

Andrews Norton. Unitarian, Scholar, Polemicist. 1786-1853

An e-list from Up-Country Letters Fine and Rare Books, Gardnerville, Nevada. February, 2017. Please contact Mark Stirling with your questions or comments. 530 318-4787; info@upcole.com

"No one who knew him will be disposed to call in question the singular endowments of his mind, the depth and variety of his learning, and the leading influence which he has exerted on the opinions of the age." (George Ripley, his obituary of Norton in *The New York Tribune*, see item 29, below.)

"In his early manhood he was in advance of the thinkers of the day in his theological views. Later the stream of liberal religious thought, of which his own teachings had done not a little to start the current, swept past him, and he was left among the more conservative elements of the Unitarian body" (Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College, 1667-1877*, 1897, p.36, see item 31, below.)

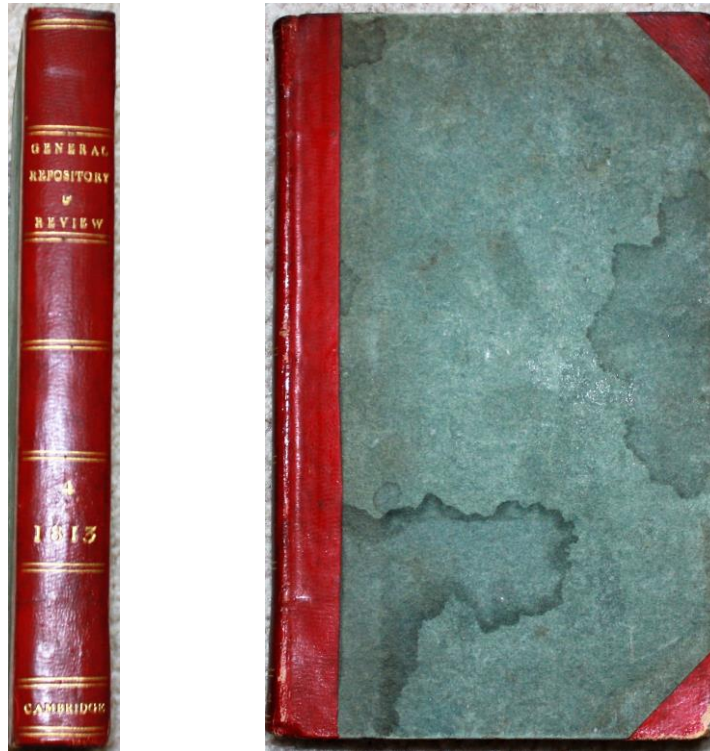
"His address in 1839, "On the Latest Form of Infidelity", was commonly interpreted as a reply to Emerson's famous *Divinity School Address* of the preceding year. By many persons who know nothing of Norton's substantial achievements its unfortunate title has been remembered to the disparagement of his just reputation." (Henry Wilder Foote in *DAB*). See items 11-23, below.

Norton was married in 1821 to Catherine Eliot, daughter of Samuel Eliot, wealthy merchant of Boston and grandfather of Charles W. Eliot the Harvard president. "Shady Hill", a Cambridge estate, was purchased as a wedding present – it being preferred to the Craigue House, later the residence of the Longfellow family, which was also available at the time. Three daughters were born there, and in 1827 a son, Charles Eliot Norton, later Professor of the History of Art at Harvard. (Charles F. Whiting. "Francis Avenue and the Norton Estate: The Development of a Community." *Proceedings of the Cambridge Historical Society*, v.41, 1970, p. 16-39)

Items are listed chronologically.

1. [Norton, Andrews] ***The General Repository and Review***. Volume IV. Cambridge: William Hilliard, 1813. First edition. Nineteenth century red half-leather, gilt, and paper-covered boards. July and October, 1813 issues, volume 4, complete. Founded by Andrews Norton and edited by him until this, the final volume, which was edited by "A Society of Gentleman". This Unitarian journal was liberal enough to be attacked by Rev. Abiel Holmes, father of Oliver Wendell Holmes (Mott, v.1, p.277). Contributions were anonymous but are attributed here, in a contemporary hand. Articles by Norton, Edward Everett (at 19), his brother Alexander Hill Everett, Sidney Willard, Nathaniel Frothingham, Nathaniel Bowditch, and others. Norton offers "Life of Michael Servetus" (p.31-73), "Miscellaneous Articles and Intelligence", mostly "Notice of some articles in the Panoplist" (p.194-223), several short reviews (299-312), a review of Noah Webster's "Dissertation on the Supposed Change in the

Temperature of Winter" (313-356), an obituary – "Character of Mr. Charles Eliot", Norton's wife's brother, who had died recently at age 22 (357-360). Plus, an announcement of Norton's appointment as Librarian, replacing John L. Abbott, who was going over to the First Church, Boston, and as Dexter Professor of Sacred Literature at Harvard, replacing William Ellery Channing who had resigned for health reasons. Light rubbing to leather, boards with some damp stains. A Very Good copy. \$90



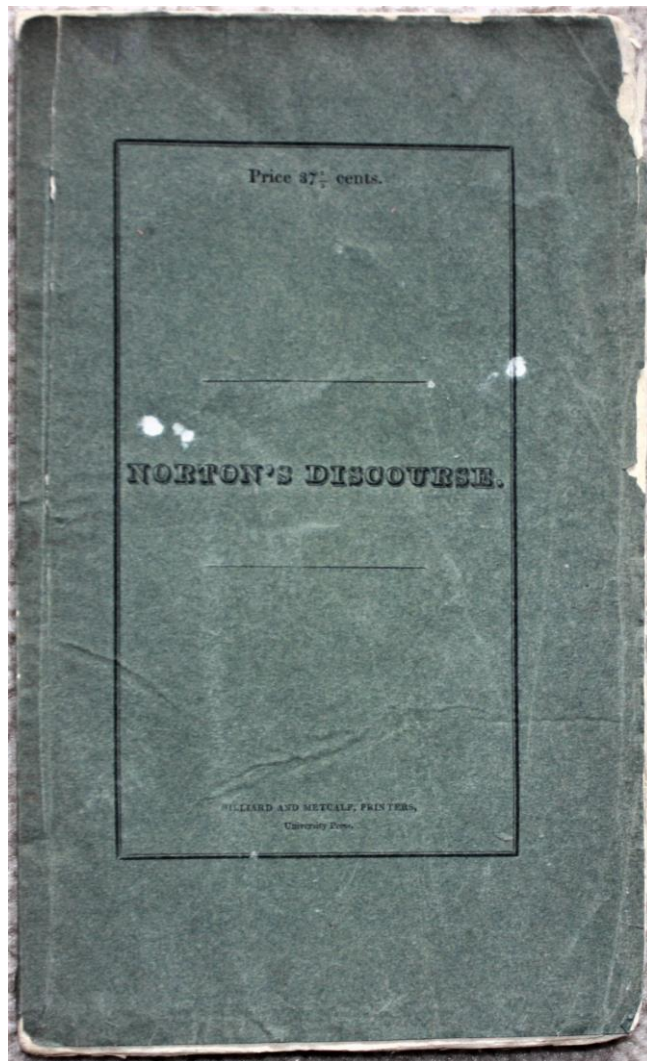
Frisbie's copy

2. Norton, Andrews. *Discourse on Religious Education; Delivered at Hingham, May 20, 1818. Before the Trustees of the Academy; Being the Annual Derby Lecture.* Boston: Published by Request, Printed by Wells and Lilly, 1818. First edition. Removed from a bound volume, Lacks wrappers, 27 pp., cut down to 22cm. Levi Frisbie's copy, "Prof. Frisbie" written on the title. Upon his friend and colleague Frisbie's early death Norton edited *A Collection of the Miscellaneous Writings of Professor Frisbie...*, 1823. Heavy foxing, a Good copy. \$125

Presentation copy

3. **Another copy:** Removed from a bound volume, lacks wrappers, cut down to 22cm. Inscribed on the title: "Rev. (illegible initial) Bancroft with the author's most respectful compliments" in Norton's hand. Part of the inscription trimmed away, a little spotting, staining, browning. A Good copy. \$100

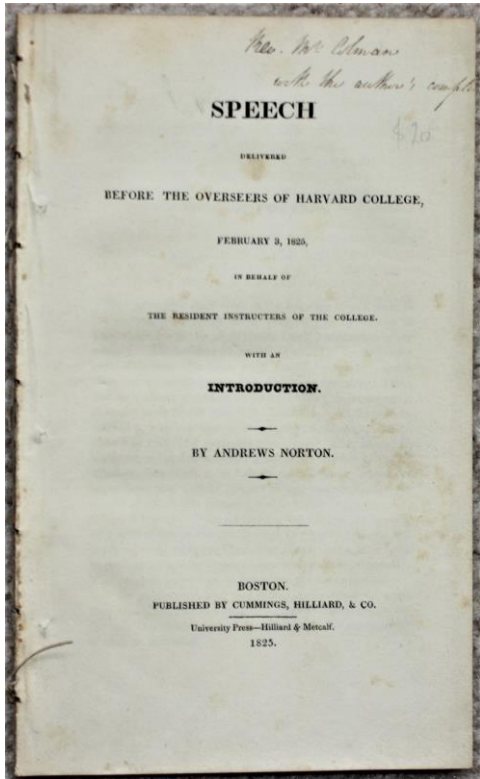
4. Norton, Andrews. *Inaugural Discourse, Delivered Before the University in Cambridge, August 10, 1819*. Cambridge: Printed by Hilliard and Metcalf, 1819. First edition. Original printed green wrappers, 48 pp., 24cm. "Note: On account of the length of the following discourse a considerable portion of it was omitted in the delivery. The whole is now printed". Norton, the Dexter Professor of Sacred Literature at Harvard, here outlined his theological opinions, beginning with ".....the intellectual acquisition and endowments required to constitute a consummate theologian." This very theme was again promoted in his 1839 pamphlet *A Discourse on the Latest Form of Infidelity.....*, his polemic against Emerson's *Divinity School Address*, the incipient transcendental movement, and the new German theology. A Good copy. \$75



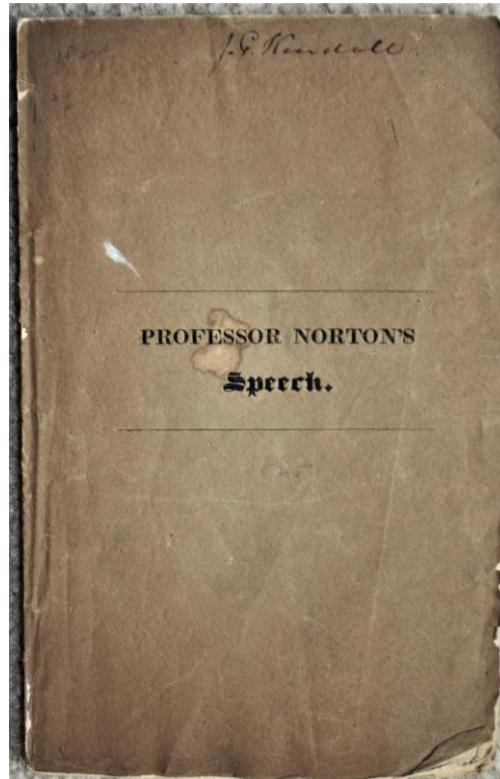
5. **Another copy:** Removed from a bound volume, lacks wrappers, cut down to 22cm, 48 pp. A clean, Very Good copy. \$35

Presentation copy

6. Norton, Andrews. *Speech Delivered Before the Overseers of Harvard College, February 3, 1825, in Behalf of the Resident Instructors (sic) of the College.* Boston: Cummings, Hilliard, 1825. First edition. Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers, 22cm, 35 pp. A presentation copy: "Rev. Mr. (Henry?) Colman with the author's compliments" in Norton's hand. The last few letters trimmed, nearly unworn, last page (blank) soiled. Very Good. \$90



6.



7.

7. **Another copy:** Original printed brown wrappers, 24 cm, 35 pp. Ownership signature of "J.G. Kendall" on the front. James G. Kendall was Unitarian pastor at the First Church, Plymouth. Spine perished, else a Very Good copy. \$80

8. [Unitarian Periodical] *The Liberal Preacher: Or a Monthly Publication of Sermons by Living Ministers.* Vol.I, Nos. 1 through 9, and No. 11. Keene, N.H.: John Prentiss, and Boston: Bowles and Dearborn, July, 1827 through March, 1828, and May, 1828. Ten numbers in original printed wrappers. Sermons by Andrews Norton, Orville Dewey, John Gorham Palfrey, Ezra Ripley, F.W.P. Greenwood, Henry Ware, Jr., James Walker, James G. Kendall, and others. Norton provided "On the Change in Character in Men Spoken of in the New Testament, as Produced by Christianity." Some chipping, staining, and foxing, but these are Fine copies. \$100

Sylvester Judd

9. Norton, Andrews. ***A Statement of Reasons for Not Believing in the Doctrines of Trinitarians, Concerning the Nature of God, and the Person of Christ.*** Cambridge: Brown, Shattuck; Boston: Hilliard, Gray, 1833. Second edition, the first of 1819 was an offprint, "struck off separately (from a periodical appearance) under the title that I have given to this volume...(which is)...a new work", three times the size (from the preface). Original brown embossed cloth, a leafy pattern, and printed paper label, 331 pp. Sylvester Judd's copy, His ownership signature "S. Judd, Jr." and a printed bookplate "Kennebec Historical Society. From the Library of Rev. Sylvester Judd. November 1899." Judd wrote the only Transcendentalist novel, *Margaret. A Tale of the Real and Ideal...*, 1845. "I saw Judd in Augusta (Maine) in February, and asked him, who his companions were? He said 'Sunsets'." (Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals and Miscellaneous Notebooks 1852-1855*, Harvard U.P., 1977, p.26). Light wear, spine sunned, offsetting to front board from its place on the shelf. Two parallel vertical scratches along the spine. Light foxing. Pretty cloth, a Very Good copy. \$300



Item 9

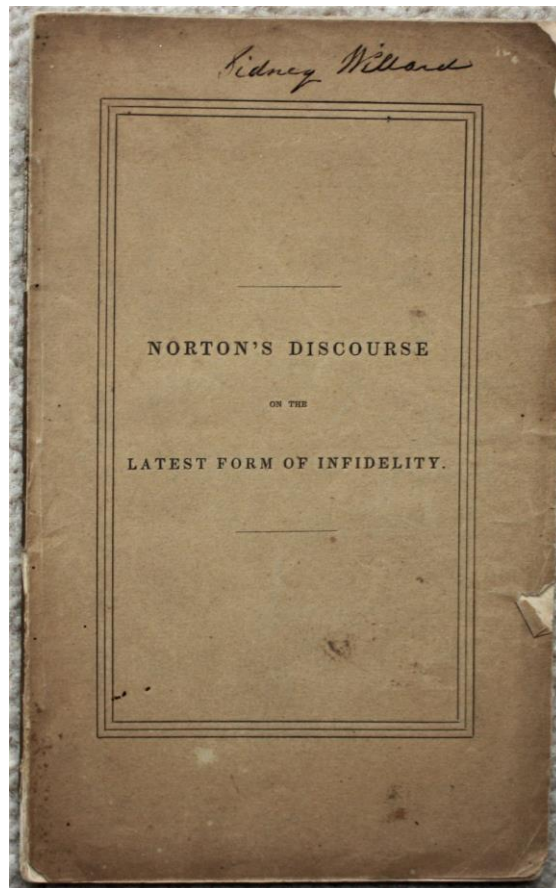
10. **Another copy:** Original brown "S" cloth, printed paper label. Spine ends chipped, label chipped and darkened. Some light foxing, a little browning. A Very Good copy. \$200

The pamphlet war:

"He was the first to sound the alarm of heresy, in the body of Christians whose main distinction was the repudiation of creeds." (George Ripley, in his obituary of Norton for the *New York Tribune*, item 29, below)

Willard's copy

11. Norton, Andrews. *A Discourse on the Latest Form of Infidelity; Delivered at the Request of the "Association of the Alumni of the Cambridge Theological School," on the 19th of July, 1839. With Notes.* Cambridge: John Owen, 1839. First edition. Original tan printed wrappers, 64 pp., 24cm. Sidney Willard's copy, his ownership signature on the front wrapper. Willard, like Norton, had been librarian at Harvard, was professor there (of Hebrew); both were members of the Anthology Club and contributed to the *Monthly Anthology* and the *General Repository*, and both are buried at Mt. Auburn. Willard taught German to George Bancroft. He served as mayor of Cambridge from 1848-50. Wrapper edges chipped, spine panel eroding. Light foxing. A Good copy. \$375



Presentation copy

12. **Another copy:** Lacks the wrappers, cut down to 21 cm, 64 pp. Presentation copy: "Mrs. Eliot from her friend A.N." Mrs. Eliot may have been Mrs. William H. Eliot. Her husband would have been the prominent Boston businessman and a relative of Norton's wife. Removed from a bound volume, else Very Good. \$225

13. **Another copy:** Original printed wrappers. Removed from a bound volume, cut down to 21 cm, 64 pp. Contemporary signature of T. Walker on the front and the title, stamp of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, its numbers on the front, no other library markings. A Very good copy. \$150

14. **Another copy:** Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers, cut down to 23 cm, 64 pp. Light soiling to wrappers, light wear. A Very Good copy. \$90

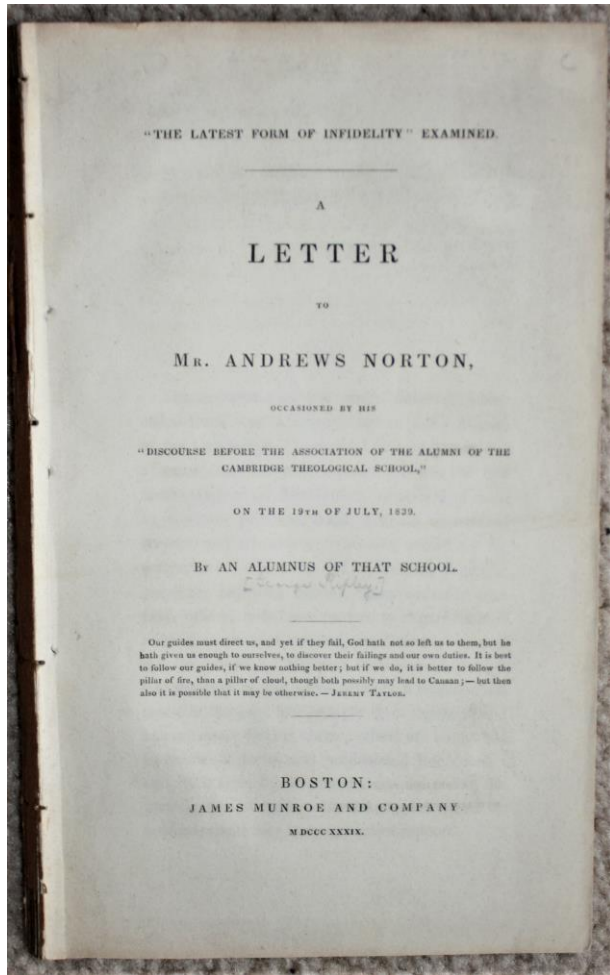
15. (Anonymous) **Review of Norton's *On the Latest Form of Infidelity...*** in *The Knickerbocker* for October, 1839. Original wrappers, soiled and chipped but complete. The reviewer: "...an excellent Discourse. Its main object is to expose...increasing error" (pp. 372-3). Also, Washington Irving's "Conspiracy of the Cocked Hats" and "Guests from Gibbet Island", a poem by Longfellow - "Fifth Psalm". Contemporary ownership signature (Lucius Lyon, at this time one of Michigan's first U.S. Senators). Some soiling and edge wear, a Good copy. \$35

Ripley's first "letter"

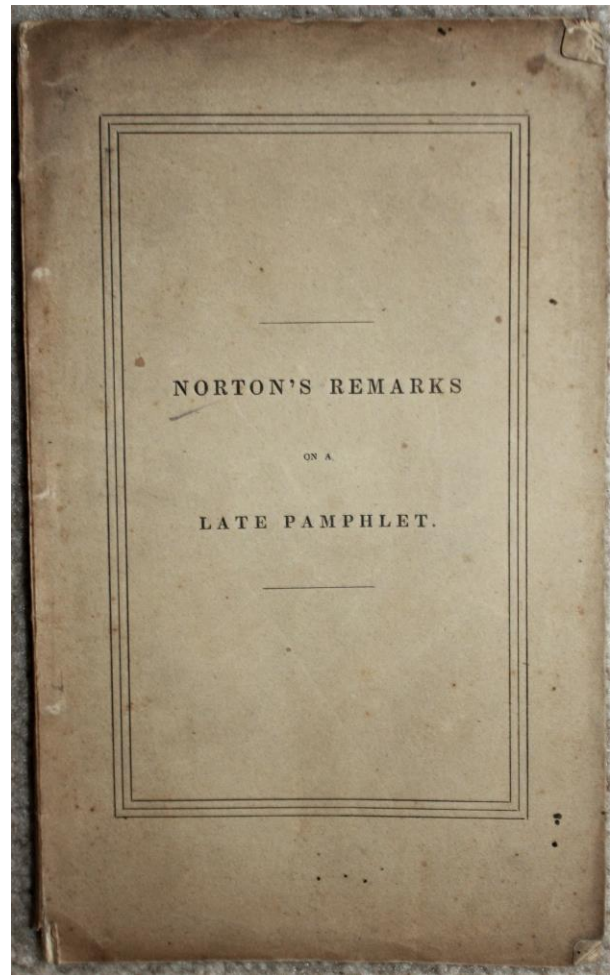
16. (Ripley, George). ***"The Latest Form of Infidelity" Examined. A Letter to Mr. Andrews Norton, Occasioned by His "Discourse Before the Association of the Alumni of the Cambridge Theological School", on the 19th of July, 1839.*** Boston: James Munroe, 1839. Lacks the wrappers, 160 pp., 24 cm. An episode in Ripley's pamphlet war with Norton. Contemporary ownership signature on the title, "D. Treadwell". Several ticks in the margins, and four contemporary annotations, including "If this propagation (of Christianity in the most unpropitious circumstances) was a natural event flowing from sufficient causes, it gives no proof. If it was not such an event then it was a miracle." First and last pages soiled. Small, light damp-stain to fore-edge of about the first half. Very Good. \$150

17. **Another copy:** Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers. Cut down to 22cm. Some pages foxed. Very Good. \$100

18. Norton, Andrews. ***Remarks on a Pamphlet Entitled "'The Latest Form of Infidelity' Examined"***. Cambridge: John Owen, 1839. First edition. Original tan printed wrappers, 24 cm, 72 pp. Norton's response to George Ripley's criticism of the same year. Norton demonstrates that he, too, has read the Germans carefully. Light soiling, spine ends a little chipped, a few corners dog-eared. A Very Good copy. \$275



Item 16, Ripley's first letter



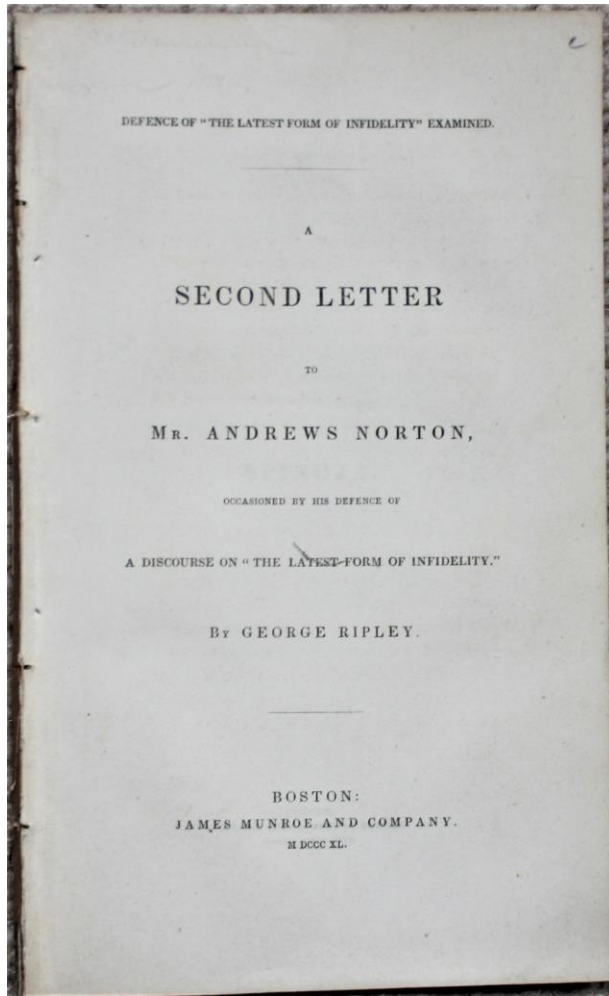
Item 18, Norton's response

19. **Another copy** (of Norton's Remarks): Original tan printed wrappers, 24 cm, 72 pp. Contemporary ownership signature ("Jos. W. Ingraham") on the front. Some chipping and toning at wrapper edges, front wrap separating from the bottom. Leaf 6(3) with closed tear, no loss. A Very Good copy. \$250

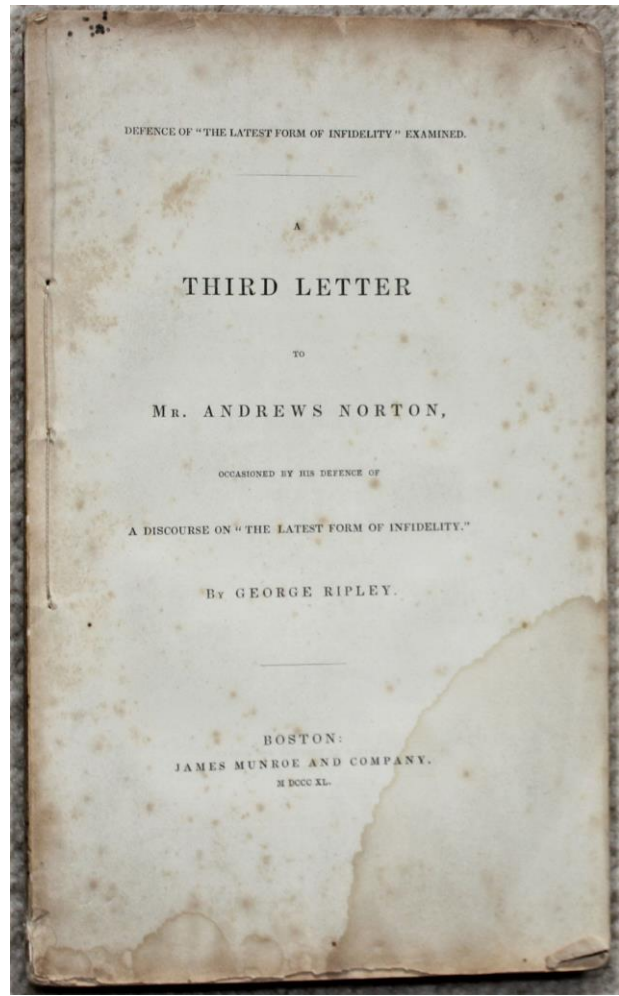
20. **Another copy**: Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers, 72 pp. Cut down to 22cm. Leaves numbered in ink (from 715 to 785). A few outer leaves foxed. Very Good. \$100

Ripley's second "letter"

21. Ripley, George. *Defence* (sic) of "*The Latest Form of Infidelity*" Examined. *A Second Letter to Mr. Andrews Norton, Occasioned by His Defence of A Discourse on "The Latest Form of Infidelity."* Boston: James Munroe, 1840. First edition. Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers, cut down to 22cm., 85 pp. plus one blank leaf. Clean and unworn. \$250



Item 21, Ripley's second letter

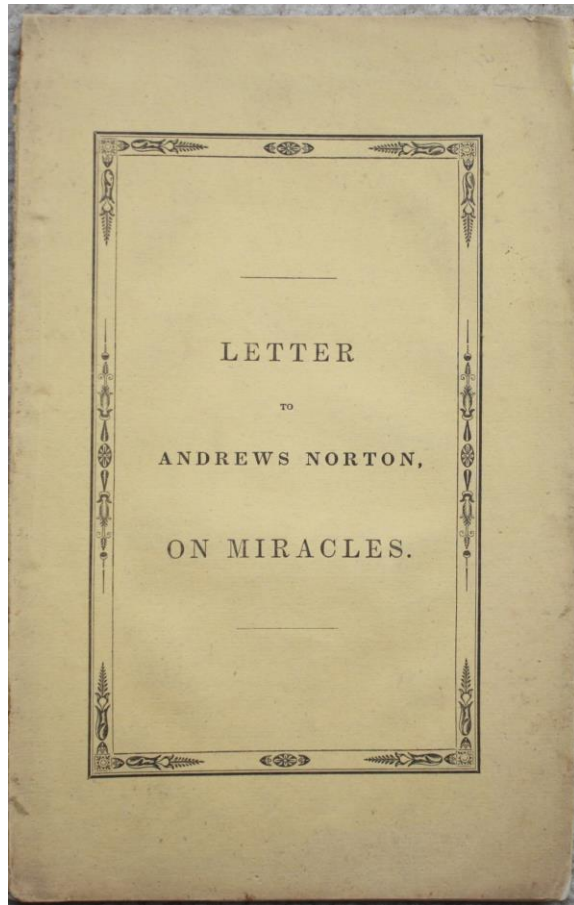


Item 22, Ripley's third letter

Ripley's third "letter"

22. Ripley, George. ***Defence of "The Latest Form of Infidelity" Examined. A Third Letter to Mr. Andrews Norton, Occasioned by His Defence of A Discourse on "The Latest Form of Infidelity."*** Boston: James Munroe, 1840. First edition. Removed from a bound volume, lacks the wrappers, cut down to 24cm, 154 pp. plus one blank leaf. Title soiled, damp-stain at the lower fore-corner extending through the first 15 leaves. Light to moderate foxing. A Good, sound copy. \$275

23. (Hildreth, Richard). ***A Letter to Andrews Norton, On Miracles as the Foundation of Religious Faith.*** Boston: Weeks, Jordan, 1840. First edition. Original printed yellow wrappers (it also came in green), 52 pp. A reply to Norton's *On the Latest Form of Infidelity*.... . Hildreth "was not a Transcendentalist; in fact, he was the outstanding spokesman in America for Benthamite Utilitarianism (Perry Miller, *The Transcendentalists: An Anthology*, 1950). Here he argues for science against miracles. Wrappers eroding at spine ends, some wear and dust soiling. A Very Good copy. \$300



Item 23, Hildreth's letter

Family copy

24. [Norton, Charles Eliot] Harris, William Thaddeus. ***Epitaphs From the Old Burying-Ground in Cambridge.*** Cambridge: John Owen, 1845. First edition. Original unlettered quarter cloth, paper boards. Association copy: "Mary Wigglesworth from her dear(?) cousin, C.E. Norton", in the recipients hand. Several Wigglesworths are buried here. See also item 30 for the family connection. The lightest wear, edges a little dusty. A Fine copy. \$125

Brownson, the new Norton?

25. Brownson, O.A. (Orestes Augustus). ***Brownson's Quarterly Review.*** Volume 2. Boston: Benjamin H. Greene, 1845. Half leather and cloth. Four issues bound together, January, April, July and October, 1845. Contains "The Latest Form of Infidelity", a two part review of Theodore Parker's *A Discourse of Matters Pertaining to Religion*. "Parkerism, or Infidelity", which is a review of Theodore Parker's *The Relation of Jesus to His Age...* and his *The Excellence of Goodness*; "Miss Fuller and the Reformers", a review of *Women in the Nineteenth Century*; The reviews are unsigned, but Brownson asserted in the first number of his quarterly that he would be writing all the content. Brownson uses Norton's title to

attack Parker here. But he had also attacked Norton on his *Latest Form....* in 1839, calling him one of the "few remaining disciples" of Locke's philosophy. "Locke was a great and good man, but his philosophy was defective, and altogether unfriendly to religion" (*Boston Quarterly Review*, January, 1839, quoted in Perry Miller, 1950). Lacks the lettered leather label, quite worn, but sound. A Good copy. \$90

26. Norton, Andrews. **Autograph Letter, Signed.** Dated Cambridge, 29 Novr 1846. "Gentlemen, The failure of my publisher has delayed the publication of my first volumes, and enabled me to make a correction....". He cites two lines on p. cxxx and asks for some words to be omitted. Apparently to the printer. The volumes at issue may be the Cambridge second edition of his "Historical Evidences of the Genuineness of the Gospels", 3v. 1846. A half sheet, one page. Folded as though for mailing. Very Good. \$90

Cambridge 29 Novr 1846

Gentlemen

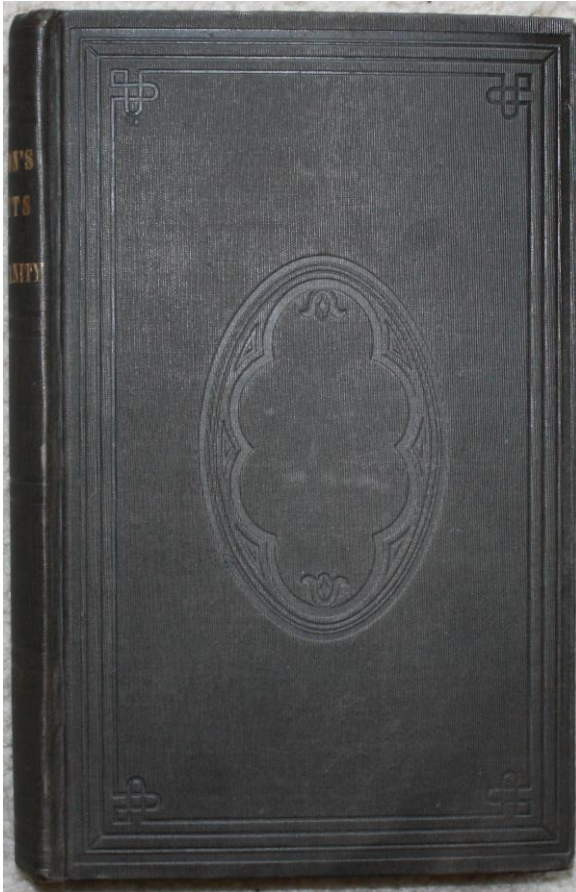
The failure of my publisher has delayed the publication of my first volumes, and enabled me to make a correction, by reprinting a leaf, of which it is right to inform you.

The correction is on p. cxxx, where lines 5 & 6 from bottom of the middle column, I have caused the words, "Do thou have faith", to be omitted.

With much respect
your obed't serv't
Andrews Norton

27. Anonymous. **The Fifteenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches.** Boston: (Not Published), printed by John Wilson, 1849. First edition. Original pale green printed wrappers, 66 pp. A presentation inscription on the front wrapper, to "Rev. Andrews Norton with best respects of the Minister at Large to Bowdoin College". This is all about the Minister at Large program founded in the mid 1820's by Joseph Tuckerman to minister to the poor. Wrappers with toning and a few stains. Rear wrapper detached and chipped with some loss, else Very Good. \$75

28. Norton, Andrews. **Tracts Concerning Christianity**. Cambridge: John Bartlett, 1852. First edition. Original brown cloth, gilt lettered, decorated in blind, 392 pp. Reprints seven essays, some with new introductory material. Includes his 1839 *Discourse on the Latest Form of Infidelity*, followed by an update in the form of *Remarks on the Modern German School of Infidelity*, "well worth the attention of him who is studying the causes and character of false opinions." With the ownership signature of "Sarah P. Pratt, Oakley, 1852." Oakley House, in Watertown, was rebuilt in 1808 by Charles Bulfinch as a summer house for Harrison Gray Otis, who sold it in 1825 to William Pratt, a Boston merchant. See also item 30 for Miss Pratt. As New. \$500



T R A C T S

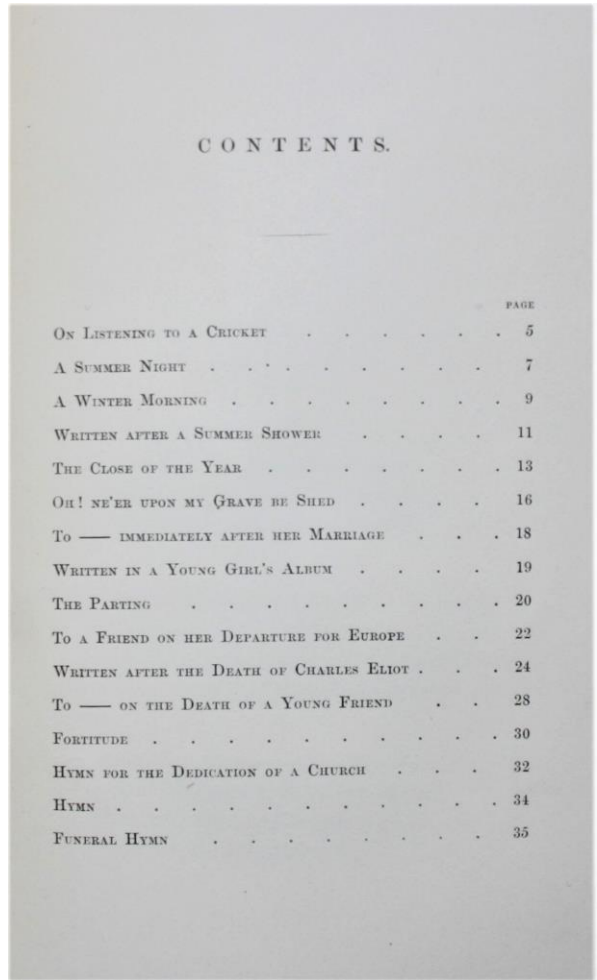
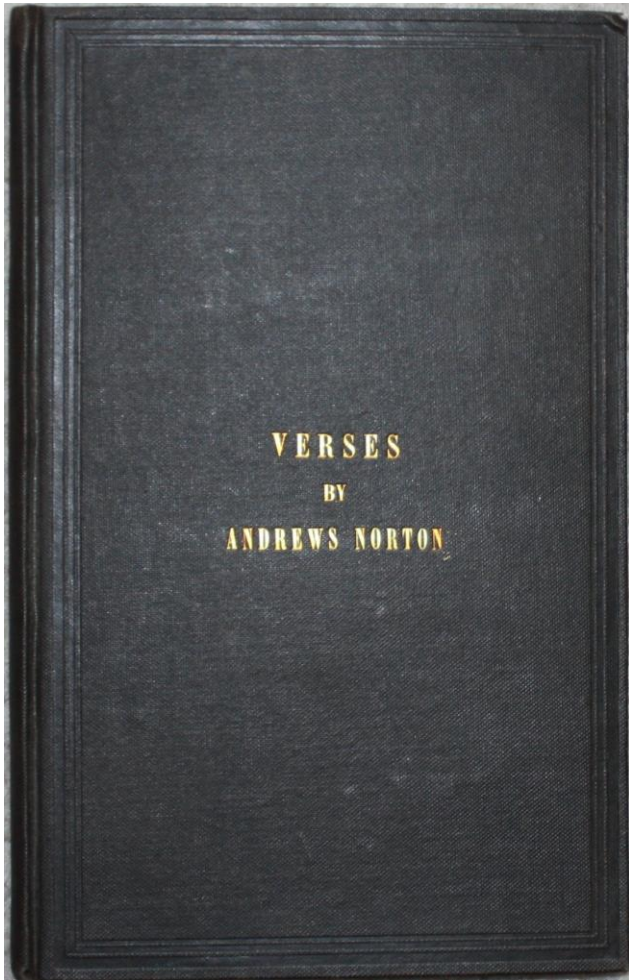
CONTAINED IN THIS VOLUME.

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29. (Ripley, George). **Andrews Norton's Obituary** in the *New York Tribune* for September 24, 1853. Complete issue, 8 pp. The obit of Norton (p.4) is about 22 column inches, unsigned, but Ripley worked at the *Tribune* at this time, and years later he used some of the same phrases to write about Norton in *The Memorial History of Boston*, 1881 (v.4, p.299-301 general editor Justin Winsor. Ripley died before this essay was completed). Given the pamphlet war between Norton and Ripley resulting from Norton's *The Latest Form of Infidelity* (1839), this is a generous estimate of Norton's legacy - recognition for his "...eminent position (and) influence on the formation of opinion and progress of culture...", followed by a compliment he might not have appreciated: "He was the Theodore Parker of his day." But, there was sharp criticism - his "...opposition to the results of German theology often led him to acts of the grossest

injustice" and "Professedly the champion of free thought, he was the last to encourage it in others, whenever it took a direction in opposition to himself." In Ripley's 1881 estimate (*The Memorial History...*), this kind of criticism was left out. Minor edgewear and a small dampstain to one corner. A Very Good copy. \$125

30. Norton, Andrews. **Verses.** (No place: no publisher), 1853. First edition. Original brown cloth, gilt lettered on the front, ruled in blind, pale yellow endpapers 35pp. Compiled after his death by Norton's son, Charles. Inscription on a binder's leaf: "Sarah P. Pratt. August 1854. The gift of Mrs. Wigglesworth". Sarah Pratt was a daughter of William Pratt (see item 28, above); Mrs. Wigglesworth is likely Norton's sister, Jane, Mrs. Thomas Wigglesworth. Sixteen poems on a variety of subjects ("On Listening to a Cricket", "Oh! Ne'er Upon My Grave be Shed", "Hymn for the Dedication of a Church"). Tiny bump to one corner, else As New. \$600



31. [Norton, Andrews] Alfred Claghorn Potter and Charles Knowles. ***The Librarians of Harvard College, 1667-1877.*** Cambridge: Library of Harvard University, 1897. First edition. Original self-

wrappers, 47 pp. No. 52 of the "Bibliographical Contributions", edited by Justin Winsor. Brief biographies, including that of Andrews Norton, who served from 1813-1821. Lightly soiled, else Fine. \$75

32. Howe, M.A. De Wolfe, ed. ***Journal of the Proceedings of the Anthology Society Which Conducts the 'Monthly Anthology and Boston Review'....*** No place: the Boston Athenaeum, 1910. First edition. A lovely production, blue cloth stamped in gilt, top edge gilt, plain paper dust jacket. Unopened. Gives minutes of Society meetings, attributions for the articles, and collates each volume. Contributors included William Emerson, Joseph Stevens Buckminster, George Ticknor, Andrews Norton, John Kirkland, Mary Moody Emerson. Some slight dust soiling. A Fine copy in a fine jacket. \$35

Terminus