to Samuel Miller, "Dartmouth University" [Hanover, N. H.], August 29, 1816; and draft of Miller's reply, Princeton, September 7, 1816. [PUL, Miller papers]

It was proposed in 1816 to transform Dartmouth College into a university. The Rev. Thomas C. Searle, an alumnus of the Princeton Theological Seminary and a member of the Dartmouth faculty, was requested to sound out the possibility of Miller's accepting the presidency of the University. Exhibited were Searle's letter to Miller and the latter's draft of his reply, in which he states that he feels that his true duty lies in his professorship at the Seminary.

45. Samuel Miller. Life of Jonathan Edwards, President of the College of New Jersey. In Jared Sparks, ed., The Library of American Biography, Vol. VIII, New York, Harper and Brothers, 1848. [P97.3998.18]

At the request of Jared Sparks, Miller wrote for "The Library of American Biography" a life of Jonathan Edwards, first published in 1837.

a. Letter from Jared Sparks to Samuel Miller, Cambridge, Mass., March 18, 1836. A.1.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

"You may perhaps have seen some notice of a work which I am conducting, entitled 'The Library of American Biography.' Four volumes have been published, and the series will be continued.

Will you allow me to ask, whether you can write for it the Life of President Jonathan Edwards? The subject, as you know, is a very important one, and it is desirable to have it in the best hands...

The pay is one dollar for each printed page. This I mention not as a temptation but merely to show on what footing this part of the business stands...."

This is one of several letters from Jared Sparks in the Miller papers.

46. Selected letters from the Samuel Miller Papers.

The major portion of the correspondence of Samuel Miller is preserved in the Princeton University Library, the gift in 1913 of Miller's granddaughters, the Misses Miller. In the Princeton Library are also many books from Miller's library, including Miller's copies of his own books, presented by the Hon. Breckinridge Long '03, a direct descendant.

The Library of the Theological Seminary has some manuscript material relating to Miller, as well as a good collection of his published writings.

A description of the Samuel Miller Papers, by Prof. Harold S. Jantz, formerly of the Princeton faculty and now at Northwestern University was published in The Princeton University Library Chronicle, Feb. - Apr. 1943, Vol. IV, pp 68-75.

e. Letter from Joseph Brant to Samuel Miller, Grand River, February 9, 1801 a.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

Brant has done his best to answer the queries proposed by Miller, for "I have of myself a strong inclination for searching into the antiquities of our nations and others." He is interested in the "society for diffusing religion and civilization among the Indian nations," and hopes that the society will be able "to assist some Indians who have yet claims on lands in the States."

Joseph Brant (1742-1807), a Mohawk chief, sided with the British in the Revolution and was given the command of Indian troops. After the war he devoted most of his energies to the welfare of the Indians, and translated religious

works into the Mohawk dialect.

b. Letter from James Madison to Samuel Miller, Washington, July 24, 1813.  
A.l.s. [PUL, Miller papers]

President James Madison (Princeton 1771) informs Miller that the second Thursday of September is "to be generally observed as a day of religious solemnity."

c. Letter from John Adams to Samuel Miller, "Montezillo" [Quincy], July 7, 1820. L. s. [PUL, Miller papers]

In the early summer of 1820 Samuel Miller called on President Adams at Quincy, Mass. When he returned to Princeton he wrote to Adams, who was a distant relation, testifying his "profound and filial respect for one of the most illustrious fathers and benefactors" of the country and informing Adams of the general character of the Seminary as to theological doctrine.

In reply (in the letter exhibited, July 7, 1820), Adams states that although descended from Calvinists, and despite the fact that he has never known any better people than the Calvinists, he cannot class himself under that denomination. "My opinions, indeed, on religious subjects ought not to be of any consequence to anybody but myself." "The great result of all my researches" - in the various religions of different countries - "has been a most diffusive and comprehensive charity."

Only the signature of the letter is in the hand of Adams, who was at the time of its writing 85 years of age.

#### 47. Selected Writings from the Pen of Samuel Miller.

Throughout his long and active life Samuel Miller was a prolific writer. The author of over sixty books and pamphlets and of many contributions to books and periodicals, he wrote on such varied subjects as slavery, suicide, novel-reading, education of students for the ministry, free masonry, sea kale,



social amusements, religious fasting, domestic happiness, temperance, and the theatre.

a. Samuel Miller. Memoirs of the Rev. John Rodgers, D.D., late Pastor of the Wall-Street and Brick Churches in the City of New-York. New York, Whiting and Watson, 1813. [P96.6468.15]

b. Samuel Miller. Letters on Unitarianism; addressed to the Members of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of Baltimore. Trenton, George Sherman, 1821. [P96.6468.11]

c. Samuel Miller. A Sermon, preached at Newark, October 22d, 1823, before the Synod of New-Jersey, for the benefit of the African School, under the care of the Synod. Trenton, George Sherman, 1823. [P96.6468.23]

d. Samuel Miller. Christian Weapons not Carnal, but Spiritual. A Sermon, delivered in the Second Presbyterian Church, in the City of Baltimore, October 13, 1826; at the Installation of the Reverend John Breckinridge.... Princeton Press. Printed by D. A. Borrenstein, 1826 [NJI737.826.7]

e. Samuel Miller. "The Importance of a Thorough and Adequate Course of Preparatory Study for the Holy Ministry." In John Breckinridge, ed., The Annual of the Board of Education of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Philadelphia, Russell and Hartien, 1832, Vol. I, [55]- 95 [P96.6468.33]

Facing p. [55] is a portrait of Samuel Miller, "H. Bridport pinxt., M.E.D. Brown delt, Brown's Litho. Phila."

f. C. Villers. An Essay on the Spirit and Influence of the Reformation.... Translated from the French with an introductory essay by Samuel Miller. Philadelphia, Key & Biddle, 1833. [P96.6468.59]



g. Samuel Miller. The Dangers of Education in Roman Catholic Seminaries. A Sermon, delivered by request, before the Synod of Philadelphia, in the City of Baltimore, October 31, 1837; and afterwards in the City of New York, November 26, 1837. Baltimore, Matchett & Neilson, 1838. "Published by Request of the Synod." "First thousand." [P96.6468.46]

h. Samuel Miller. History of the Early Rise of Prelacy. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Education, 1840. [P96.6468.27]

i. Samuel Miller. Memoir of the Rev. Charles Nisbet. D.D., Late President of Dickinson College, Carlisle. New York, Robert Carter, 1840. [P96.6468.14]

j. Samuel Miller. An Address, delivered in the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, N. J. November 24th 1845, on the dedication of a Monument erected to the memory of the Rev. James Caldwell, formerly Pastor of the said Church, who fell by the hand of an assassin, November 24th, 1781. Elizabethtown, Edward Sanderson, 1846. [P95.759.002]

k. Samuel Miller. Thoughts on Public Prayer. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1849. [P96.6468.17]

Presentation copy from Miller to A. Alexander.

Frontispiece is portrait of Miller, engraved by J. Sartain after painting by Geo. Linen.

l. Samuel Miller. The Worship of the Presbyterian Church. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication, n.d. "No. 197." [P96.6468.24]

Extracted from Miller's "Presbyterianism the Truly Primitive and Apostolical Constitution of the Church of Christ."

48. Portrait of Samuel Miller. Oil painting by Thomas Sully. [Lent by the Hon. Breckinridge Long '03]

Sully's portrait was executed in New York in 1812, when Samuel Miller was forty-three, the year before he moved to Princeton.

49. Portrait of Mrs. Samuel Miller (Sarah Sergeant). Oil painting by John Wesley Jarvis. [Lent by the Hon. Breckinridge Long '03]

Painted in New York in 1806, when Mrs. Miller was twenty-eight, a few years after her marriage.

Jarvis' portrait of Mrs. Miller was engraved by John Sartain, of Philadelphia; published in S. Miller [Jr.], The Life of Samuel Miller, Philadelphia, 1869, Vol. I, facing p. 145; and in J. F. Hageman, History of Princeton and Its Institutions, Philadelphia, 1879, Vol. II, facing p. [406].

50. Portrait of Samuel Miller. Oil painting by John Neagle. [Lent by the Princeton Theological Seminary]

Painted in 1841 by Neagle, when Miller was seventy-two.

The painting hangs today in the dining-hall of the new Student Center at the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Neagle's painting of Miller was engraved by John Sartain of Philadelphia; published as a frontispiece to Samuel Miller [Jr.], The Life of Samuel Miller, Philadelphia, 1869, Vol. I.

51. Miniatures of Samuel Miller and Mrs. Miller.

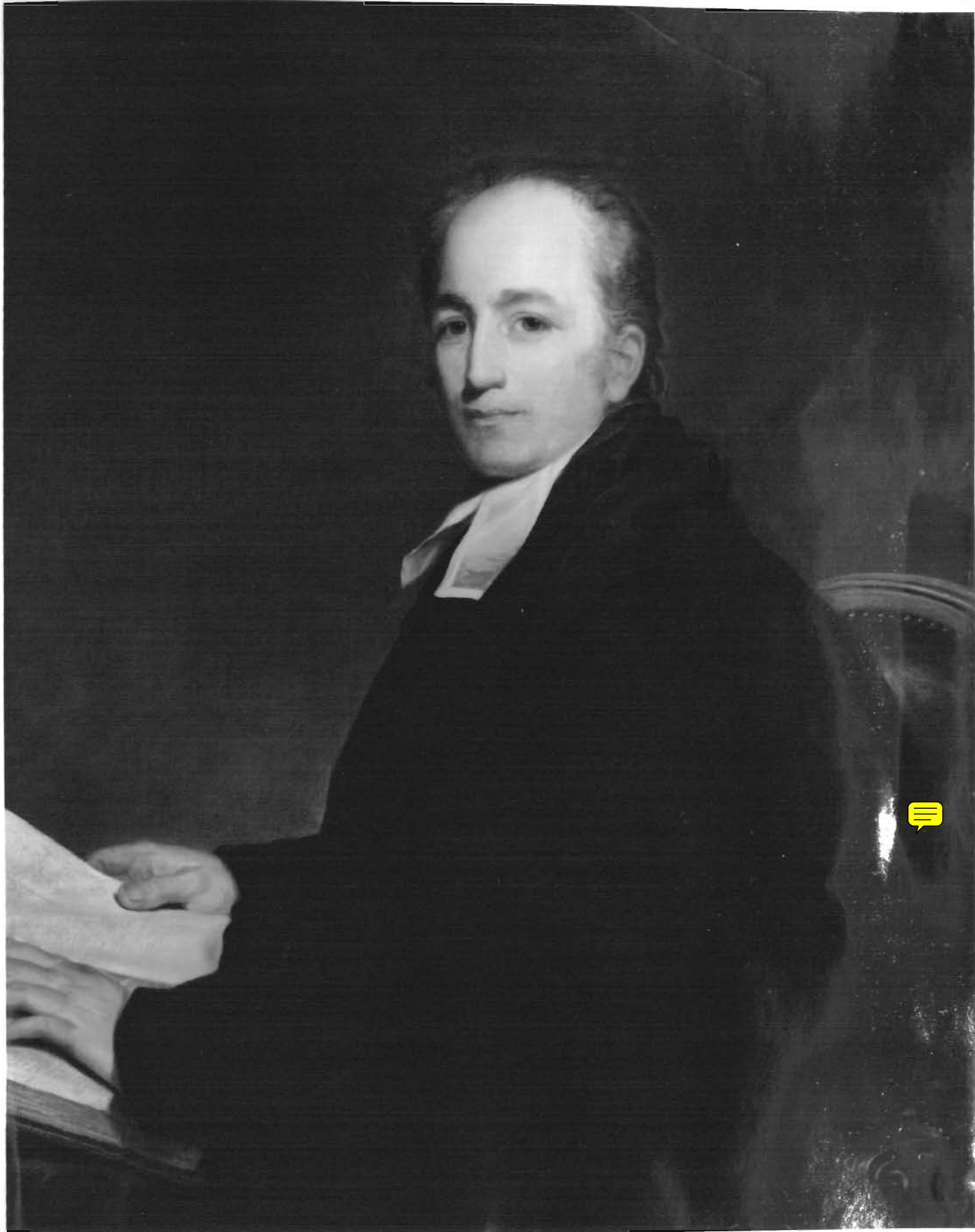
These two miniatures, which came to the attention of the Library staff too late to be included in the exhibition, are the property of

Mr. G. O. D. Sayler, of Plainsboro, New Jersey, who purchased them at the auction of the estate of the Misses Miller in Princeton, in the 1930's.

They are said to have been painted at the time of the marriage of Samuel Miller and Sarah Sergeant, in New York in 1801. Artist not identified. Through the courtesy of Mr. Sayler, photographs of these miniatures have been obtained for the Library's files.

[ For other portraits of Miller --not located-- see the engravings, mentioned above, 47e, 47k. One of these was by H.Bridport, the other by George Linen.]

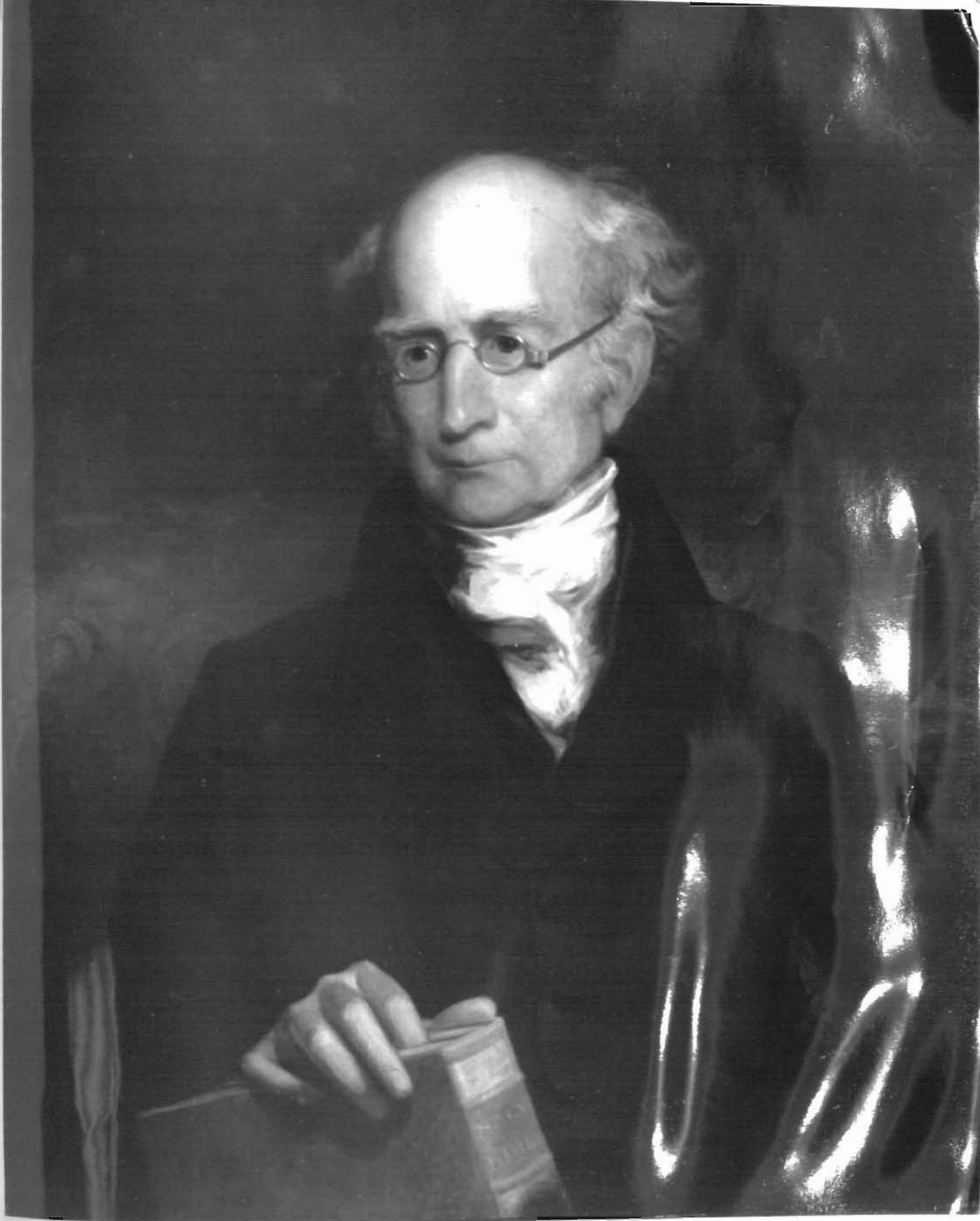
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No. 48. Samuel Miller, by Thomas Sully



No. 49. Mrs. Samuel Miller, by Jarvis



No. 50. Samuel Miller, by Neagle.



No. 52. Miniatures of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Miller



Release: Upon Receipt  
(Mailed April 1, 1953)

FROM: Department of Public Relations  
Princeton University  
(Telephone: Princeton 1-2300  
Extensions 234, 564)

NOTE: We believe that this release will be of interest to your readers.

The 150th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Miller's A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century, described by scholars as a "neglected landmark in American intellectual history", is being commemorated by the Princeton University Library with a public exhibition in its Princetoniana Room. The display opens this weekend and continues through the month of April.

In observing the sesquicentennial of the appearance of this major work, published in New York City in 1803 by T. & J. Swords, the Princeton Library, according to Professor Gilbert Chinard, writing in the current issue of the Princeton University Library Chronicle, is paying long overdue tribute to a "little-known work which might well be considered one of the earliest and most important contributions of America to cultural history."

The Princeton exhibition, although stressing the significance of A Brief Retrospect, also calls attention to Miller's later writings, to his activity as one of the founders of the New York Historical Society and to his long services too in behalf of the Princeton Theological Seminary and of Princeton University. Letters from Miller's contemporaries emphasize the interest for historians of the Miller Papers in the Princeton Library.

One of the notable letters on display is one written by Thomas Jefferson in 1808 in reply to a suggestion from Miller that the President of the United States should appoint a day of fasting and prayer. In this carefully worded reply Jefferson summarized his ideas on the separation of church and state.

"Fasting and prayer," he wrote, "are religious exercises; the enjoining of them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the times for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and this right can never be safer than in their own hands, where the Constitution has deposited it...civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States, and no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents."



At the time he received Jefferson's letter, Miller was an ardent Jeffersonian, although he later bitterly regretted his early enthusiasm. In a note, dated Princeton, June, 1830, Miller wrote, after reading Jefferson's posthumous publication: "I renounce, and wish unsaid and unwritten, everything I ever said or wrote in his (Jefferson's ) favor." Miller's recantation was attached to the Jefferson letters in his possession and is shown in the Princetoniana Room together with the Jefferson missive of 1808.

Also included in this exhibition are a portrait of Miller, painted in 1812 by the celebrated American portrait painter, Thomas Sully, and a companion portrait of Mrs. Miller (Sarah Sergeant) executed in 1806 by John Wesley Jarvis. These have been loaned to the Library from the private collection of one of Miller's direct descendants, the Honorable Breckinridge Long of Laurel, Md., Princeton Class of 1903, this country's Assistant Secretary of State from 1940 until 1944.

Miller (1769-1850) was a native of Dover, Delaware, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in the Class of 1789, who first achieved recognition as a popular "boy minister" in New York City, where he was for 26 years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Wall Street. Miller was a trustee of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) from 1807 until his death in 1850.

In 1813 he moved to Princeton to become second professor of the then newly-founded Theological Seminary and for the rest of his life was closely identified with the life of this community. At one time Miller had five sons in the College and wrote for them and their classmates his Letters from a Father to His Sons in College (Philadelphia, 1843), a popular inspirational book of a century ago. For many years his home was in the house now occupied by the Nassau Club of Princeton, he is buried in the Princeton Cemetery; his name is commemorated in the Miller Chapel on the campus of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Many of Miller's papers, including his voluminous correspondence with famous Americans of his time, were given to the Princeton University Library by his descendants. These manuscripts, as well as collections of Miller's printed writings in the University Library and in the Library of the Princeton Theological Seminary, have been drawn upon for the current exhibition.

Miller's A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century had its starting-point in a sermon that he preached in New York on January 1, 1801. Instead of printing this, as requested by his friends, Miller embarked upon the ambitious "brief" retrospect which was eventually published in two volumes in 1803. Miller's work provides a remarkable and valuable summary of the intellectual achievements of the 18th century, covering the whole range of science, art, literature and education.

SAMUEL MILLER, a trustee of the College of New Jersey from 1807 until his death in 1850, may be emerging as a major intellectual figure of the 19th century. This month the University Library is commemorating the

PRINCETON  
ALUMNI WEEKLY  
April 17, 1953.

## PRINCETON SHOWS JEFFERSON LETTER

Communication Sets Forth His Views on the Separation of the Church and the State

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

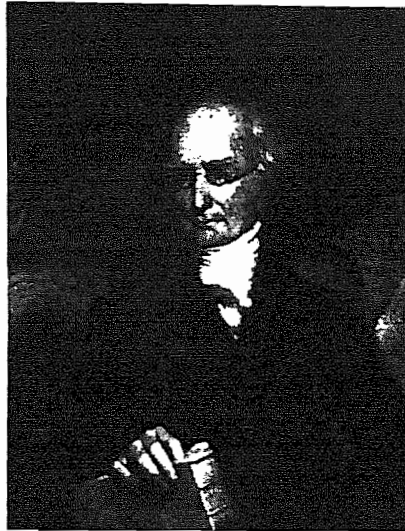
PRINCETON, N. J., April 11—A letter written by Thomas Jefferson during his second term as President, in which he summarized his views on the separation of church and state, is on display here as part of a new exhibit in Princeton University's Firestone Library.

Written in 1803 in response to a suggestion from Samuel Miller, theologian, that Jefferson appoint a day of national fasting and prayer, the reply notes that "civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States, and no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents."

"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining of them an act of discipline," Jefferson wrote. "Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the times for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and this right can never be safer than in their own hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."

At the time he received Jefferson's letter, Mr. Miller, around whom the bulk of the library's Easter exhibit is built, was an ardent supporter of the President. He later regretted his enthusiasm and, in June, 1830, declared: "I renounce, and wish unsaid and unwritten, everything I ever said or wrote in his favor."

This recantation and the Jefferson letter of 1803 are featured parts of the library's display commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mr. Miller's "A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century," which



The Reverend Samuel Miller

150th anniversary of the publication of his *A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century*, characterized by Professor Gilbert Chinard in the current Library Chronicle as "a little-known work which might well be con-

sidered one of the earliest and most important contributions of America to cultural history."

In the Princetoniana Room through the month of April, the Library is exhibiting books, manuscripts and a portrait of Samuel Miller painted in 1812 by Thomas Sully and lent by Miller's direct descendent, Breckinridge Long '03, former Assistant Secretary of State. The display calls attention to Miller's long service to Princeton and to the Theological Seminary, where he taught for many years and whose present chapel is named for him.

The *Brief Retrospect*, published in two volumes in 1803, provides a remarkable and still valuable summary of the intellectual achievements of the 18th century, covering the whole range of science, art, literature and education. Additional volumes, planned to cover theology and politics, were never completed. Although American achievements are naturally stressed, the great merit of the work is that it surveys western culture as a whole, cutting across all national boundaries. In the section devoted to "nations lately become literary," for example, Miller wrote the first American surveys of Russian and of German cultures.

In 1813, Miller moved from New York to Princeton where he lived for the rest of his life. For many of those years he lived in the house now occupied by the Nassau Club. He is buried in the Princeton Cemetery. Though not himself an alumnus of Princeton, at one time he had five sons studying at the College.

was described by Prof. Gilbert Chinard in the current issue of The Princeton University Library Chronicle as a "little-known work which might well be considered one of the earliest and most important contributions of America to cultural history."

Based on a sermon preached by

Mr. Miller on Jan. 1, 1801, in New York, where for twenty-six years he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Wall Street, the work was published in two volumes in 1803 by T. & J. Swords of New York. It provides a summary of the intellectual achievements of the eighteenth century, particularly

in the fields of science, art, literature and education.

For its current display, the university library drew on papers given it by Mr. Miller's descendants, as well as collections of his printed writings in the Firestone Library and in the library of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

APR 5 1953

## Princeton Shows Jefferson Letter

*Special to The Inquirer*

PRINCETON, N. J., April 4.—A letter written by Thomas Jefferson summarizing his views on the separation of Church and State, is on display in a public exhibit in the Princetoniana Room of the Princeton University Library.

The letter, written to Samuel Miller in 1808, while Jefferson was serving his second term in the White House, replied to a suggestion from Miller that he should declare a day of fasting and prayer.

### DISOWNS AUTHORITY

"Fasting and prayer," Jefferson wrote, "are religious exercises; the enjoining of them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets."

Noting that "this right can never be safer than in their own hands, where the Constitution has deposited it," Jefferson stated, "Civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States, and no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents."

The Princeton Library exhibit commemorates the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Miller's 'A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century,' which has been described by scholars as a 'neglected landmark in American intellectual history.'"

The display opened today and will continue through the rest of April.

At the time he received Jefferson's letter, Miller was an ardent Jeffersonian, although he later bitterly regretted his earlier enthusiasm. Included in the display is a note, dated Princeton, June, 1830, in which he wrote:

"I renounce, and wish unsaid and unwritten, everything I ever said or wrote in his (Jefferson's) favor."

### GRADUATE OF U. OF P.

Miller, a native of Dover, Del., was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, class of 1789. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on Wall st., New York, for 26 years and a trustee of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) from 1807 until his death in 1850.

In 1813 he moved to Princeton to become second professor of the then newly founded Princeton Theological Seminary and for the rest of his life was closely connected with the Princeton community. He is buried in the Princeton Cemetery and his name is commemorated in the Miller Chapel of the seminary.

## Samuel Miller, Early Seminary Professor, Is Subject of Firestone Library Exhibit

Material relating to Dr. Samuel Miller, who was the second professor appointed by Princeton Theological Seminary, will be on exhibition in the Firestone Library of Princeton University until the middle of May.

The occasion for the exhibition is the 150th anniversary of the publication of his "A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century," described by scholars as a "neglected landmark in American intellectual history."

In observing the sesquicentennial of the appearance of this survey of western cultures, published in New York City in 1803 by T. & J. Swords, the Firestone Library, according to Professor Gilbert Chinard, writing in the current issue of the "Princeton University Library Chronicle," is paying long overdue tribute to a "little-known work which might well be considered one of the earliest and most important contributions of America to cultural history."

The exhibition also calls attention to Miller's later writings, to his activity as one of the founders of the New York Historical Society and to his long services in behalf of the Princeton Theological Seminary and of Princeton University. Letters from Miller's contemporaries emphasize the interest for historians of the Miller Papers in the Princeton Library.

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University of Pennsylvania in the Class of 1789, who first achieved recognition as a popular "boy minister" in New York City, where he was for 26 years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Wall Street. He was a trustee of the College of New Jersey, later Princeton University, from 1807 until his death in 1850.

In 1813 he moved to Princeton to accept his Seminary appointment. For many years his home was in the house now occupied by the Nassau Club. His name is commemorated in the Miller Chapel of the Seminary.

Many of Miller's papers, including his voluminous correspondence with leading Americans of his time, were given to the Princeton University Library by his descendants. These manuscripts, as well as collections of Miller's printed writings in the University Library and in the library of the Princeton Theological Seminary, have been drawn upon for the current exhibition.

The Princeton Herald  
May 2, 1953.