

*Bibliotheca Jeffersoniana*: A List of Books written by or relating to Thomas Jefferson. By HAMILTON BULLOCK TOMPKINS, New York; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1887. — 8vo, 187 pp.

Bibliographical works have two standards by which their value may be measured: (1) How much do they increase our knowledge of the literature of a subject? (2) How complete are they? Measured by the first rule, the above work is a valuable addition to our books of reference; by the second, it still leaves a bibliography of Jefferson to be compiled.

Omitting all notice of the *Jeffersoniana*, which is moderately complete, we will examine the list of Jefferson's own writings. Of his messages, Mr. Tompkins gives "only the most important of those he has found," showing a lack of perception concerning bibliography which in view of the good work in certain parts of the volume is rather surprising. The government documents are a trial to all cataloguers; and if Mr. Tompkins lacked the time or patience to examine the almost perfect sets (for this period) in the Boston Athenæum or New York Historical Society libraries, he might have so stated. But to set up his own individual opinion as to what is important, and what is not, is to overstep the bounds of the bibliographer, who, whatever else, should be inclusive. Equally imperfect, is the list of Jefferson's reports as secretary of state. The most notable of the other omissions are: all editions save one (and that printed in 1876) of the Declaration of Independence, perhaps the most famous paper that has ever come practically from the pen of one man; Jefferson's report, in conjunction with Wythe and Pendleton, on the revision of the laws of Virginia, printed in 1784; his famous letter on slavery, written to Benjamin Banneker, and printed in 1793; and all editions of the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1799, except Elliot's of 1832.

The arrangement is good; the work as far as it goes seems accurate; and the indexes are unusually full, leaving in that respect nothing to be desired. Typographically it is above praise.

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