

Monrovia, New York City,
September 19, 1881

My dear Sir:

Your note of 17th inst. is before me; and, in reply, I beg to say that both the entries referred to are correct.

My paper on "The Park and its Vicinity", published in the "Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York" for 1855, was my first attempt to write a line of history, on any subject; but it attracted the particular attention of Deacon Valentine and Mr. Wm. J. Davis, while it was passing through the Press. I was not, then, known beyond the next corner, and none of the book-men had heard of me; but my friend, Davis, conceived the idea of changing the pagination of my paper and that of one he wrote for the same volume, and of having twenty-five copies worked of, with

unintended copy of Anthony's 'Hymnbook' 800
a special title-page, purely for private circula-
tion, mainly among his friends, although my
wife and two or three of my friends received
copies. Thus, Mr. Menzies, who was and is my
friend of many years standing, received his
copy of the original independent tract.

Subsequently, but I do not remember
at whose suggestion, it was determined to re-
page the entire collection of historical papers
which were in the Manual of 1855, and to
print them in an independent volume, in
an edition of fifty copies and with the title
page which your copy bears; and these copies, al-
so, went mainly into Mr. Davis's hands, and
were used by him, among his book-friends.

But the end was not here. The histor-
ical papers which appeared in the Manual
for 1856 were paged in continuation of what
had been done in 1855, making, together, a
pretty thick book; but I have grave doubts
about these additional sheets reaching, in all
cases, those who had received the earlier portion

and, consequently, I imagine a large proportion ⁽³⁾ of the first fifty remain imperfect. Mr. Davis was inclined to be indolent; and as there was no one behind him, to push these sheets out, I am sure many of them never went. You can tell how complete your copy is, by comparing it with the Mammals of 1855 and '56.

But the end was not here. The historical portions of the Mammals of 1857 and '58 were also re-paged and re-worked, in a few copies, making a second volume of "Reminiscences of the City of N.Y. and its vicinity"; but of this, I fancy very few copies were issued - possibly only ^{as} few were printed; but it was Mr. Davis's affair, in which I took no part. I remember I had to make quite an effort to secure my own copy of it; and when he died, there was quite a quantity of the sheets in his closet.

You will understand that Mr. Davis gave Mr. Valentine a great deal of help in getting up the Mammal, for which he asked no other recompense, and received none, except what he

received, at the cost of the City's increased bills, in the form of these sheets and of extra copies of Maps and Engravings used in the Manual; and his library was helped by his exchanges of what he thus received.

If you have only one volume, your set is not complete; and it may be that you have only one half of what is really the first volume. As I said, you can easily ~~tell~~^{ascertain} the condition, by comparing it with the Manuals of 1855 to 1858.

I know Mr. Woodward, of whom you write; but we have no dealings with each other. We are not of the same kind of animal; and so we do not associate with each other.

You give Sabin too much credit for the Menzies Catalogue. Mr. Menzies, himself, was the master-spirit of that Catalogue. Sabin was not able to make a respectable Catalogue, and, therefore, he never made one which was respectable.

I hope you will understand my narrative, for I have written in a hurry.

Yours, Truly,

J. Woods Poiries, Esq

Henry B. Lawson