



WHAT THEY WERE READING...(in 1786)

What better way to get a sense of public thoughts and sentiments than to have a look over what people are or were reading? The following list consists of some titles, drawn from volume seven of Charles Evans' (1850-1935) indispensable catalog of early national literature [*American Bibliography: 1639-1820*](#), of what was on the shelves of American bookstores in the year 1786. The *Cambridge History of American Literature*, vol. III we might note states that James Buckland's *An Account of the Discovery of a Hermit, Who Lived about 200 Years in a Cave at the Foot of a Hill, 73 Days Journey Westward of the Great Alleghany Mountains* was "probably the best domestic seller of 1786."

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* AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT MANCHESTER, [NH] IN THE PRESENCE OF THE OFFICERS AND BRETHREN OF THE NORTH STAR LODGE ON THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, THE 29TH OF DECEMBER, 1785. By ONE OF THE BRETHREN.
Bennington, Vermont, Printed by Hastnell & Russell, 1786. pp. 17. 12mo.

* NEW SENTIMENTS, DIFFERENT FROM ANY YET PUBLISHED, UPON THE DOCTRINE OF UNIVERSAL SALVATION, AS CONNECTED WITH DOCTRINES GENERALLY APPROVED. REMARKS UPON THE FORCE OF DIVINE REVELATION. A GENERAL VIEW OF ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY COMPARED WITH MODERN. A SKETCH OF CHURCH HISTORY, AND RELIGION OF NATIONS. BY ADELLOS. [Two lines from] MEN OF ATHENS.
Providence: Printed by Bennett Wheeler. 1786. pp. [62], (61-68). 8vo.

* THE ADVENTURES OF A HACKNEY COACH.
Philadelphia : Printed and sold by Enoch Story, 1786.

* ADVICE FROM A LADY OF QUALITY TO HER CHILDREN; IN THE LAST STAGE OF A LINGERING ILLNESS. TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY S. GLASSE, D. D. F. R. 8. CHAPLAIN IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.
Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Young and M'Culloch, corner of Second and Chesnut-Streets. 1786. 2 vols. in one.

* SELECT FABLES OF AESOP AND OTHER FABULISTS. IN THREE BOOKS. CONTAINING FABLES FROM THE ANCIENTS, FABLES FROM THE MODERNS, in. ORIGINAL FABLES, NEWLY INVENTED. BY ROBERT DODSLEY.

* "PARADISE LOST." A NEW EDITION.
Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Joseph Crukshank, in Market-Street, between Second and Third-Streets. MDCCCLXXXVI. pp. 228, (1), frontispiece. 12mo. AAS.

- * A CONCISE DISCANT ON THE BEAUTIES OF THE SCRIPTURES. BY J. ALLEN, D. D. WITH THE REMARKABLE CONVERSION OF THE REV. MR. HART.
Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Enoch Story, 1786.
- * A SERMON, DELIVERED THE NEXT SABBATH AFTER THE SUDDEN DEATH OF ELIPHALET KIMBALL, . . . WHO WAS DROWNED IN MERRIMACK RIVER, OCTOBER 24, 1785.
Newbury-Port : Printed by John Mycall. 1786.
- * CHRIST IN THE CLOUDS COMING TO JUDGMENT; OR THE DISSOLUTION OF ALL THINGS. BY THE REV. ISAAC AMBROSE.
Boston: Printed and sold at John Boyle's Printing-Office, Marlborough- Street. [1786.] pp. 15. 16mo. AAS.
- * AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE. VOLUME II.
Philadelphia : Printed and sold by Robert Aitken, at Pope's Head in Market-Street. M.DCC.LXXXVI. pp. xxxii, 397, (10), plates, chart. 4to. AAS. Plates engraved by James Poupard. The Chart of the Gulf Stream is accompanied by Remark, by Dr. Franklin.
- * THE AMERICAN PRICE-CURRENT, CONTAINING THE MARKET PRICE OF EVERY COMMODITY; ALSO, DUTIES, DRAWBACKS, PRICE OF AMERICAN STOCKS, MARINE LIST, SHIP NEWS, SALES AT AUCTION, PREMIUMS OF INSURANCE, COURSE OF EXCHANGE WITH EUROPE, &c., &c., WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION. THE WHOLE REGULATED BY THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL BROKERS AND FACTORS. NO. 1. MONDAY, MAY 1, [No. 14. MONDAY, JULY 31, 1786.]
New-York: Printed by Francis Childs, 1786. Sm. fol.
- * ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC, CONTAINING SOME REMARKS ON THE PRESENT POLITICAL STATE OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICKS, &C. BY AMICUS REPUBLICS.
December 4, 1786. Exeter : Printed and sold by Lamson and Ranlet, at their office, near the Treasurer's. [1786.] pp. [36.] 12mo. HC. LOC. NYPL.
- * A MIRROR, REPRESENTING SOME RELIGIOUS CHARACTERS OF THE PRESENT TIMES. BY MR. JOHN ANDERSON. [One line from] PHILIP, n. 21.
Philadelphia: Printed by Young, Stewart and M'Culloch, the corner of Chesnut and Second-Streets. M.DCC.LXXX.VI. pp. (2), (2), 59. 8vo. AAS. CLS.
- * ANDREWS'S SOUTH-CAROLINA AND GEORGIA ALMANACK AND EPHEMERIS, FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1787, BEING THE 3^o AFTER BISSEXTILE OR LEAP YEAR.
Savannah: [Printed at Nassau, New-Providence, by John Wells.] Sold at the Printing-Office by N. Johnston, [1786.]
- * AN ORATION DELIVERED JULY 4, 1786, AT THE REQUEST OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON, IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. BY JONATHAN L. AUSTIN, ESQ.
Boston: Printed by Peter Edes. [1786.] pp. 19. 4to. AAS. BA. LOC.
- * THE VIRGINIA ALMANACK, FOR THE YEAR 1787. BEING THE THIRD AFTER BISSEXTILE OR LEAP YEAR. CALCULATED ACCORDING TO ART, AND WILL ANSWER EITHER VIRGINIA OR NORTH-CAROLINA.
Richmond: Printed by Augustine Davis. [1786.] pp. (36). 18mo. VSL.
- * PLAY-BILL OF ISABELLA; AND THE LIAR. As PERFORMED BY THE OLD AMERICAN COMPANY AT ANNAPOLIS, [MD] DECEMBER, 5, 1786.
[Annapolis: Printed by F. and 8. Green, 1781.] Broadside.
- * GRAMMATICAL INSTITUTES: OR AN EASY INTRODUCTION TO DR. LOWTH'S ENGLISH GRAMMAR: DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS, AND TO LEAD YOUNG GENTLEMEN AND LADIES, INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. BY JOHN ASH, L. L. D.
New-York: Printed and sold by Shepard Kollock, 1786.

* OBSERVATIONS ON THE PERNICIOUS PRACTICE OF THE LAW. PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY IN THE INDEPENDENT CHRONICLE. BY HONESTUB.

Boston: Printed by Adams and Nourse, in Court-Street. M,DCC,LXXXVI.

* A SHORT TREATISE ON RICE MACHINERY; WITH A SCHEDULE OF THE EXPENSE. ALSO, THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUMPS. WITH PROPER TABLES, &C. BY J. B. ESQ; OF SOUTH-CAROLINA, 1786.

Charleston: Printed by Bowen and Markland? 1786.

* PLAY-BILL OF THE WONDER; AND THE DEUCE is IN HIM. SEPTEMBER 11, 1786.

[Baltimore: Printed by John Hayes 1786.] Broadside.

* DOCTOR WATTS'S IMITATION OF THE PSALMS OF DAVID, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED. BY JOEL BARLOW. To WHICH IS ADDED A COLLECTION OF HYMNS; THE WHOLE APPLIED TO THE STATE OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN GENERAL. THE SECOND EDITION. LUKE xxiv.

Hartford: Printed by [Barlow and Babcock Hudson and Goodwin, and Nathaniel Patten. [With the privilege of copy-right.]] [1786.]

* A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY OF A HERMIT! AND A MOST REMARKABLE NARRATIVE OF A CITIZEN OF LONDON, WHO LEFT HIS NATIVE COUNTRY ON ACCOUNT OF BEING CONNECTED WITH A NOBLEMAN'S DAUGHTER, AND SAILED IN A SHIP BOUND FOR ITALY; GIVING ALSO A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF HIS BEING BY MISFORTUNE SHIPWRECKED AND CAST ON THE AMERICAN SHORE IN THE YEAR 1580, AND LATELY FOUND WELL IN A CAVE BACK OF THE VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS, AGED TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS, BY CAPT. JAMES BUCKLAND AND MR. JOHN FIELDING, TWO GENTLEMEN WHO IN JUNE, 1785, WERE RECONNOITERING THE BACK COUNTRY. CONTAINING ALSO A DETAIL OF THE TIME AND MANNER OF HIS COMING THERE; HIS WAY OF LIVING, &c.

[Boston : Printed by Ezekiel Russell and] Sold at the Office near Liberty Pole; where may be had, A Wonderful account of the death and burial of the above Hermit. [1786.] Broadside, fol. AAS.

* THE SEAMAN'S JOURNAL. BEING AN EASY AND CORRECT METHOD OF KEEPING THE DAILY RECKONING OF A SHIP DURING THE COURSE OF HER VOYAGE.

New-York: Printed and sold by Hugh Gaine, 1786.

* A SURPRIZING THOUGH TRUE ACCOUNT, OF THE STRANGE & WICKED LIFE, AND THE HAPPY CONVERSION, OF PHOEBE FIELDING, OF THE CITY OF LONDON, SHEWING THE ILL CONSEQUENCES OF BAD COMPANY TO YOUNG WOMEN, AND THE BAD TENDENCY OF THE CONDUCT OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS, IN DISCARDING DAUGHTERS OR RELATIONS, FOR ACCIDENTAL DEVIATIONS FROM THE PATHS OF VIRTUE. WRITTEN BY HERSELF. PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE YEAR 1785, BY PARTICULAR ORDER, AND AT THE PRIVATE EXPENCE OF THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN LONDON; AND BY THEM EARNESTLY RECOMMENDED TO THE PERUSAL OF CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS. [Signed, Phoebe Catherines.]

Re-printed in Bennington, in the State of Vermont, by Hancell & Russell, in the year of our Lord, M,DCC,LXXXVI. pp. 12. 12mo. AAS.

* THE CATHOLICK CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTED IN THE SACRAMENTS, SACRIFICE, CEREMONIES, AND OBSERVANCES OF THE CHURCH. BY THE LATE RT. REV. R. CHALLONER, D. D.

Philadelphia: Printed by and for C. Talbot, in Front-Street, Editor of Reeve's History of the Bible, 1786. pp. (4), 264. 12mo. AAS.

* GOD ADMONISHING HIS PEOPLE OF THEIR DUTY, AS PARENTS AND MASTERS. A SERMON, PREACHED AT NEW-LONDON, DECEMBER 20TH, 1786. OCCASIONED BY THE EXECUTION OF HANNAH OCUISH, A MULATTO GIRL, AGED 12 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS, FOR THE MURDER OF EUNICE BOLLES, AGED 6 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS. BY HENRY CHANNING, M. A.

New-London: Printed by T. Green. M,DCC,LXXXVI. pp. [31.] 8vo. AAS.

* CHILD'S DAILY PRESENT.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by W. Spotswood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* CHILD'S PLAY THING, OH EASY SPELLING.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by W. Spotswood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* CHILD'S POCKET COMPANION.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by W. Spotswood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* CHRISTMAS RHYME, ON SWING SWANQ, &C.

Philadelphia: Printed and told by W. Spotswood, in front-Street, 1786.

* A CIRCUMSTANTIAL NARRATIVE OF THE LOSS OF THE HALSEWELL, EAST-INDIAMAN, CAPT. RICHARD PIERCE, WHICH WAS UNFORTUNATELY WRECKED AT SEACOMB, IN THE ISLE OF PURBECK, ON THE COAST OF DORSETSHIRE, ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1786. WITH HER WERE LOST TWO HUNDRED SOULS.

Springfield: Printed and sold by Stebbins and Russell? 1786.

* AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MAKING OF LATIN. COMPOSING, AFTER AN EASY COMPENDIOUS METHOD, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LATIN SYNTAX, WITH PROPER ENGLISH EXAMPLES, MOST OF THEM TRANSLATIONS FROM THE CLASSICS AUTHORS, IN ONE COLUMN, AND THE LATIN WORDS IN ANOTHER. To WHICH IS SUBJOINED, IN THE SAME METHOD, A SUCCINCT ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME, INTENDED AT ONCE TO BRING BOYS ACQUAINTED WITH HISTORY, AND THE IDIOM OF THE LATIN TONGUE. WITH RULES FOR THE GENDER OF NOUNS. BY JOHN CLARKE, LATE MASTER OF THE PUBLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN HULL. THE FIRST WORCESTER EDITION; CAREFULLY CORRECTED; AND DILIGENTLY REVISED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH LONDON EDITION.

Printed at Worcester, Massachusetts by Isaiah Thomas, . . . MDCC- LXXXVI. pp. xii, 276. 12mo. AAS. LOC.

* AN ESSAY ON THE SLAVERY AND COMMERCE OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, PARTICULARLY THE AFRICAN. TRANSLATED FROM A LATIN DISSERTATION, WHICH WAS HONoured WITH THE FIRST PRIZE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, FOR THE YEAR 1785, WITH ADDITIONS. [One line of Latin from] LIVY.

London, Printed: Philadelphia: lie-printed by Joseph Crukshank, in Market-Street, between Second and Third-Streets. MDCCLXXXVI

* A COPY OF A LETTER, WRITTEN BY OUR BLESSED LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, AND FOUND UNDER A GREAT STONE, 65 YEARS AFTER HIS CRUCIFIXION.

London, Printed: Botton, He-printed and told [by John Boyle] at the Printing-Office in Marlborough-Street. [1786.] pp. 8. 16mo. AAS.

* THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF COCK ROBIN; WITH THE TRAGICAL DEATH OF A. APPLE PYE.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by W. Spotswood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* TRAVELS OF ROBINSON CRUSOE. WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

Worcester, Massachusetts, Printed by Isaiah Thomas, MDCCLXXXVI.

* A BRIEF AND REMARKABLE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE AND EXTREME SUFFERINGS OF BARNABAS DOWNS, JUN. WHO WAS AMONG THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ESCAPED DEATH ON BOARD THE PRIVATEER BRIG ARNOLD, JAMES MAYER, COMMANDER, WHICH WAS CAST AWAY NEAR PLYMOUTH-HARBOUR, IN A MOST TERRIBLE SNOW-STORM, DECEMBER 26, 1778, WHEN MORE THAN SIXTY PERSONS WERE FROZEN TO DEATH. CONTAINING ALSO A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF SAID SHIPWRECK.

[Boston:] Printed by E. Russell, for the Author, 1786. pp. 16. 16mo. AAS.

* THE FAIRING; OR, GOLDEN TOY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL SIZES AND DENOMINATIONS, IN WHICH THEY CAN SEE ALL THE FUN IN THE FAIR, AND AT HOME BE AS HAPPY AS IF THEY WERE THERE. A BOOK OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Philadelphia : Printed and sold by W. Spots-wood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* A FAITHFUL NARRATIVE OF ELIZABETH WILSON, WHO WAS EXECUTED AT CHESTER, JANUARY 30, 1786, CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF HER TWIN INFANTS. CONTAINING SOME ACCOUNT OF HER DYING SAYINGS; WITH SOME SERIOUS REFLECTIONS. DRAWN UP AT THE REQUEST OP A FRIEND

* A FEW SALUTARY HINTS, POINTING OUT THE POLICY AND CONSEQUENCES OF ADMITTING BRITISH SUBJECTS TO ENGROSS OUR TRADE AND BECOME OUR CITIZENS. ADDRESSED TO THOSE WHO EITHER RISQUED OR LOST THEIR ALL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE REVOLUTION. [Six lines from] ECCLESIASTICUS, CHAP. xn. VERSE

Charleston: Printed by Surd and Haswell, 1786. pp. 10. 12mo.

* THE FOLLOWING ODE, ON THE BIRTH-DAY OF HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON, CELEBRATED BY THE ADOPTED SONS, AT THE PENNSYLVANIA COFFEE-HOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA, WAS COMPOSED BY A MEMBER OP THE SOCIETY.

Philadelphia: Printed by M. Carey and Co. in Front-Street. 1786.

* THE NEW-YORK DIRECTORY. CONTAINING, A VALUABLE AND WELL CALCULATED ALMANACK; TABLES OF THE DIFFERENT COINS, SUITABLE FOR ANY STATE, AND DIGESTED IN SUCH ORDER, AS TO RENDER AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN ANY OF THE UNITED STATES PLAIN AND EASY. LIKEWISE, 1. THE NAMES OF ALL THE CITIZENS, THEIR OCCUPATIONS AND PLACES OF ABODE. 2. THE MEMBERS IN CONGRESS, FROM WHAT STATE, AND WHERE RESIDING. 3. GRAND DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ADJUSTING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, AND BY WHOM CONDUCTED. 4. MEMBERS IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, FHOM WHAT COUNTY, AND WHERE RESIDING. 5. JUDGES, ALDERMEN, AND OTHER CIVIL OFFICERS, WITH THEIR PLACES OF ABODE. 6. PUBLIC STATE-OFFICERS, AND BY WHOM KEPT. 7. COUNSELLORS AT LAW, AND WHERE RESIDING. 8. MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, WHERE RESIDING AND OF WHAT CHURCH. 9. PHYSICIAN, SURGEONS, AND THEIR PLACES OF ABODE. 10. PRESIDENT, DIRECTORS, DAYS, AND HOURS OF BUSINESS AT THE BANK. 11. PROFESSORS, &c. OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE. 12. RATES OF POSTAGE, AS BY LAW ESTABLISHED. 13. ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF THE MAILS AT THE POST-OFFICE. BY DAVID FRANKS.

New-York: Printed by Shepard Kollock, corner of Wall and Water Streets, M,DCC,LXXX,VI.

* THE POEMS OF PHILIP FRENEAU. WRITTEN CHIEFLY DURING THE LATE WAR.

Philadelphia: Printed by Francis Bailey, at Yorick's Head, in Market- Street. MDCCLXXXVI. pp. vii, (1), 407. 8vo. BM. BPL. HSP. JOB. LOC. MHS. Reprinted in London in 1861.

* THE HISTORY OF LITTLE GOODY TWO-SHOES;¹ OTHERWISE CALLED MRS. MARGERY TWO-SHOES. WITH THE MEANS BY WHICH SHE ACQUIRED HER LEARNING AND WISDOM, AND IN CONSEQUENCE THEREOF HER ESTATE. SET FORTH AT LARGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO FROM A STATE OF RAGS AND CARE, AND HAVING SHOES BUT HALF A PAIR; TITLES FORTUNE AND THEIR FAME WOULD FIX, AND GALLOP IN A COACH AND SIX. SEE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE VATICAN AT ROME, AND THE CUTS BY MICHAEL ANGELO. ILLUSTRATED WITH THE COMMENTS OF OUR GREAT MODERN CRITICS.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by W. Spotswood, in Front-Street, 1786.

* THE HISTORY OF LITTLE KING PIPPIN, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE MELANCHOLY DEATH OF FOUR NAUGHTY BOYS, WHO WERE DEVoured BY WILD BEASTS.

Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Young, Stewart and McCulloch, the corner of Chesnut and Second-Street, 1786.

* THE HISTORY OF THE HOLY JESUS, CONTAINING A BRIEF AND PLAIN ACCOUNT OF His BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN; AND HIS COMING AGAIN AT THE CHEAT AND LAST DAY OF JUDGMENT. BEING A PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE COMPANION FOR CHILDREN; COMPOSED ON PURPOSE FOR THEIR USE. BY A LOVER OF THEIR PRECIOUS SOULS. THE FIRST WORCESTER EDITION. Worcester, (Massachusetts) Printed by Isaiah Thomas

* A DISCOURSE ON THE CAUSES OF NATIONAL PROSPERITY, ILLUSTRATED BY ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY, EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LATE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. ADDRESSED TO THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI, IN THE STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND, AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING AT EAST-GREENWICH, JULY 4, 1786. BY ENOS HITCHCOCK, A. M. OF PROVIDENCE. [One line of Latin from] VIRGIL.

Providence: Printed by Bennett Wheeler. [1786.] pp.28. 8vo. AAS. BA.

¹ Commonly believed to have been written by Oliver Goldsmith.

William Thomas Sherman, www.gunjones.com

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