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Brown and his Clubs 1790-6

12

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BROWN AND HIS [redacted] CLUBS

[redacted] 1790-6

At several times of his early life Brown ~~appears to have become~~ was a charter member of clubs organized primarily for ~~the~~ intellectual ~~stimulus,~~ purposes. ~~which they might afford to their members.~~ He found plenty of precedent for ~~such clubs~~ them, most of the English authors whom he read ~~such as Goldsmith in his Citizen of the World,~~ having been members or organizers; ~~of author's clubs or similar associations;~~ ~~however~~ in fact there were so many notable examples the immediate one that suggested the idea to Brown cannot be definitely ascertained. The Philological society, the earliest known to us, was in existence at Proud's school and the members of it were celebrated by the juvenile verses addressed to them by Brown. It should not be confused with the New York one of the same name, which had Noah Webster as its distinguishing member.

~~An account of~~ The various clubs to which ~~he~~ Brown belonged about 1790 to 1796 ~~is necessary and important because they~~ show ~~our author's~~ his life in a new light, ~~that has not received the attention it deserves.~~ They brought him into more or less intimacy with a varied circle, ~~of acquaintances,~~ most of them college graduates, whose ~~greatest~~ activities were in the ~~most~~ important walks of life of the time. Such an active member as Brown, could hardly have been the retired and obscure man that many writers would have us believe he was.

Brown's idea of a club is very well suggested in the third chapter of Wieland. He says:

> "Some agitation and concussion is requisite to the due exercise of human understanding,"

and as we follow his career as a member of these various clubs we shall see that he found plenty of ~~both stimuli to~~ intell~~igence~~ectual stimulus and pleasure. ~~in fact~~ One of the clubs, the Friendly, proved particularly of interest and value to him. According to ~~his wife's~~ the memoir ~~to~~ of the 1827 Boston Wieland ~~he~~ ~~"frequently mentions, in his journal, the pleasure and advantage he derived from it."~~

Although he did not continue actively a member of any one organization all during his life, his interest appears to have never lagged so that his ~~dissemination of~~ information on the subject may even be found in ~~the first volume of~~ his Monthly Magazine[2] where he extracts from a London periodical an Account of a literary club at Lima entitled the Philharmonics and in his Literary Magazine[3] where he gives the rules for Franklin's Junto. ~~club~~

The Law Society to which Brown belonged and of which he was the acknowledged leader has been fully noticed in our ~~account~~ biographical study of the early days of 1788. It is only necessary to mention here that it was a Philadelphia organization.

~~1 P.M.~~ 2 Vol. I, p. 140 ff. 3 Vol. IV, p. 413.

The next club to which he belonged was the Belles Lettres Club, sometimes referred to as the Rhetorical Society or the Literary Society. An account of it and its members may be found in our biographical study of the year 1788. Like the Law Society it was a Philadelphia organization.

We have seen in our biographical study of the year 1792 that there was in Philadelphia a Society for the Attainment of Useful Knowledge to which Brown in his twenty-first year belonged. There were five other members in the club,as follows.

Joseph Bringhurst was as we know one of the most important of Brown's correspondents and his intimacy with Brown is shown in the course of many remarkable letters which our author addressed to him during these important years. At this time Bringhurst was twenty-five years old. He had received what was then called a liberal education and was a zealous student of medicine. His interests besides those of his profession were in public affairs. Later he was a Clerk of the borough of Wilmington and postmaster under Jefferson,Madison and Monroe. His friendships included Dickinson of Farmer's Letters fame,Robert Fulton the inventor who painted his portrait reproduced in the biographical part of our work and Cowper the poet with whom he corresponded. He lived

to be sixty-seven years old. Other details of his life may be found ~~in our editorial part of~~ with Brown's letters to him ~~as given~~ in the biographical part of our studies.

Thomas Cope[1] was at this time twenty-four years old, had been two years in the shipping business, had married Mary Drinker in 1792 and in 1793 was one of those who remained in the city to nurse the victims of the yellow fever, finally taking the disease himself. He was ~~mentioned as~~ a friend of Wilkins, ~~in the memoir of Wilkins~~.[2] His later life carried him high in the ~~public life of the~~ city and state and his educational interests lead him to a directorship of Girard College and the presidential office of the Mercantile Library Association. He lived to be eighty-six years old. In a letter dated 11 July 1796 Brown mentions that he had a daughter.[3] Aside from the club his shipping business was a particularly strong bond in common with Brown.

One of the Ferris family was a member of this little circle but which one is not definitely known. Because of the disparity of their ages he probably was not Ziba whose daughter ~~was~~ married ~~to~~ Joseph Bringhurst. He may ~~however~~ have been the Dr. Isiah mentioned in Brown's

1 A deed signed by him ~~may be found~~ in Elizabeth Drinker's Journal Philadelphia 1889, p.357. See also Correspondence of Nicholas Biddle Boston 1919, pp.285-9.

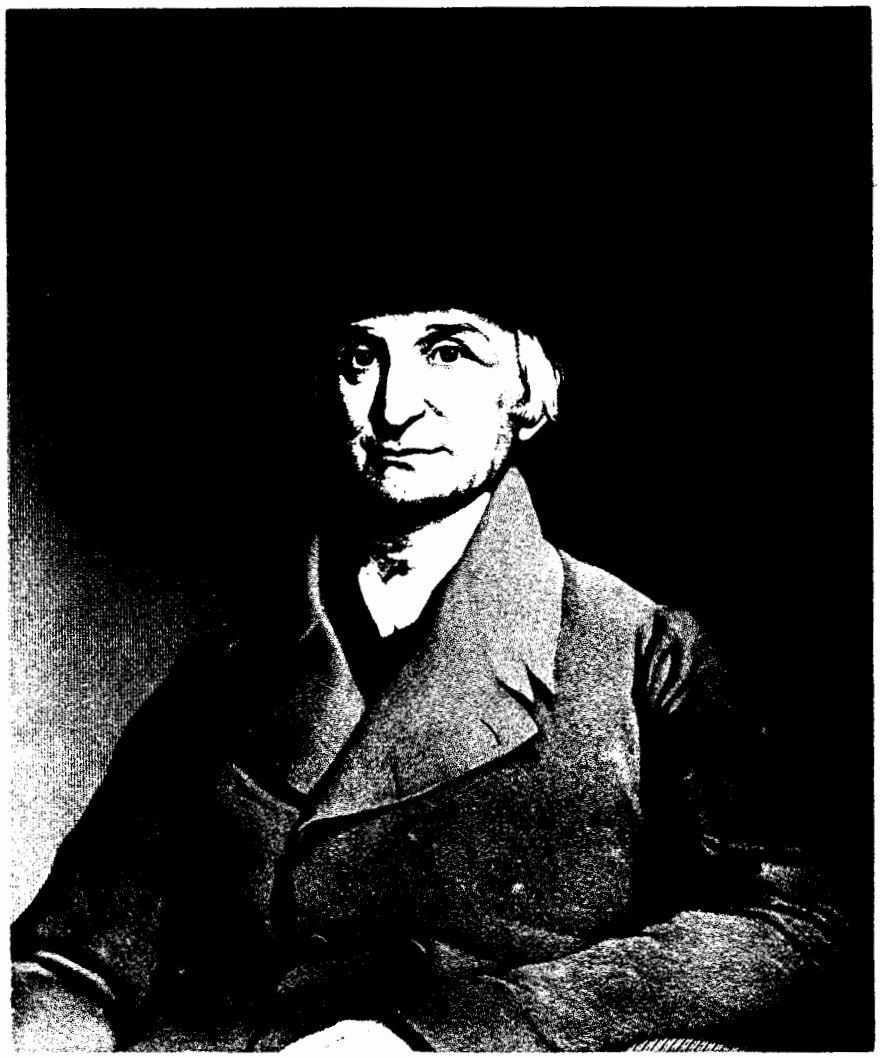
~~2 P. 45.~~ 3 Caroline R., born 10 June.

letter dated 1 January 1796; but more ~~probably~~ likely he was Benjamin—son of David F. mentioned in John Churchman's journal, author of the Early Settlements on the Delaware, who was at this time twenty-five years old, a watchmaker of Philadelphia and Clerk of the Philadelphia meeting of Friends. Perhaps the trade he followed was the origin of the watchmaker's scene of Brown's Jane Talbot. He is mentioned in Brown's letter dated 11 June 1793, and in two other letters of about the same date. A Benjamin Ferris married Brown's aunt Hannah but what relation he was to this Benjamin is not known; possibly an uncle.

Timothy Paxson[1] was one of the three members appointed by the society to prepare a memoir of William Wood Wilkins, the other two being Brown and Bringhurst. He is mentioned in Brown's letter of 29 December 1795 as sending his love to Bringhurst and casually in another of the letters of about the same date. He married the "Stella" of the Brown-Bringhurst letters. The 1797 Philadelphia directory gives him as a flour factor. In 1798 he was clerk of the Philadelphia Board of Health. We do not know any other essential facts of Paxson's life at this time, but he appears to have been one of Brown's very intimate friends.

Various facts concerning William Wood Wilkins we have ~~given in the biographical part of our work in editing Brown's letters to Bringhurst. He was at this time only nineteen~~

1 ~~He was~~ One of the members of the deed of trust mentioned in Elizabeth Drinker's Journal, Philadelphia 1889, p.357.



Poulson.

Zacariah Poulson — who at this time should be designated as Junior — is mentioned in Brown's letters of 1792 and 1793 along with the other members and in the Wilkins memoir. ~~Poulson~~ ~~X~~ Zacariah Poulson probably was the oldest ~~may have been a~~ member of the society, ~~though his age makes it very doubtful. He was at this time~~ being thirty-one. He ~~and~~ had learned the printing trade under the second Sower the ~~well known~~ Germantown printer and had practised it under Claypoole whom he ultimately succeeded in business. ~~He was to make~~ ~~was to make himself~~ make himself noted. ~~for his~~ Poulson's Almanac and Robert Pound's History ~~and~~ In 1800 he became owner and editor of the American Daily Advertiser in which Brown's letters on Civil Liberties lectures appeared in 1808. He ~~gave~~ noticed or ~~and~~ reviewed ~~of~~ Brown's Address to Congress 1809 and Volume III of the Register and probably wrote the fine obituary ~~for~~ of Brown for 27 February 1810. He was the librarian of the Philadelphia Library Company. From 1785 to 1806, Sully's fine portrait of him painted for the library was engraved by Sartain for Simpson's Eminent Philadelphians. If Brown had ever gone into journalism it is quite likely he would have joined Poulson.

Peter Thompson was mentioned as one of Wilkin's friends in the memoir ~~of Wilkins~~ written by Bringhurst and from his being listed along with the rest of the set he ~~may have been~~ was in all likelihood a member though it is ~~doubtful~~ not certain. The Dr.Thomson of Ormond may have been suggested by him. The facts of his life at this time are not known.

~~X P. 45~~

Various facts concerning William Wood Wilkins have been used in our biographical study of Brown. He was at this time only nineteen years old, ~~evidently~~ the young~~est~~ster of the circle and a brilliant practising lawyer and wit. Only two years later at twenty-one he became an examiner of candidates for attorneyship in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, ~~a fact~~ which stamps him as a very remarkable ~~young~~ man. He died of consumption when ~~almost~~ barely ~~only~~ twenty-two. His life with Brown was especially intimate and it is probable they at one time roomed together, at 119 South second street.[1] In the memoir of Wilkins prepared for the society by

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1 Clark: Life and Letters of Dolly Madison, Washington 1914, p.21 says Wilkins had his office there.

Joseph Bringhurst and addressed to them under date of 9 November 1796 we have a letter from Wilkins which gives such an excellent account of the club that it deserves[1] full quotation. It reads:

> "To the President and Members of the Society for Attaining Useful Knowledge.
>
> In returning to my native state, and leaving the City perhaps forever, I cannot but regard the necessity of ceasing to attend your meetings as the subject of great and lasting regret.
>
> Strongly impressed with the recollection of the uniform and unmerited encouragment, indulgence and affection which I have ever met with from the members of this society--I cannot hope to do justice, on this occasion, to my own sensibility, or the merits of the friends I address. Happy as I have been in those scenes of science and social enjoyment--of unaffected learning and unfettered genius--of engaging Frankness and manly affection, my unceasing gratitude and warmest attachment are the poor but sincere return which alone my situation permits me to make for this pleasing burthen of obligation.
>
> To this useful and noble institution as a man, but more especially as a member, I am anxious to secure prosperity and perpetuity. With a freedom which I hope will be forgiven I shall mention three particulars in which I wish the society to continue useful. To be very cautious in respect of the election of new members. To use every effort to preserve that amiable characteristic of the society--the pervading spirit of sincere and mutual friendship--And lastly to encourage a generous emulation in the display of oratory, and the attainment of useful and ornamental knowledge. If these three points are properly attended to, as I have no doubt they will be, I shall never hesitate in naming the Institution as my Alma Mater, and considering its patronage as an authority for all that I boast, and a security for all that I hope.
>
> My best wishes will constantly await on every one of my fellow members. May success in public and happiness in private life be the reward of their honest ambition and social virtues. In whatever situation I may be placed they will honor me by the appelation of their friend,
>
> Wm.W.Wilkins."

To an acknowledgment of his communication and an address sent by the society he replied:

1 Pp.26,27 and 28. This unpublished memoir gives a succinct account of Wilkin life and should be given to the public because of its part in New Jersey and Pennsylvania jurisprudence.

"When I recollect the contents of their communication I feel a weight of obligation which I know not how to remove. Ah! how very unworthy am I of their esteem and affection! They know not how slender are the talents which they applaud--how shadowy the virtues which they commend. Far from exciting vanity, their address sinks me to humility and covers me with confusion."

The latest record we have of this club is in Brown's letter dated 11 June 1793 where we find our author enquiring for the welfare of the society. In the 29 July letter he makes it clear that the meetings were usually held on Saturdays.

The Drone Club of about 1792-3, which is often confused with one of the others is mentioned by John W. Francis in his Old New York[1] as being

"a social and literary circle, which had at that time an existence of some years among us."

Later[2] Francis gives a more extended account as follows:

"The particular aim of its members seems to have been the cultivation and diffusion of letters, constituting a sort of society for mutual mental advancement. Every member, I believe, was to be recognised by proofs of authorship; and when we turn over the catalogue of their names we must be ready to allow they were tenacious of their specific interest. I have already mentioned in other parts of this Discourse many of this Association. Law, physic and divinity had each their representatives among them. The old Chancellor Samuel Jones, who died recently, was on this recorded list, and proved their last survivor. Our famous Dr. Mitchill was of the number, and with that remarkable peculiarity which so often characterized him, he addressed the ladies through the medium of the Drones on the value of whitewashing, as among the most important of the Hygienic Arts in housekeeping thus perpetually vindicating the saving efficacy of the alkalis, most effectually to eradicate that evil genius, Septon, the destroyer of the physical world. Samuel Miller, John Blair Linn, and William Dunlop (sic), were for a time associates, and Josiah Ogden

1 P.69. 2 P.289-90.

> Hoffman,who occasionally furnished a law decision,sometimes an Indian fragment,and sometimes a poetic stave. Charles Brockden Brown,I have reason to think,was an associate. John Wells,afterwards the great and eloquent lawyer,here, I apprehend,first communicated his lucubrations on the importance of a steady cultivation of the Lombardy poplar for American agriculture,at the very time when the indignation of the community was waxing warm touching the pernicious tendency of this wide-spreading exotic."

This club supported the New York Magazine published by the Swords' and is said to have also issued a review which has not been identified but appears to be Brown's Monthly Magazine and American Review.

From the connection with the New York periodical it was evidently in existence from at least 1790 to about May 1796. By that time its members were mostly in the Friendly Club.

The essays entitled The Club and The Drone in the New York Magazine relate to this organization. The Club began in 1790 and appeared in the numbers for June,July,August,September,November,and December; January 1791,February,March,May,and November;and January 1792. The opening gives an account of the club as follows:

> "a few select friends have,for some length of time past, met once a week,during the summer in (the) country,in the winter in town. As our club is composed of characters of different pursuits in life,we are necessarily compelled to lay aside our professional habits and ideas,and restrain ourselves to general topics of conversation. As each individual naturally expresses his mind with freedom,and according to his own opinion of things,various lights are thrown on the same subject;and the discussion of a question, while it tends to amuse,always serves to inform. It may be readily concluded,that there can be no want of matter for conversation,whilst this city is the seat of the general government,and the politics of the week are sure to be

> discussed,with all the earnestness natural to a people, alive to every action of their rulers. Having thus introduced the general outlines of the Club,I shall just remark,that as the rational enjoyment of ourselves and friends,is the chief object of our meetings,we never exceed the just bounds of moderation,it being an established principle with us,to deem no pleasures,but such as truly please on reflection...few thoughts of a very serious nature are admitted."

In the July number,II,we learn that a few attended and two guests were present one from the eastern part of the country and one from the south.

The eighth essay,February 1791,is of interest to us here as introducing to the club a Timothy Quillet (perhaps intended for Dwight) as a guest. Thus it becomes clear that it was a rule of the club that each member might introduce one friend not a member.

XI for November 1791 gives so much of the actual history of the Drones that it is worthy of quotation in full but being somewhat long must only be quoted from. It opens:

> "The original plan of these essays contemplated that one should be published in each month...The reader will be pleased to recollect that this publication originated in a social club,which frequently met for the relaxation of care,in such a manner as to unite festivity with instruction. Many of the members discovered an anxious wish that some of the leading topics of conversation should furnish the basis of a monthly publication for the New York Magazine. Before much progress was made in carrying these views into effect,the club was interrupted in its stated meetings;and consequently those essays,which were to be predicated on what passed at such meetings,could no longer make their appearance. The interruption of the project must then be ascribed to a want of punctuality in the formation of the club itself...A small number of us,however,who were less interested,than the rest, in

> operations of this sort,met the other evening,and made some attempts to revive an institution,which,whatever the public may think of it,had been a source of much edification and hilarity among ourselves. We could not reduce it to a certainty that the club would hereafter proceed with regularity;and the difficulty of doing it,is solely to be ascribed to that eager solicitude which has seized the minds of men for negociating in the public funds. The conversation,that passed on the evening to which we allude,was principally turned to a discussion of the effects that this speculative spirit has produced upon social intercourse. It would perhaps gratify the reader to be made acquainted with the remarks that were interspersed over the subject;but we must omit to afford this gratification,and instead of it,will present him with a few sketches of the principal characters who composed the party,on that evening."

Here follows a satirical description of Aurus,Jared Gayheart, Silenus,Thomas Prattle and Titus Neverwrong and the account is signed Z. These six may be the six men usually given as members and if so Brown is probably included. None of the descriptions fit him better than that of Aurus[1] but this is so slight it is not worth quoting.

There are only four signatures to the essays M,S,Z and Zulindus and they have not been identified. Not one of them has internal evidence to prove it Brown's though Francis[2] implies that all of the members wrote the series entitled <u>The Club</u> and <u>The Drone</u>. Bleecker, Dunlap and Linn may have been responsible for some of these essays.

<u>The Drone</u> ran for twenty-nine numbers:March to December inclusive of

1 If he is not Aurus he may be the Z who is writing the account. Many other of these essays are signed by the same initial.
2 <u>Old New York</u>,p.339.

add note on Bleecker [x]

x H.B. Wehle: American Miniatures New York 1927, plate xix, opposite p. 26, gives a doubtful portrait by Tisdale.

1792;February 1793,March,April,June,July,September,October,and November;January 1794,March,April,and May;October 1795,November,and December;January 1796,February,April,and May.

The Drone was well named--it drags along with its ponderous laziness and seldom lightens up with anything worth quoting or reading. The only value it has may be found in the accounts of the old bachelor Mr.Martlet and David Tittle but even these have nothing to suggest they were written by Brown though they are of a character that interested him.

The signatures are Agrestis,Anthony Aircastle,Curio,D,G.R.,H,Q, X.Y.,Z and Zeda. One is unsigned. Possibly Anthony Aircastle may be a punnical play on the name of Bleecker (=bleaker) and D may be for Dunlap. Otherwise there is nothing to assist in identifying the authors. Francis probably erred when he implied that all the members wrote the essays.

The membership of the Drone Club is of course comprised of new friends in Brown's circle. Being a New York organization it includes several notable men of that city. In 1790 Brown was nineteen.

Anthony Bleecker was one of the most active men in literary affairs of his day but he did not have the courage of Brown and became a

lawyer, though not a particularly successful one. He was a subscriber to the American Museum and the New York Magazine and wrote verse[1] and prose for various periodicals of New York and Philadelphia. The 1786 directory gives his business as an auctioneer at 40 Wall street, but this was probably an error or merely a function connected with his law. He was one of Brown's correspondents being addressed under date of 31 October 1801 in which letter our author gives an attractive picture of him. His educational interests are displayed by his being graduated from Columbia and by taking an M.A. on 3 May 1797; also by his being one of the founders of the New York Historical Society and a trustee of the New York Society Library. He was noted for his puns[2] and at the time of the founding of the Drones was Brown's senior by one year. He died at fifty-seven in 1827.

Richard Bingham Davis whose collected poems were edited by John T. Irving and published by a so-called Calliopean Society through the Swords in 1807 was born the same year as Brown. He was the Mr. Martlett of the Drones but so far as the records go he does not appear to have been an intimate of Brown's though he may have been. Among his verse

1 Kettell: Specimens of American Poetry, Boston 1829, Vol. II, p. 381 ff.
2 Godwin: Bryant, N.Y., 1883, Vol. I, p. 209.

is a prologue to Mrs.Hatten's opera of Tammany.[1] His educational interests had given him a Columbia College education though he did not graduate. In 1796 when Cornelius Van Alen published the daily gazette The Diary he served as its editor for about one year. By trade he was a wood-carver.

William Dunlap and his life are too well known to demand any account here other than in some of the less known details. At the time of the founding of the Drones he was twenty-four years of age. He had done a little studying of art abroad, was now manager of the Park Theatre and was engaged in the looking glass and hardware business.[2]

1 G.O.Seilhamer: History of New York Theatre, N.Y., 1891, Vol.III, p.85.
2 1790 Samuel Dunlap and Son; 1796 Dunlap and Judah, 189 Water street; 1797 Dunlap and Woolsey, 188 Pearl street.

He had married in 1789 Nabby Woolsey the sister of Timothy Dwight's wife and had one son and one daughter, a second daughter only having lived one year. He wrote for the New York Magazine,[1] was a subscriber to Miln's Columbian Library and had written a little verse and several plays. Brown's first meeting with Dunlap is generally agreed to have happened at the Friendly Club in New York in 1793 when our author was on the way of his first recreational trip to Hartford, Connecticut. Elihu Hubbard Smith was the introducer. The character of the earliest letter given by Dunlap which is dated 28 November 1794 would tend to corroborate the usual testimony of this meeting. According to the Woolsey Family Records[2] Dunlap's home was on Bowling Green where he spent the time when in the city attending to the business founded by his father. For week-ends and vacations he went to the old homestead where he had been born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The club life in the case of Dunlap was the smallest part of the intimacy with Brown. The lives of these two men came to be so closely interwoven that any further details would merely be unnecessary repetition.

1 Among others Remarks on Sir Pierre's praise of innocence and generosity (6 Oct., 1797, Ms. Journal); Remarks on the love of country (12 Nov., 1797, ibid.); and reviewed Beacon Hill 14 Dec., 1797.
2 New Haven 1900, p.189.

Josiah Ogden Hoffman is given in usual lists of the club's members but many of the essential facts of his life are unknown to us. He is mentioned by Francis in the passage already quoted as interested in legal decisions,undoubtedly professionally;as interested in the anthropological side of the Indians;and as something of a versifier. He was in 1790 a Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall and had an interest in developing the land on the St.Lawrence river. Later he was to become connected with Washington Irving who studied law under him in 1801 and 1806 and became engaged to his daughter Matilda. In 1809 Hoffman became Recorder of New York and had a rapid rise to the heights of the profession. Outside of the club his intimacy with Brown does not appear to have been more than slight at most.

William Johnson at the founding of the Drones was twenty years old. He had been graduated from Yale in 1788 and was now practising law.

(Illustration to be placed

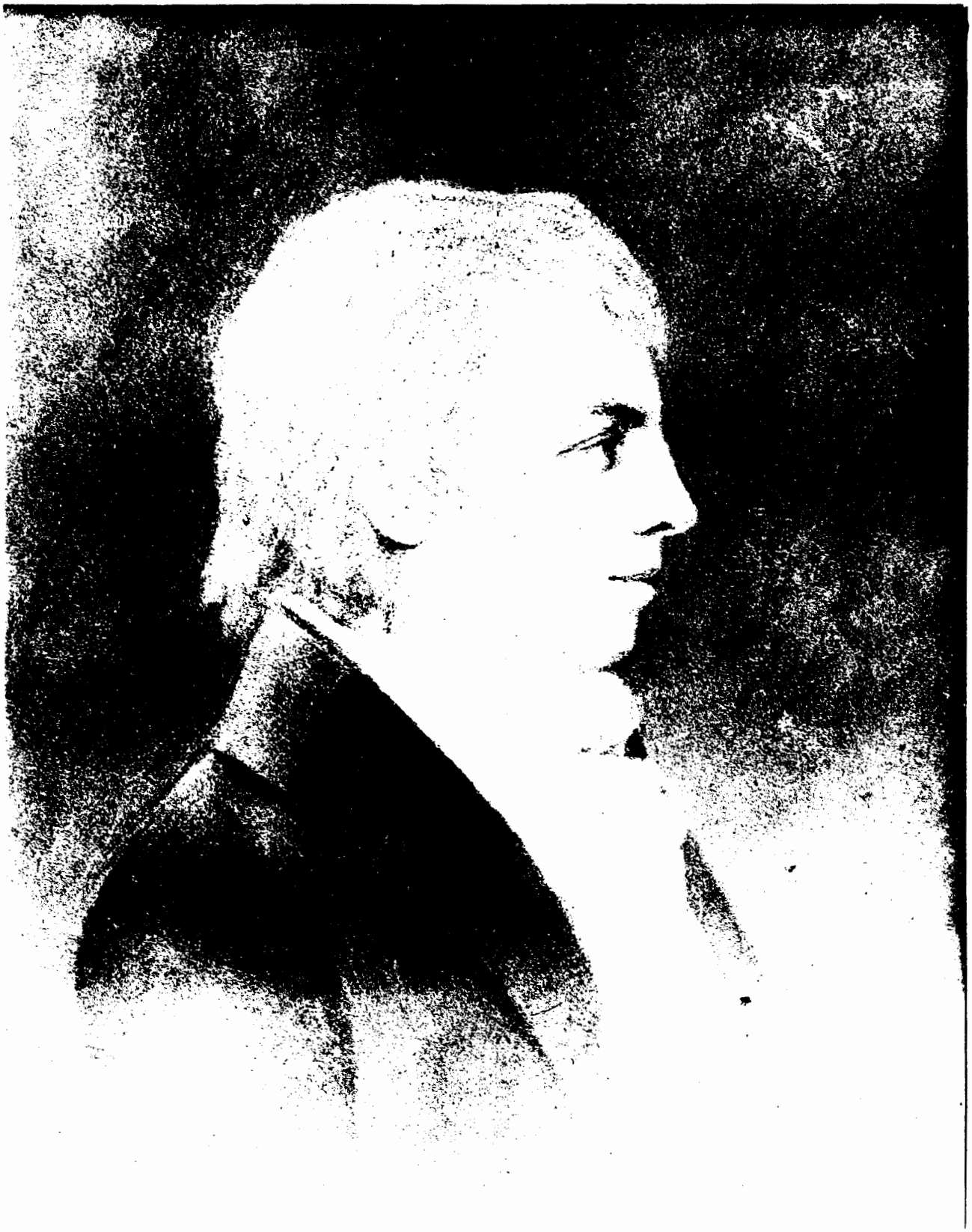
opposite page 774)

He became one of the founders of the New York Historical Society and was ten times elected a trustee of the New York Society Library. He later became one of the intimate friends of Brown making his home with him and Smith in 1798 at 45 Pine street. According to Dr.Francis he was in character calm,dignified and of the strictest integrity.

Samuel Jones was at this time twenty-one years old. He had just been graduated from Columbia college and in company with De.Witt Clinton was studying law in the office of his father. He was to go high in the career of a lawyer;in fact as high as Judge Kent, but the literary side of his life was not developed to perpetuate his fame. So far as we know he did not become intimate with Brown.

James Kent was at this time twenty-seven years old. He had been graduated from Yale in 1781,had studied law in the office of Egbert Benson of Poughkeepsie,was admitted to the bar in 1785 and three months later had married Elizabeth Bailey. He was a methodical student of Greek,Latin,French and English classics and probably was the best read of all the Drones he and his wife being particularly charmed by Godwin's works.1 He was one of the trustees of the New York Society Library. In the year of the club's organization

1 Smith's diary 29 March 1796.



James Kent by Sharpless.

(Illustration to be placed

to face page 76)

he had been elected to the State Assembly. Kent went high in the ranks of the law. He was in 1794 Professor of law at Columbia College and passing rapidly through a career of state offices, with the assistance of his Commentaries made his name immortal. In the Drone days he stayed one night in New York with Smith 23 December 1791 and in his diary he recalled Smith as a genius. In his Course of Reading New York 1853 he gives among the American works of fiction Brown's Wieland and Ormond "productions of great energy but of grave character." ~~He was as we shall see later severe on Brown and appears to have felt no particular friendship for him.~~ Dunlap[x] quotes from Brown's journal concerning a clash at the Friendly Club of which Kent was a member. ~~In his journals, Brown frequently mentions the meetings of the Club. On one occasion he has these words:~~ "Last evening spent with the clubbists at K's. Received from the candour of K. a severe castigation for the crimes of disputatiousness and dogmatism. Hope to profit by the lesson that he taught me." "

This reproof of Kent's is ~~probably~~ an example of the chancellor's attitude toward Brown. If the Memoirs and Letters of Kent[2] and his diaries and correspondence now in the Library of Congress are consulted it will be clear that there could be no strong bond of friendship or sympathy between them.

x Brown, Vol. I, p. 57. 2 Boston 1898.

John Blair Linn was thirteen years old at the time of the Drones early meetings. Like Wilkins he was one of the most precocious of precocious children,reading Latin when a mere child and having a great love for learning. He had come to Columbia College and was deep in the lore of poetry and criticism. In 1795 he issued a miscellaneous collection under the pseudonym of A Young Gentleman of New York. Before 1795 a play of his had been produced on the stage. He studied law under Alexander Hamilton but like Brown gave up the profession though not lead astray by the same muse. Ultimately he studied

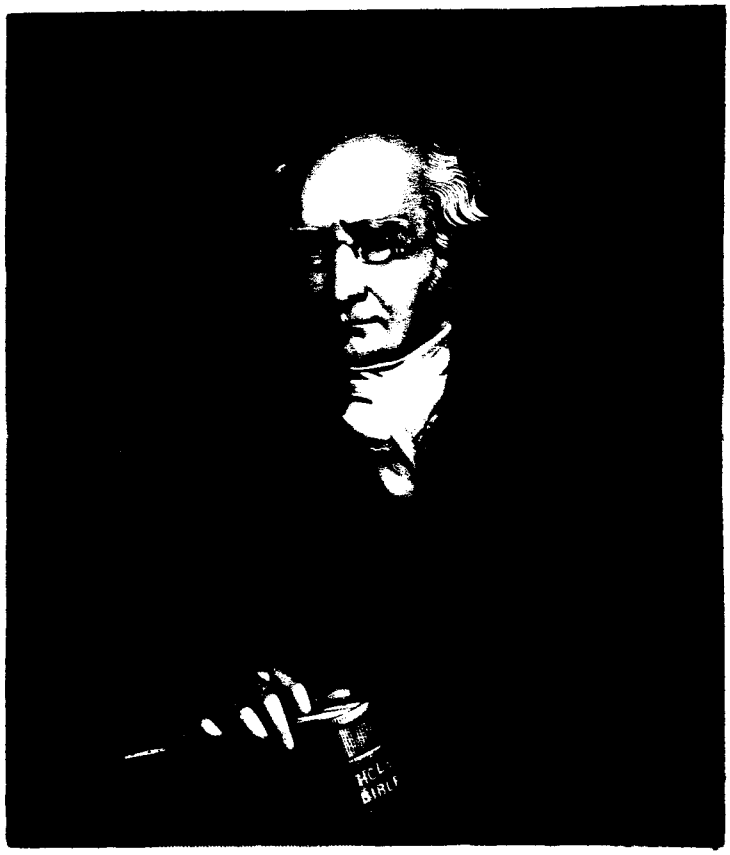
D.r Edw.d Miller.

(Illustration to be placed

opposite page 181)

theology and became a greatly respected minister in the Presbyterian church. Judging from subsequent events he probably was more and more intimate with Brown as time went on and through him Brown may have met his sister Elizabeth whom our author married in 1804. It is doubtful whether he was one of the founders of the Drones and it is more probable that he joined about 1795 his eighteenth year. Francis in his account of the club already quoted appears to think so. He married in 1799 Hester Bailey the sister of Kent's wife.

Doctor Edward Miller was thirty years old at the time of the organization of the Drones. To his father he owed his excellence in Greek, Latin and Hebrew;he had graduated from Newark Academy which was in accomplishment if not in name a college;studied medicine;served as a surgeon's mate in the United States Army hospital at Baskingridge New Jersey;learned French on a war-ship trip which took him to France; studied at the University of Pennsylvania receiving his degree therefrom in 1785;practised medicine in Maryland;and came to New York in 1796. It is probable that he did not join the Drones before 1796. His intimacy with Brown was almost equal to that of Johnson and Elihu Hubbard Smith. When in 1798 Brown was touched by the yellow-fever he went to live temporarily with Miller. He never married,was



Samt: Miller

(Illustration to be placed

opposite page 782)

of fine character and lived to be fifty-two years old.

Samuel Miller was twenty-one years old when the Drone club was founded. He was a brother of Edward Miller the physician and probably was well trained in the classics by his father. He studied divinity at Dickinson College, in 1791 became an ordained minister and lived to be eighty-one years of age. So far as we know he did not become very intimate with Brown, though one letter of Brown's to him has survived.

John Wells was twenty years old at this time. With a mind full of the horrors of a Cherry Valley Indian massacre of which he was the only survivor of his family he had come to New York in 1778, later may have attended Proud's school with Brown at Philadelphia, was graduated from Princeton College 1788; and was now studying law with Edward Griswold, being admitted to the bar in 1791. In 1797 he was appointed Associate Justice of Peace by John Jay. The passage from Francis already quoted gives an account of his interest in the first Lombardy poplars introduced in this country.[1] In his later years he became a noted figure of American political history being connected with the Federalist and Alexander Hamilton.[2] We have no evidence to show that outside of the club he was intimate with Brown. Smith's diary 12 October 1795 gives a rather inaccurate but otherwise

1 ~~The present writer may be related to him through a maternal grandfather Jonathan Wells formerly of Sir William Johnson Hall, Johnstown, N.Y.~~ A memoir of him was published in John E. Hall's Portfolio Phila., 1824, Vol. XVIII, pp. 429-40. It was written by William Johnson the New York Law Reporter and probably was extracted from the final volume of William Johnson's reports.

2 Francis: Old New York, N.Y., 1858, p. 204 says he contributed articles on actors and acting to the Evening Post.

John Wells.

(Illustration to be placed

opposite page 783)

an excellent account of his character as follows:

> "Soon after my return home, John Wells came in, and chatted near an hour with us. He is a lawyer, a young man, residing in this town; and with whom I first became acquainted through his intimacy with Charles Adams. Of his history I know little. I have been told that he was born in this state; somewhere on the Hudson; and I believe he was educated at the college in this city. His appearance is interesting and his person, though moderately-sized, manly, as are his countenance and conversation. His mind seems much superior to that of most young, but seems to have been cultivated casually, as fancy and necessity dictated. His sentiments are therefore, not the result of proper investigation, it may be said, of consequence, that he has much yet to do. To this, he seems but little inclined; having, from habitual aversion to long-continued and systematic attention to investigation, acquired a disrelish to mental exertion, of the regular kind. This defect does not appear either constitutional, or irremediable; and he may yet, possibly, assume that rank, in the republic of intellect, which would belong to industry and talents."

Wilson in the Memorial History of New York[1] says that the Drone Club

1 N.Y., 1893, Vol.IV, p.233. Moot Club, Vol.IV, p.114.

was the successor of the Friendly Club after it had broken up over a law argument, ~~but there is evidence that~~ the Drone ~~Club~~ was the earlier, ~~and~~ the cause of contention was not law but politics, ~~He also says it~~ and was ~~patterned~~ after the Moot club of ante-Revolutionary days ~~but the detail in which it surely did not follow the so-called model was in~~ and it did not having only lawyers for its members ~~the Drone was in no sense a moot club and its members were being chosen widely.~~ Besides the friendships it helped Brown to cement, the Drone club was also suggested as the support of his Monthly Magazine. Eight members were said to have been his assistants ~~contributing the material for publication~~ but ~~there is doubt of~~ this ~~referring to the Drones. It~~ more reasonably has reference to the Friendly Club.

The next club to which Brown belonged is ~~that~~ the New York organization known as the Friendly Club.[1] The name was ~~probably taken~~ derived from the earlier one in Hartford made up of the ~~so-called~~ "Hartford Wits," ~~and~~ among whose members[2] were Trumbull, the Dwights, Barlow, Elihu Hubbard Smith and Richard Alsop.

~~We shall see that~~ It is likely Brown went to New York in September of 1796 staying with Dunlap about six months but according to Dunlap the

1 Whether this is the same club ~~as~~ noticed by Francis in Old New York p.289 as under the presidency of General Laight we do not know. No accounts available give Laight as a member ~~of Brown's club~~ Possibly he was president ~~some time~~ after Brown had left New York.

2 Ellis: Joseph Dennie, University of Texas Bulletin 15 July 1915, p.156.

club had been originated earlier. From Smith's diary we find a meeting called as early as 5 September 1795, though no one attended.

In his manuscript journal Dunlap records a meeting of a club--which was the Friendly Club--on Saturday 21 October 1797 at Smith's when he says George Muirson Woolsey, Dr. Miller, Mitchill, Johnson, and himself were present. He also records that on Sunday 12 November--which should be Saturday the eleventh-- the same club met at his house and Dr. Miller was present. Again Sunday 21 January 1798--which should be Saturday the twentieth--the club met with W.W.Woolsey--Smith, Johnson and Dunlap being present. Saturday 17 February the club met at William Woolsey's. Saturday 31 March the club met at Smith's and Johnson's. On Saturday 21 April according to Dunlap the club met at Smith's--which should read Johnson's--Johnson, W.W.Woolsey and Mr. Radcliff[1] were present. 5 May the club met at Dr. Miller's. Saturday 12 May it met at Dunlap's--W.W.Woolsey and Dunlap's wife (!) were present.

Those two dates of Sunday are errors for the meetings were always held on Saturday. This should be noticed and remembered for later we shall find it stated that the Friendly Club met on Tuesdays.

1 Judge Jacob Radcliffe of Poughkeepsie also referred to in Johnson's letter (Kent collection, Library of Congress) to Kent 29 May 1799.

Smith's manuscript diaries give a far better account of the club than Dunlap and a summary will show Brown's attendance and the events of importance.

5 September 1795, meeting called but none held. (Account of the club to be quoted presently.) 10 September, plan for magazine to be quoted presently. Meetings were held 24 Nov.; 5, 12, 19, 26 Dec.; 16, 23, 30 Jan., 1796; 6, 13 Feb.; 5, 12, 19, 25 (Good Friday), March; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apl.; 7, 14, 21, 28 May; 4 June; 10 Sept., Brown present; 17 Sept.; 24 Sept., Brown present. Following this Brown was present at all meetings save the doubtful one of 1 October, as follows: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Oct.; 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov.; 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dec.; 7, 14 Jan., 1797; 11 March. He was absent 18, 25 March; 1, 8, 15, 22 Apl.; 30 Sept.; 7, 14, 21 Oct.; 4, 11 Nov. Meetings were also held 18, 25 Nov.; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Dec.; 6, 13, 20, 27 Jan., 1798; 10, 17, 24 Feb.; 3, 10, 31 Mar.; 21, 28 Apl.; 5, 12 May. No one came on Smith's night of 24 March and Johnson's of 19 May.

In his <u>American Theatre</u>[1] Dunlap speaks of some sort of Philosophical Society. This is evidently a confusion of the Friendly

1 P. 114.

~~club~~ though the error suggests one of the probable objects of both organizations. On ~~13 July~~ 1833 he ~~recalled~~ the Friendly Club and his and Brown's and ~~Dennie's~~ reading and ~~enjoying~~ Boswell, which fact ~~shows~~ the excellent taste of the club members.

Ellis in his Joseph Dennie[1] speaks of this as the Tuesday ~~Club but~~ this may be an error based on the idea that the meetings were held on the evening of that day. As we have seen the only account of the club's actual meetings shows that they were held on Saturdays. In this particular of the day of meeting ~~Ellis has~~ probably followed the error made by Dunlap in another of his publications.

The leaders were spoken of by Wilson[2] as being Brown, Bleecker, Dunlap and Kent but Hemstreet[3] gives Brown alone. So far as we know there was no particular leader. Each host appears to have lead in turn. If there was any one leader in the sense of being an originator or a permanent president Smith was probably the one.

Dunlap in the Monthly Recorder of April 1813 gives the following account of the club.

> "About this time the three gentlemen just mentioned were members of a social literary meeting, which was known to those who participated in its pleasures and advantages,

~~1 Op.cit., pp.156-7 and in the Index.~~
2 Memorial History of New York, N.Y., 1893, Vol.IV, p.233.
3 Literary New York, N.Y., 1903, p.77.

by the unostentatious appellation of the "friendly club." The meetings were held in rotation, at the respective houses of the members, on the Tuesday evening of each week. Never was a place of appointment, of this nature, repaired to with greater avidity, or the pleasures of unshackled intellectual intercourse more highly enjoyed. All form was rejected by the "friendly club", and but one rule adopted, which was that the member who had the pleasure of receiving his friends at his house, should read a passage from some author, by way of leading conversation into such a channel as might turn the thoughts of the company to literary discussion or critical investigation. This was for the greater portion of the time it existed, truly a "friendly club;" but after a continuation of most perfect and cordial communion for a few years, the demon whose infuriated and blasting influence is unceasingly exerted to mar the blessings of our envied country, party-politics, found his way among the "friendly club," and the institution died a lingering death. Yet I believe the surviving members feel a brotherly affection towards each other, and a regretful remembrance of those days, the more endearing as the knowledge that they can never return becomes more impressive, from the ravages of time and the unspairing strokes of death."

As ~~we shall~~ may be seen ~~when we~~ by studying his magazines and political pamphlets Brown held as lasting an impression of the fatuity of political discussion as Dunlap did. ~~and in the former class of publications he made strenuous efforts to bar out all matters of the kind~~. With the wreck of the Friendly Club in ~~his~~ mind he would not admit political discussion. ~~and thus successfully avoided the shoals that endangered his magazines.~~

Another account of the Club supplied by Dunlap[1] Brown's reads: ~~as follows:~~

> A great source of pleasure and improvement to Charles during his residence in New York was a literary society, formed before his first visit, which under the humble appellation of " the Friendly Club," continued for several years to meet weekly at the house of one or other of the

1 Vol.I,p.57.

members, to discuss literary or other subjects; and occupied part of the time in conducting a review. The members of this club were Wm.Johnson,Esq.;Dr.Edward Miller; the Rev.Dr.Samuel Miller; Dr.S.L.Mitchill; James Kent,Esq.; Anthony Bleecker,Esq.; Dr.E.H.Smith; Charles Adams,Esq.;John Wells,Esq.;W.W.Woolsey,Esq.;C.B.Brown, and the writer. With most of the members of the Friendly Club, Brown was in the habits of the strictest intimacy, and enjoyed their society unreservedly on other occasions, as well as the stated times of periodical meeting.

A third record was made by Dunlap in his American Theatre[x] which adds new names:

"He was intimately associated with Elihu H. Smith, Charles Brockden Brown, James Kent, Edward Miller, Samuel L. Mitchill, Saml. Miller, Wm. Johnson, Wm. Coleman, John Wells, and others.... The young men above named, with Richard Alsop, Noah Cogswell, and Theodore Dwight, of Connecticut, formed a club.... a magazine was supported for a short time — a review was published. Some of these gentlemen had previously been associated under the name of the Philological Society... of which Noah Webster was a member."

x (P. 114 New York 1832)

Smith in his Diary I under date 6 September 1795 adds considerable to Dunlap's account especially in regard to the members and the reasons why some of the members were not regular attendants on the Club's meetings. His record reads:

> "Last night was the night for the meeting of the Friendly Club,but no meeting took place. Johnson told me that there was none,on the preceding Saturday night. It is necessary to notice the cause of this double failure,especially as a sufficient number of members was in town,at each time. The Club originally consisted of ten men;-William Dunlap,Wm.W. Woolsey,G.M.Woolsey,Prosper Wetmore,H.S. & William Johnson, T.Mumford,and E.H.Smith. Catlin met with us but three times, and not in succession. He married,and the "catish fondness" of his wife,and perhaps his own indifference,prevented his ever associating with us,thereafter. Seth Johnson was unwell with a rheumatism;which had confined him several months; and though getting better,was unable to go out. Of consequence,he was present at no meetings but those which happened in his own,or the turns of his brothers. As soon as he was able,he journied;and thenceforth he has been uniformly absent,and no turn has been consigned him;and this has been, I believe,for about a year. Mumford removed from hence, about a year since;and thus left his place vacant. P.Wetmore has always been distinguished by his want of punctuality in attendance,so that we have,several times,been on the point of dropping him. H.Johnson was pretty punctual till about two months previous to his marriage;from that time, till now,six months,he has altogether,absented himself. Since the secession of Catlin and the removal of Mumford, James Kent,and Charles Adams,have been admitted. They,and G.M.Woolsey,have been about equally punctual. They are absent about one quarter of the time. W.W.Woolsey,William Dunlap,William Johnson and Smith have been punctual,with scarcely any exception,when in town. It is evident,therefore, that their absence must,materially,affect the meetings of the club. On Saturday evening before last,G.M.Woolsey, Dunlap and Smith were out of town;Adams was married;Kent was sick;P.Wetmore and H. & S.Johnson busied;W.W.Woolsey, and W.Johnson alone remained. There could be no meeting. The absences had now so deranged the order of meeting,that no one knew it;and it appeared as if nothing but recommencing could establish order. In this state,last evening came W.W.Woolsey,W.Dunlap,W.Johnson and Adams out of town;P. Wetmore,H. & S.Johnson as before;Kent,G.M.Woolsey and Smith might have met,but knew not where. It is now probable that the meetings are broken up till the end of October. It is possible that they will,then,be resumed with added punctuality and advantage."

Besides ~~the account of the~~ members ~~as there given~~ the quotation adds ~~to the usual list as supplied by other sources the names of~~ some whom we would otherwise not have known ~~to have ever been~~ connected with Brown.

On the 10th. of September Smith gives ~~an account of the~~ plans of the club for a periodical--a fact which Dunlap ~~had failed to~~ also recorded and which in the light of subsequent events in the life of our author has no little interest. ~~for us. It reads:~~

> "Among the many plans which have,at different times engaged my individual attention,and that of the Friendly Club,none seemed,for a while,to be viewed with more pleasure,and with greater assurance of success than that for establishing and conducting a Periodical Paper;somewhat on the plan of the Spectator. We even went so far as to allot parts to several, to form schemes of composition,and to nearly conclude on a name for our Publication. But this,like many other,"worthy a better fate",fell through;owing,perhaps,more to indolence than any conviction of our want of capacity."

When the club was organized is not definitely known,but it appears ~~that~~ it was in existance at the same time as the Drones;at least it must have been if the Drones lived as long as the ~~Drone~~ essays in the New York Magazine. Smith's 6 September 1795 reference to Mumford shows ~~that~~ the club was in existence as far back as September 1794. The other evidence ~~we have~~ is Dunlap's already quoted which carries it back to 1793 by stating that Brown was ~~duly~~ admitted to its exclusive circles

when he first visited ~~in~~ New York in 1793. From his letter dated 22 May 1793 we learn that he had a disagreeable time at New York so it is improbable that he attended the club or that it was holding sessions then. However the June letter to Bringhurst shows that Smith's circle, which identifies the Friendly Club, was in existence. After Brown had been in Connecticut he does not appear to have stopped long at New York probably only going there in company with Smith. But in the fall of 1793 he went to New York again and in 1794-5-6 and 7 he made other visits there. In 1796-7 especially, he lived six months with Dunlap when he probably first became intimate with the club members. In 1798 he was undoubtedly a regular member. From another source we learn that some of the members contributed to Dennie's Portfolio, which may date the club as ~~being~~ in existence as late as 1801. In our accounts of the members we shall therefore notice their activities from 1793 to 1801 inclusive. ~~In figuring~~ For their ages we shall use ~~the date of~~ 1793 when Brown was twenty-two.

The membership of the Friendly Club comprised ~~all of~~ the Drones, with the exception of Hoffman and Jones, and several additional ones. The list follows.

Charles Adams is given ~~by Dunlap~~ as a member but the essentials of his life other than that he was married in 1795 and possibly that he was a lawyer,

~~of his life~~ are not known to us. ~~So far as we know~~ He was never mentioned by Brown.

Richard Alsop was ~~in 1793~~ thirty-two years old. He had been partly educated at Yale abandoning his course to devote himself exclusively to language and literature. Brown visited him on his first call on the "Hartford Wits" in 1793 stopping in Middletown Connecticut, where he found sympathy and pleasure in a home of angels. Mrs. Alsop--a Dwight--with her incomparable character made a lasting impression on Brown, as may be seen by his letters dated 11 June 1793 and the one, ~~dated~~ July. Alsop had become prominent for his contributions to the satirical Echo. Being a Connecticut man not residing in New York it is improbable that if he ~~were~~ is ~~at all~~ a member. ~~of the Friendly Club of New York he must have been a non-resident one.~~ Like others to be noticed, he was a member of the Hartford Friendly Club and a welcome guest whenever he happened to be in town. ~~Dunlap probably~~ Dunlap[x] ~~probably~~ confused the Hartford membership with the great ~~confused that organization with the New York one~~.

Anthony Bleecker's life and its relation to Brown may be found in the account of the members of the Drone Club.

[x] American Theatre p. 114.

Who Catlin was we do not know. Possibly he may have been Putnam the father of the painter who afterward became an authority on Indians.

Mason Fitch Cogswell was in 1793 ~~twenty~~ thirty-two years old. He was educated at Yale graduating in 1780; studied surgery and made a name for himself in the profession; was married and settled in Hartford. His surgical

JOSEPH DENNIE ESQ.

Engraved for the Port Folio, Published by Harrison Hall
N° 133 Chesnut St

(Illustration to be placed

opposite page 795)

study was made in New York and he may have been at that time a member of this club. So far as we know he was not otherwise an intimate of Brown and Dunlap may have erred in listing him as a member of the New York club rather than the Hartford one.

William Coleman was in 1793 twenty-seven years old. He was a Boston man;had studied law and practised in Greenfield Massachusetts until about 1794 when he went to New York where he became a partner of Aaron Burr. Later he became Reporter of the New York Supreme Court and was established in everlasting memory by his court reports and by being the selection of Hamilton as the first editor of the famous Evening Post. Brown's intimacy with him in his law days was not confined to the club--Coleman was fairly intimate with our author and his fearlessness and integrity probably proved a stimulus to him. As late as 1824 Coleman in the 19 November Post review of the Atlantic Magazine recalled his acquaintance and respect for Brown.

Joseph Dennie is not given as a member by Dunlap and may not have been a member at all. Hemstreet[1] adds him to the list. Born in Boston; educated at Harvard;he studied law at Charlestown New Hampshire and was admitted to the bar. In 1775 he published The Farrago,then edited the Boston Tablet and later removed to Walpole New Hampshire where

1 Literary New York,N.Y.,1903,p.77.

he edited the Farmer's Weekly Museum making himself widely known by The Lay Preacher essays. He went to Philadelphia in 1799 and never resided in New York so probably was at most a guest of some ~~non-resident~~ member. His great intimacy with Brown was later than the Friendly Club--about 1801 in Philadelphia when the Portfolio was published and the so-called Tuesday Club held its revels.

William Dunlap's life and connection with Brown in this club needs no remark here, ~~What should be briefly said has been already~~ being supplied in the account of the members of the Drone Club ~~q.v.~~.

Theodore Dwight is given in Dunlap's American Theatre[1] as a member. In 1793 he was twenty-nine years of age. He had studied law in New Haven under Judge Pierrepont Edwards;went to Hartford in 1791 and became famous in his profession. At one time he is said to have been in New York with the expectation of being a partner of his cousin Aaron Burr but did not stay there long. He was one of the members of the Hartford Friendly Club and that membership may have been confused with the New York one. He was somewhat of an intimate of Brown ~~probably~~ being visited by him in 1793. In Brown's letter of 11 June 1793 he refers to Dwight as the source of information of his where-

1 Pp.114-15.

J. C. Weaver del. J. Scales sc.

MITCHILL.

(Illustration to be placed

opposite page 757)

abouts,and in the letter of July he says he found Dwight's home suggestive of Wolmar's in Rousseau's Héloïse.

William Johnson's,James Kent's,Edward Miller's and Samuel Miller's lives and their connection with this club and Brown have been noticed in the account of the Drone Club and only need mention here.

Samuel Latham Mitchill was in 1793 twenty-six years old. He had been finely educated from youth by Dr.Leonard Cutting of Cambridge University;was well read in the classics;studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Latham,his maternal uncle;and had come to New York in 1780 to study under Dr.Samuel Bard. In 1782 he visited Edinburgh and after four years study took his medical degree there. In 1786 he made a pedestrian tour to Oxford with Dunlap and later in the year he returned to the United States and studied law and the Constitution under Chief Justice Robert Yates of New York. He was employed on an Indian treaty commission,practically started the fame of the mineral waters of Saratoga Springs and was made professor of chemistry and agriculture in Columbia College. His mineralogical survey of New York state,his editing of the Medical Repository and his advancement of the steamboat interests of Robert Fulton were among his later

achievements,a catalogue of which would comprise a remarkably wide range of interests scientific,public and literary. He was a versifier as well as a prose writer. His friendships included all of the great men of the day and his acquiantance with Brown must have been as great a help as it was to so many others. At the time of Smith's death,1798, he made no mention of Brown in his account of the death and funeral possibly because Brown was sick and living in Miller's house. He has left a very fine recollection of Brown which is in existence to-day. It seems that in 1816 he sent to John Pintard for the New York Historical Society a copy of Dunlap's biography of Brown and in the letter[1] accompanying the two volumes after speaking of Brown as "one of our Literati" he says:

> "I beg you to place on our shelves,this memento of an amiable and sensible man,whom I once knew very well."

1 We are indebted to Mr.R.Milton Mitchill for a copy of the Mitchill letter.

Thomas Mumford appears to have gone out of the club's life before Brown had become a regular attendant. He married Smith's sister Mary. The description of his character as found in Smith's diary 5 September 1795 makes him to have been of great gravity,a slow speaker,fat and sluggish in nature.

Elihu Hubbard Smith's life and his connection with Brown has been given in the biographical part of our work which relates to 1794 and only needs mention here.

John Wells' life as related to the Friendly Club and Brown has been sufficiently noticed in our study of the members of the Drone club,

Prosper Wetmore may have been the father of Prosper Montgomery Wetmore the author,but we have no knowledge of the essentials of his life history. The reference to him in Smith's diary of 19 December 1795 gives him no flattering character and wishes he would not come to the meetings. Brown never mentions him.

George Muirson Woolsey is not usually given as a member but there is evidence to indicate that he was one. Dunlap's manuscript journal

says he attended the 21 October 1797 meeting. Smith records that he held the meetings of 28 May,12 Nov.,24 Dec.,1796,8 Apl.,4 Nov.,9 Dec., 1797, 10 March,28 Apl.,1798. He was twenty-two at this time,had made his own way in life before his eighteenth year and was engaged in merchantile

(Illustration to be placed

to face page 801)

business in New York. His relations with Brown outside of the club were not intimate.

William Walton Woolsey was at this time twenty-seven years old. The year previous he had married[1] Miss Dwight at New Haven. In 1795 his mercantile firm was Rogers and Woolsey. His daughter Laura married William Johnson. He was later an officer and very much interested in the banking business. Outside of the club his intimacy with Brown was probably slight though Brown appears to have visited him in 1793, as witness his letter of 11 June referring to Woolsey for information of his whereabouts.

Dunlap in his Arts of Design says[2] Noah Webster was a member; but it appears improbable though he seems to have been a member of a Philological Society which Dunlap has confused with this club. If he were a Friendly member he appears to have formed no intimacy with our author. Though Brown published his pompous Duties of Editors in the Literary Magazine[3] in giving a list of twenty Americans distinguished by their writings Webster does not include Brown. Perhaps the Candidus-Webster business of the American Review, the Webster versus the

1 His first marriage. The second was to Sarah Chauncey of Philadelphia.
2 Vol. I, p. 267. ~~3 Vol. III, p. 301 ff.~~

add to note 2

also American Theatre, p. 114.

Reviewer[1] of the Monthly Magazine and the slap at "N.W's advice" of the Literary Magazine[2] cut him to the quick. At least his ideas of novels as "without a new idea"[3] kept him out of sympathy with our author.

Barrett's Old Merchants of New York[6] adds to the list Gilbert Aspinwall and John McVickar. His account of the club, following those already given, concludes as follows:

> "It kept up for some years after Washington's death, when the members of the Friendly Club began to take sides with the Republican and Federal parties, headed by the elder Adams and Jefferson, and they got wrangling, and eventually broke up."

1 Vol.III, p.332. 2 Vol.III, p.320.
3 Essays and Fugitive Writings, Boston 1790, p.29.
4 University of Texas Bulletin, 15 July 1915, pp.156-7.
6 N.Y., 1863, Vol.II, pp.335-6.
5 Apparently Jared Ingersoll.

Dunlap's journal says Sharpless the painter attended 13 January 1798 which is quite ~~probable~~ likely from the fact that three ~~of the known~~ portraits ~~of~~ Brown were by him as well as several portraits of ~~several~~ other members of the club circle. Wilson[1] makes the club distinguished to an extraordinary degree by saying that no less a personage than ~~the immortal~~ Washington was a visitor. As we have seen in our biographical study of the year 1798 Scandella the distinguished Italian noble was probably ~~a~~ guest ~~of~~ Smith's at the club.

~~Besides the immediate object of developing their intellectual powers~~ The Friendly Club appears to have supplied the supporters of Brown's Monthly Magazine and American Review. Miller in writing to Morse under date of 3 April 1799 says:

> "There is a society, or club, of some ten gentlemen, who meet once a week to consult about the magazine, and concert plans to make up its contents and to promote its interests. Of these ten, seven are decidedly Federalists, the other three are a little democratic, but remarkably mild and moderate men."

~~As we shall see later~~ Brown was one of the seven Federalists.

1 Memorial History of New York, N.Y., 1893, Vol. IV, p. 233.

So far as we know the Friendly Club was the latest New York club to which Brown belonged. There is some circumstantial evidence which suggests he may have been the president of another similar organization in Philadelphia called the American Literary Association, the details of which we have considered in our critical study of Brown's Literary Magazine.

When Brown went to Philadelphia in 1804 and settled there for the rest of his life he had access to the Tuesday Club circles of Joseph Dennie. According to most accounts the meetings were held ~~on Tuesdays~~ weekly and the contributors to the Portfolio were especially welcome at them.

Ellis in his Joseph Dennie ~~adds to~~ gives the list as Nicholas Biddle, Horace Binney, Charles Brockden Brown, Thomas Cadwalader, Nathaniel Chapman, Asbury Dickins, Samuel Ewing, Philip Hamilton, ------ Ingersoll, John Blair Linn, William Meredith, Richard Peters, Richard Rush, ------ Stock, Robert Walsh, Thomas I. Wharton, Alexander Wilson and William B. Wood. ~~but many of them were Philadelphians and some were too young and on the whole they probably were only guests. They appear to have comprised the Dennie circle known as the Tuesday Club of Philadelphia~~.

× University of Texas Bulletin 15 July 1915, pp. 156-7.

×× Apparently Jared Ingersoll.

So far as we know Brown was not an extensive contributor to the Portfolio and he did not have the same stimulus to lead him into such convivial circles as Dennie's. When in New York there was little of the hilarity and drinking that made Dennie's circle noted. ~~Therefore it is not surprising that~~ There is little evidence to show Brown ~~he~~ attended the Tuesday Club very much and it is only probable that he was present ~~attended~~ on special occasions when some celebrity such as Thomas Moore, John Davis, or some importunity of the printer Asbury Dickins lead him to expect an intellectual stimulus. As it usually does his marriage appears to have made him less and less of a club man. His literary efforts had become so laborious that all his time was needed to accomplish the works he had undertaken.