

Collection #
SC 2296

**MATTHEW CAREY
LETTER, 1804 SEPT. 3, PHILADELPHIA
[TO] CHARLES R. AND G. WEBSTER, ALBANY, IND.**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1804

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RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1989.0544X

NOTES: Separated from Medical History Papers, SC 2295

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Matthew Carey (1760-1839), publisher and economist, was born in Dublin, Ireland. Though self-educated, he showed familiarity with Latin in his writings. Growing up in an Ireland which was growing restive under British rule, he was frequently in trouble with the authorities. In 1779 he worked briefly in Paris for Benjamin Franklin. From 1780 to 1784 he was editor first of the *Freeman's Journal* and then of the *Volunteer's Journal*. He left Ireland for good in 1784, and went to Philadelphia, where he edited a series of publications, none of which was profitable: *Pennsylvania Herald*, *Columbian Magazine*, and *American Museum*.

About 1789 Carey became a publisher and bookseller, one of the most important in Philadelphia in the early nineteenth century. He founded the Hibernian Society, and was an outspoken advocate of universal education and of internal improvements. As an economist, he had a major influence in developing the American nationalist school of economic thought. His writings include *Autobiographical Sketches* (1829) and *Miscellaneous Essays* (1830).

Sources: *Who Was Who in America*. Historical volume
Dictionary of American Biography.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one letter, dated Philadelphia, 3 September 1804, to Charles R. and G. Webster in Albany. It concerns an exchange of books. Carey is sending a number of volumes, including More's *Strictures*, *Fortune's Football*, and *Travels before the Flood*, and also expects to ship some school and some quarto Bibles. He complains of not having received "a single copy of the Bible Stories, bound as they ought to be." ALS 3p