

The William H. Baldwin Papers: A Collection of Correspondence of a Boston Philanthropist, including the manuscripts of two rare Oliver Wendell Holmes "A" items

[Circa 1690-1910]

\$75,000

A collection of correspondence and family paper of New England abolitionist and philanthropist William H. Baldwin. Included are about 70 Autograph Letters Signed from prominent American literary writers and social reformers (Bronson Alcott, William Cullen Bryant, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Julia Ward Howe, John Greenleaf Whittier, Robert C. Winthrop, and others); three U.S. Presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes, Howard Taft, and Calvin Coolidge; and various family papers (spanning the years from circa 1690-1910) of manuscript, typewritten, and printed materials and photographs, the bulk of which document Baldwin's post-Civil War philanthropic work. Among the later papers are materials relating to Baldwin's two sons: William H. Baldwin, Jr., a noted railroad executive and important benefactor of the Tuskegee Institute; and George S. Baldwin, also a prominent philanthropist and State legislator from Brookline, Massachusetts.

Born in Brighton, Massachusetts in 1826, William H. Baldwin established a successful import business of woolen goods in 1850 (Baldwin, Baxter and Company). During the Civil War he was a founding and active member of the Ward 11 Boston Soldiers' Relief Commission which was dedicated to providing relief to the families and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. After retiring from business in 1868, he became President of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union (YMCU) and devoted the rest of his life to philanthropic work for the YMCU and other Boston-based organizations (these include the Boston School Board, the Children's Mission to the Children of the Destitute, and the American Unitarian Association).

Among the letters from literary writers are 12 from Oliver Wendell Holmes, including both a six-page tribute to John Greenleaf Whittier and an original manuscript poem; three letters from Whittier, six from William Cullen Bryant; and one from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. From among the political figures are four letters from George D. Robinson, the 34th Governor of Massachusetts and a prominent lawyer who secured the acquittal of Lizzie Borden; two from Robert C. Winthrop, and one from William Lloyd Garrison soliciting Baldwin's patronage for William S. Braithwaite, father of the African-American poet William Stanley Braithwaite. The collection also contains various memorial tributes to William H. Baldwin, Jr., including a scarce typescript copy of memorial addresses by Booker T. Washington and Felix Adler from 1905. Additionally the archive contains several autographs from Edwin Booth, Richard Henry Dana, and others.

An historically important and compelling archive of a committed abolitionist and philanthropist who remained active throughout his life in the struggle for securing economic freedom and equality for African-Americans.

The collection is organized into seven groups of materials:

I. Literary and Related Correspondence (1867-1905)

1. 67 Autograph Letters Signed and three Typed Letters

Signed:

Adams, William T. (1 ALS, 1873)

Alcott, A. Bronson (3 ALS, 1877-1878)

Andrew, John A. (1 ALS, 1867)

Beecher, Henry Ward (2 ALS, 1868)

Brooks, Phillips (5 ALS, 1876-1890)

Bryant, William Cullen (6 ALS, 1868-1878; 1 clipped signature, 1872)

Choate, Joseph H. (4 ALS, 1869-1873)

Clarke, James Freeman (1 ALS, 1883)

Cooper, Peter (1 ALS, 1876; 1 signed slip)

Curtis, George William (2 ALS, 1877; 1 TLS, 1889)

Dawes, H.L. (1 signed autograph letter, 1885)

Eliot, Charles W. (1 TLS, 1903; and 1 draft reply by Baldwin)

Emerson, Ralph Waldo (1 ALS, 1877)

Garrison, William Lloyd (1 ALS, 1875)

Hale, Edward Everett (1 ALS, 1905)

Hayes, Rutherford B. (1 ALS, 1878)

Hoar, Ebenezer Rockwood (2 ALS, 1876-1877)

Hoar, George Frisbie (1 ALS, 1878; 1 TLS, 1892)

Holmes, Oliver Wendell (11 ALS, 1869-1890 [including some not dated]; Typed Manuscript Signed [1892]; and Holograph poem Signed, 1893)

Howe, Julia Ward (1 ALS, no date)

Lincoln, Robert Todd (1 ALS, 1880)

Longfellow, Henry W. (1 ALS, 1879)

O'Reilly, John Boyle (1 ALS, no date)

Patten, C. B. (1 ALS, 1882: laid-in is an oak chip from a tree felled by William E. Gladstone, and a printed card signed in pencil by John Bright)

Phillips, Wendell (1 ALS, no date)

Quincy, Josiah (2 ALS, 1873-1878)

Rice, Alexander H. (2 ALS, 1876-1878)

Robinson, George D. (4 ALS, 1883-1884, including one not dated)

Slater, A.C. (1 ALS, 1898)

Washburn, W. B. (1 ALS, 1873)

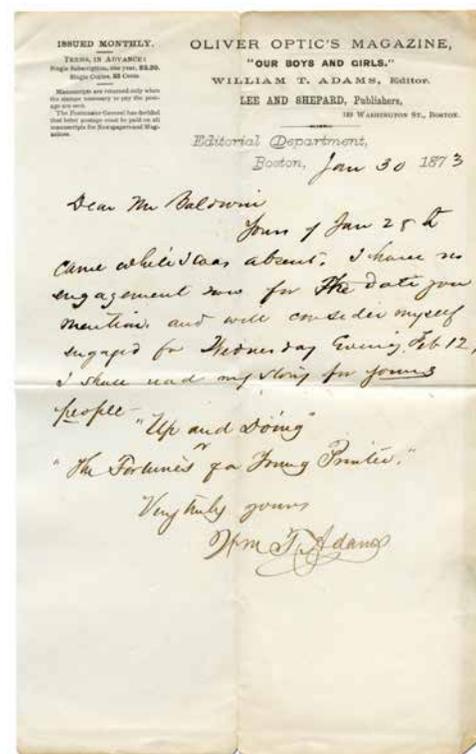
Whittier, John G. (3 ALS, 1869-1878)

Winthrop, Robert C. (2 ALS, 1879; 1 clipped signature, 1889)

A total of 70 letters (totaling about 123 pages), many of which are responses to invitations from Baldwin to speak at the Unitarian Festival (held annually in Boston) and other public events hosted by the Boston Young Men's Christian Union. Notable letters include:

-ADAMS, William T. ALS. Octavo. 1p. Oliver Optic's Magazine, Boston: Jan. 30, 1873.

Adams's specification of the talk he will deliver on February 12, "Up and Doing; or, The Fortunes of a Young Printer."

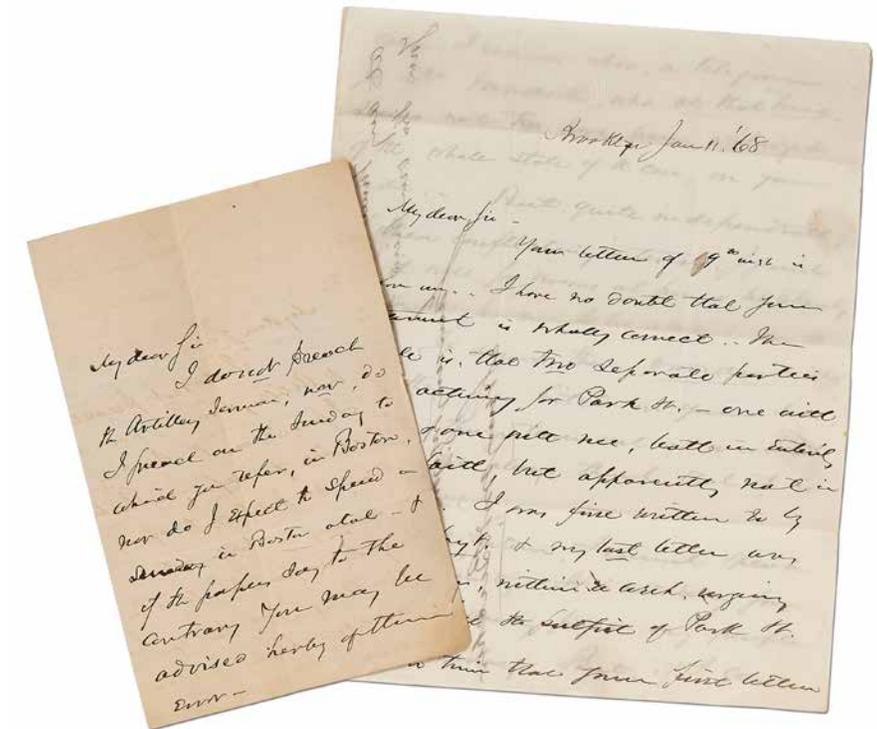


Henry Ward Beecher

2 ALS (1868)

-Beecher, Henry Ward. ALS. Quarto. 3pp.
Brooklyn: January 11, 1868.

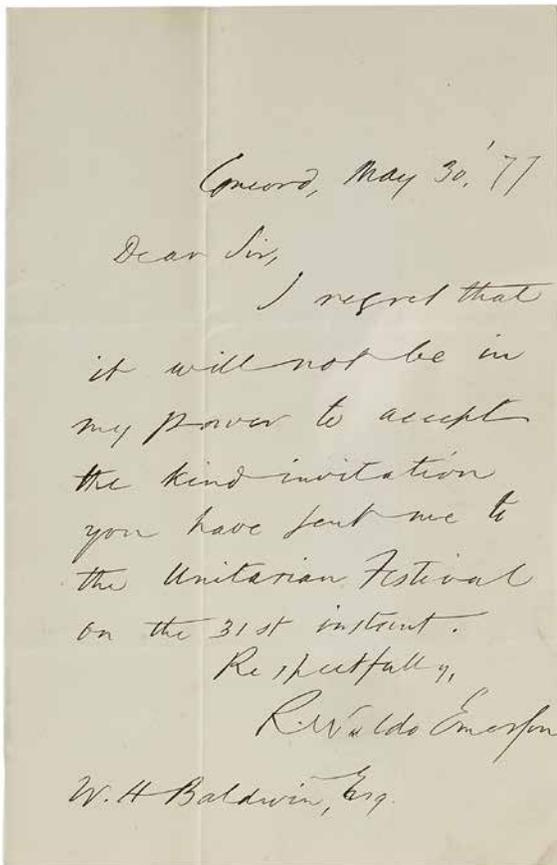
“... I have no doubt that your statement is wholly correct. The trouble is, that two separate parties were [-] for Park St. – one with you, and one with me, both in (entirely) good faith, but apparently not in concert. I was first written to by Henry [-] and my last letter was from him, written [-], engaging me to fill the pulpit of Park St. / At the time that your first letter came, I received also, a telegram from D Farnsworth, who, at that time, seems not to have been apprised of the whole state of the case, on your side. – But quite independently of these conflicting interests I find that it will, for reasons at [-], be extremely difficult for me to be absent on the 19th. – It seems, then, providential that there is a hitch on your side. / When things turn out as we want them to we always think that it is Providential! / As to the future, I cannot speak with certainty – It is not easy for me to get away from my people on a Sunday – But, if I can at any time see my way clear, I will notify you thro’ our friend Renowned ...”



Jan 11, 1868
I am very glad to hear
from you
Henry Ward Beecher

-Beecher, Henry Ward. ALS. Octavo. 2pp. May 19, 1868.

“I don’t preach the Artillery sermon; nor do I preach on the Sunday to which you refer, in Boston ...”



-EMERSON, Ralph Waldo. ALS. Octavo. 1p. Concord: May 30, 1877.

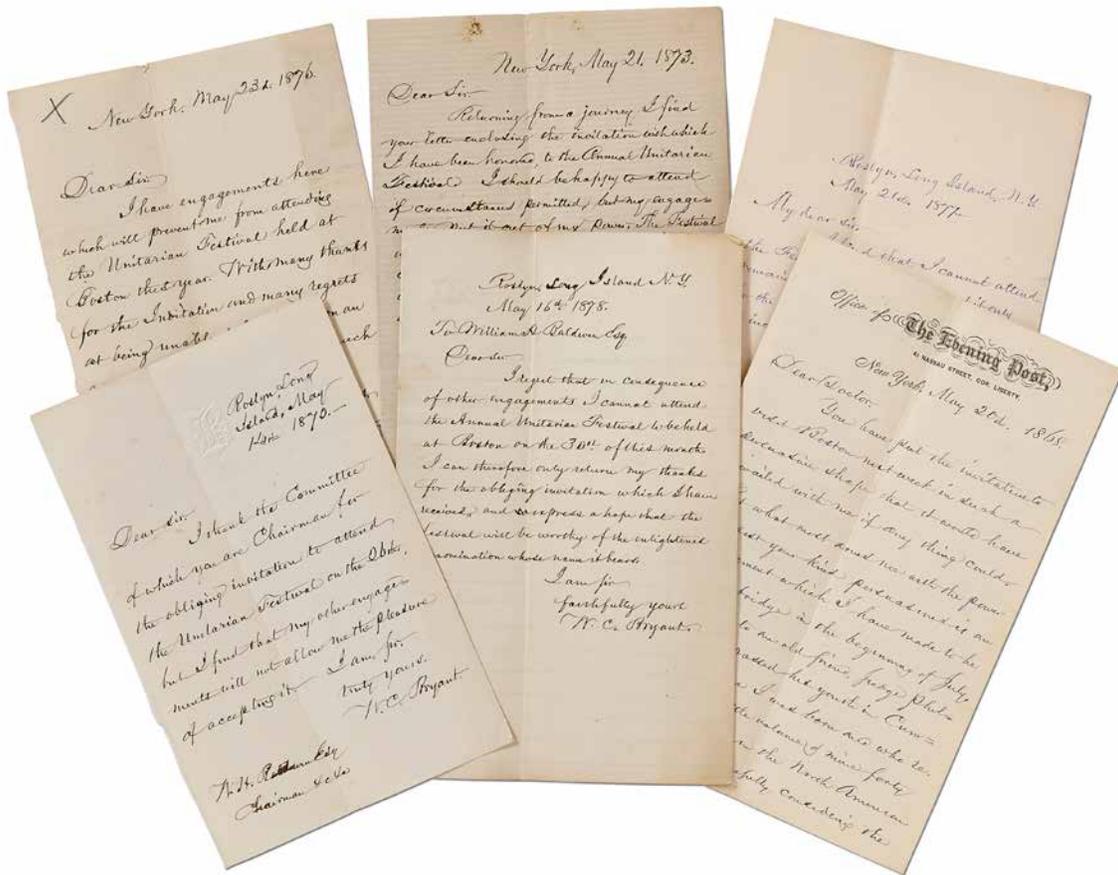
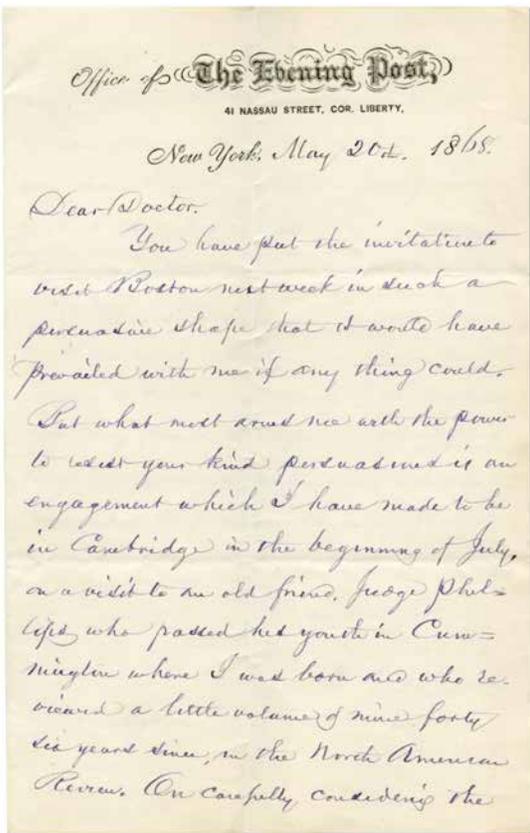
“I regret that it will not be in my power to accept the kind invitation you have sent me to the Unitarian Festival on the 31st instant.”

William C. Bryant

Six ALS (1868-1878); and one clipped Signature (1872). Bryant politely declines Baldwin's invitations to speak at the Unitarian Festival, including two letters with additional personal information about mutual friends:

-BRYANT, William C. ALS. Octavo. 2pp. Office of the Evening Post, New York: May 20, 1868.

"You have put the invitation to visit Boston next week in such a persuasive shape that it would have prevailed with me if any thing could. But what most aroused me with the power to resist your kind persuasions is an engagement which I have made to be in Cambridge in the beginning of July, on a visit to an old friend, Judge Phillips, who passed his youth in Cummington where I was born and who reviewed a little volume of mine forty six years since, in the *North American Review*. On carefully considering the matter, I cannot make both journeys and I shall therefore be obliged to you if you will make my excuse to those who have been kind enough to express a wish to see me in the Anniversary Week at Boston. When Mrs. Osgood [wife of Unitarian minister and writer Samuel Osgood] can find leisure to come out to Roslyn [Bryant's home in Long Island] we shall be happy to see her and yourself at any day you may please to appoint. And please bring your youngest hope along with (thou) - for whom I promise as many flowers as she can ... bring back with her."



-BRYANT, William C. ALS. Octavo. 1p. New York: May 21, 1873.

Bryant writes another friendly letter declining Baldwin's invitation to speak: "Returning from a journey I find your letter enclosing the invitation with which I have been honored, to the Annual Unitarian Festival ... The Festival will, I doubt not, prove worthy of the noble class of men and women holding our views of the Christian Faith whom the occasion will bring together in your beautiful city."

-GARRISON, William L. ALS. Octavo. 2pp. 125 Highland Street, Roxbury [Massachusetts]: Nov. 15, 1875.

A detailed letter of introduction written for William S. Braithwaite, father of the Harlem-based African-American poet and critic William S. B. Braithwaite. Garrison appeals to Baldwin to help Braithwaite: "a native of Demerara" [British Guiana] who "has come to this country to complete his medical education ..." [and] "whose complexion will not militate against his receiving your courteous consideration." ... "Please interrogate him freely, and he will speak for himself."

ing your courteous consideration. He is a native of Demerara, and, being destined by his father, (an able and highly respected journalist in that colony, now deceased, ^{by the medical profession}) has come to this country to complete his medical education - having already studied some four years, a part of the time in London - but has not succeeded here as he had hoped to do, and with his pecuniary means exhausted, he is anxious and ready to engage in any employment in which he can be useful, still trusting that he may yet accomplish the professional object of his life. I think you will be pleased with his intelligence and refinement, and am sure it will give you great satisfaction if in the smallest degree you can serve him at this crisis in his condition. Please interrogate him freely, and he will speak for himself.
Yours, with warm regards,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Private
EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON.
22 April 1878

My Dear Sir:
Your letter of the 12th with the discourse of Dr. Clarke came in due time. Both are very welcome. Your appeal, and the address with such a receipt by such an audience in full of our countrymen.
With kindest regards,
Wm. H. Baldwin
7c 7c

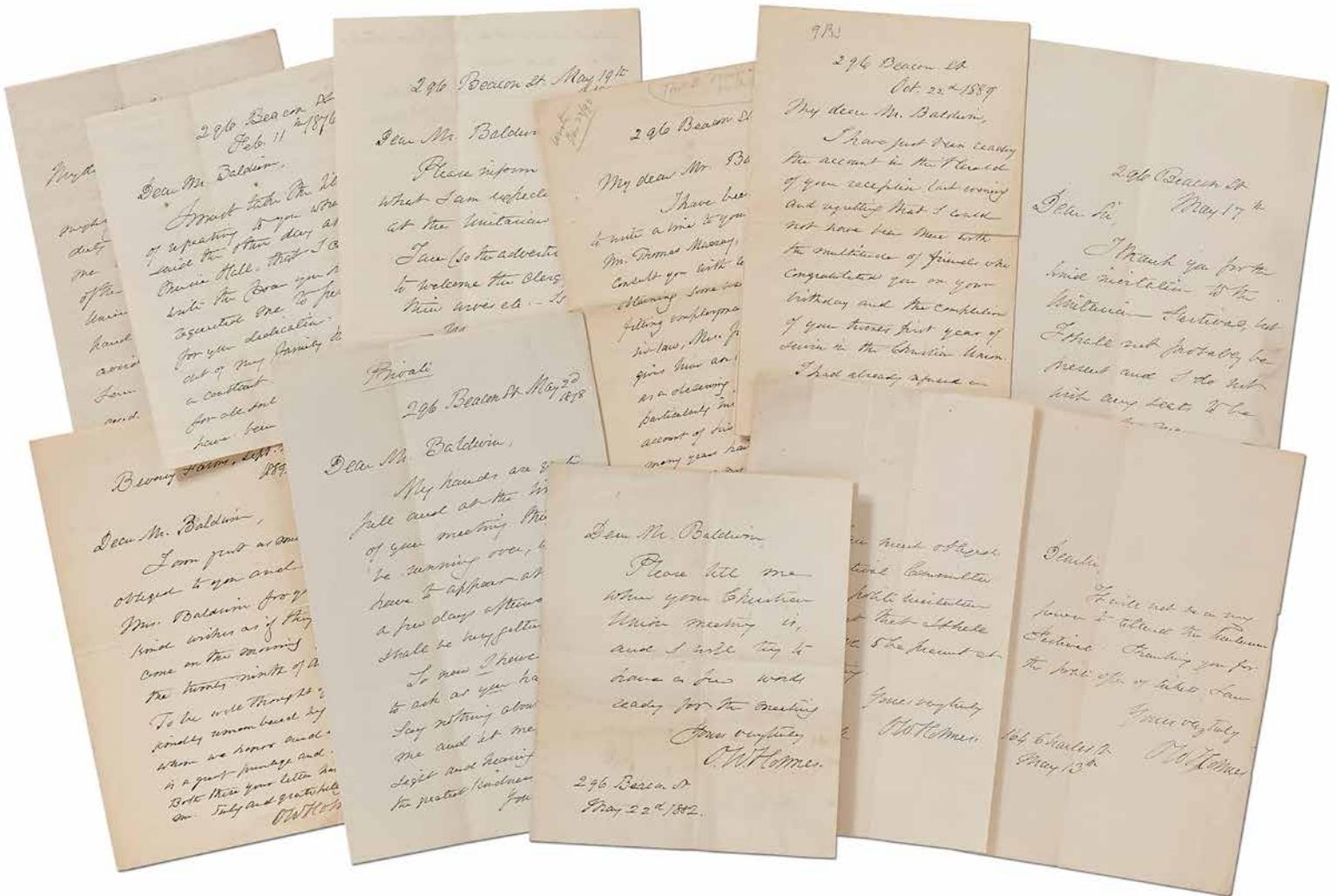
Private
EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON.
22 April 1878

Mr. Wm. A. Bradburn
15 13th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Wm. H. Baldwin
7c 7c

-HAYES, Rutherford B. ALS. Octavo. 1p. Executive Mansion, Washington: April 22, 1878.

"Your letter of the 12th with the discourse of Dr. Clarke [James Freeman Clarke] came in ... Both are very welcome ..."



Oliver W. Holmes

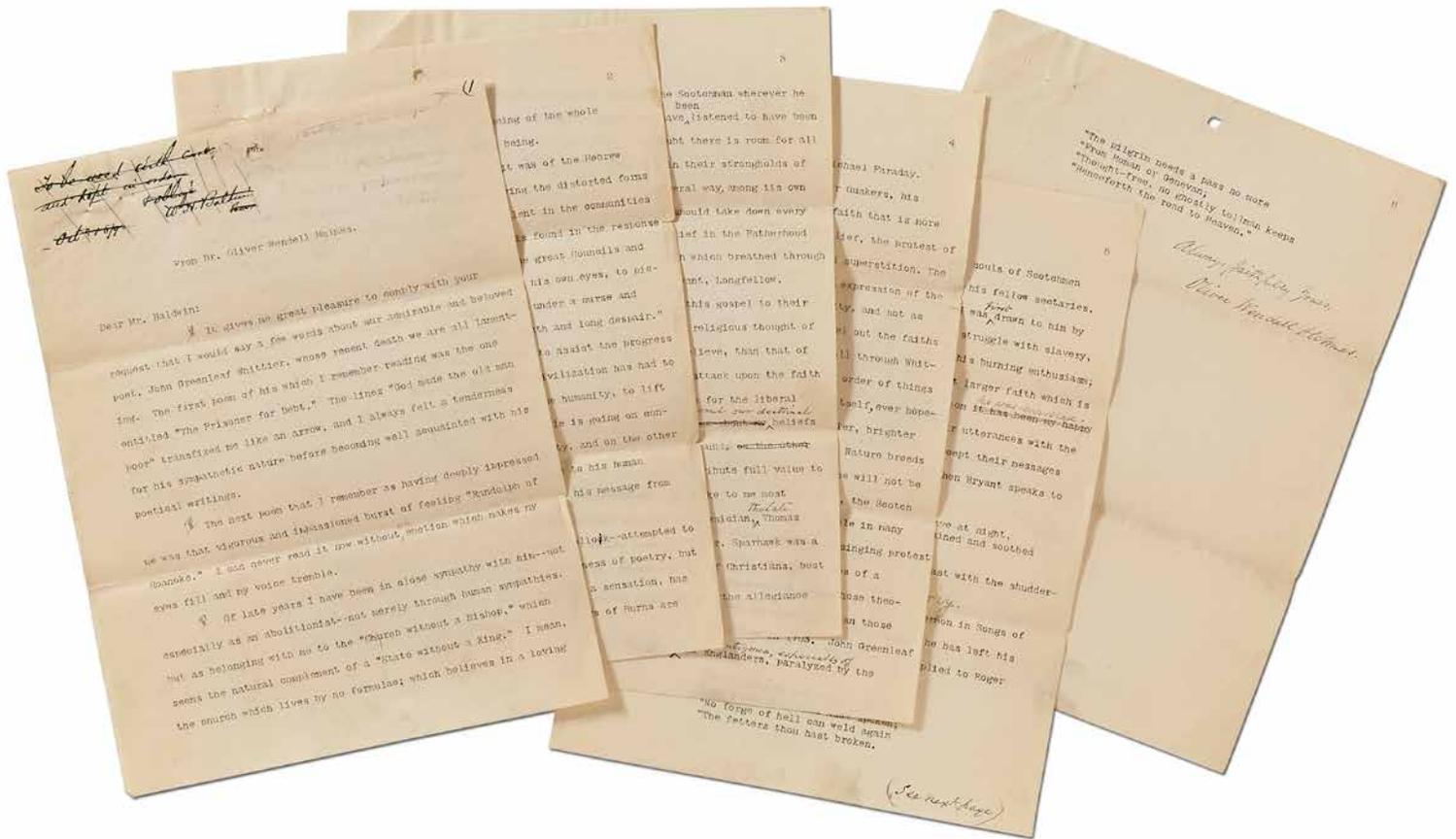
11 ALS (circa 1869-1890); Typed Manuscript, **Signed** [1892]; Holograph poem, **Signed** (1893). Eleven friendly letters: in the earlier letters Holmes politely declines Baldwin's invitation to speak at special events hosted by the Boston Young Men's Christian Union in Boston; in two later letters, Holmes also addresses personal matters and events, and praises Baldwin for his many years of service in the Christian Union:

-HOLMES, Oliver W. ALS. 3pp. 296 Beacon Street: Oct. 22, 1889.

"My dear Mr. Baldwin, I have just been reading the account in the *Herald* of your reception last evening ... I have always looked with admiration on your untiring and disinterested labors and you must let me add my name to the list of those who hail you with love and honor at the completion of the years which bring you to what used to be called 'the grand climacteric' and of that other long period of faithful service. Please accept my warmest wishes for your continued health and usefulness and believe me, Always faithfully yours, Oliver Wendell Holmes."

-HOLMES, Oliver W. ALS. 2pp. 296 Beacon Street: Jan. 12, 1890.

Holmes writes about his daughter-in-law who asks if Baldwin can help find employment for one Mr. Thomas Murray: "I am particularly interested in him on account of his mother who was for many years hair-dresser to my wife and my daughter. Mrs. Murray was always a great favorite to our family, a most pleasing and estimable woman, who would have graced a much higher station than the one she filled so well."

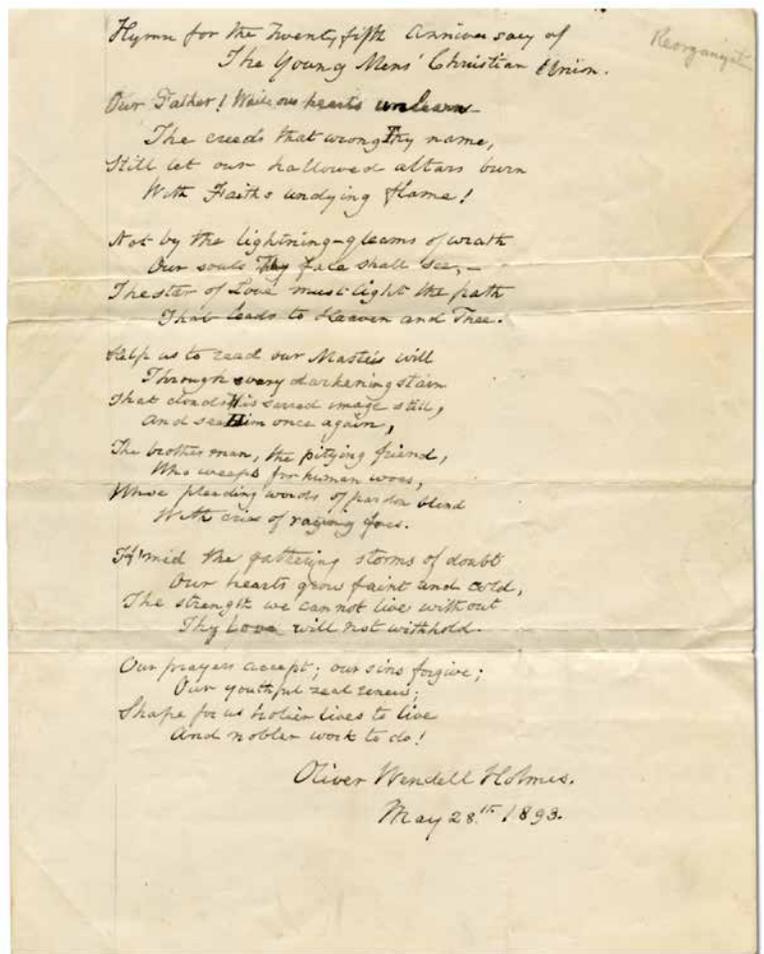


-HOLMES, Oliver W. "From Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes." [N.p., n.d., Boston, 1892].

Typed Manuscript **Signed**. Quarto. 6pp. (on six leaves). Holmes original typed manuscript with frequent ink annotations, of his tribute to John Greenleaf Whittier upon his death, written at the request of Baldwin. With a manuscript note by Baldwin dated October 16, 1892: "To be used with care, and kept in order." *BAL* locates only one known printed copy ("single cut sheet folded to make four pages") presented by Baldwin to the Boston Public Library titled: "Letter from Dr. Holmes. At the Whittier commemoration last week [Oct. 16, 1892] at the Young Men's Christian Union, President Baldwin read the following letter, written as his contribution to the service by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes ..." *BAL* 9040; *OCLC* locates a single copy at Harvard University.

-HOLMES, Oliver W. "Hymn for the Twenty fifth Anniversary of The Young Mens' Christian Union ... May 28th, 1893."

Holograph poem, **Signed** (Six four-line stanzas). Quarto sheet. The original manuscript of a rare broadside of which *BAL* identifies two variant printings: "Hymn written for the reception in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reorganization of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union ... Wednesday evening, May 31, 1893 ... Oliver Wendell Holmes." *BAL* 9048 locates three copies of variant A (Harvard, Massachusetts Historical Society, Yale) and two copies of variant B (Harvard, American Antiquarian Society); *OCLC* locates four additional copies (Brown, Huntington, Kent State, University of Virginia).



Baldwin, March 20
1879.

My Dear Sir,

I hasten to thank you
for your kindness in send-
ing me your programme
of last Wednesday evening.
I am sure I should have
enjoyed the entertainment
very much, could I have
been there.

In the programme is
a slight error, to which I
will call your attention,
though it is now too late

to correct it. The year's
subscription to a newspaper
was not for "Sandalphon",
but for the "Coplas de
Manrique", a translation
from the Spanish.

With thanks,
Yours very truly
Henry W. Longfellow.

-LONGFELLOW, Henry Wadsworth. ALS. 2pp. Cambridge: March 20, 1879.

Longfellow thanks Baldwin for sending to him a program, and informs him of an incorrect reference to the Spanish poem "Coplas de Manrique", which Longfellow had translated into English.

John G. Whittier

Three ALS (1869-1878)

-Whittier, John G. ALS. Octavo. 1p.
Amesbury: May 6, 1869.

"I am more sorry than you can
possibly be that I am not able to
write the Hymn for your Hall ... I
heartily approve of your object as
well as the means you employ to
promote it ..."

-Whittier, John G. ALS. Octavo.
2pp. Amesbury: May 2, 1876.

"... I know your works and labors
of love, and the broad and liberal
principles, upon which your society
is founded ..."

9.8B
Amesbury
W. H. Baldwin Esq
My dear Sir
I am compelled
the invitation
by my health
I know your
labors of love
broad & liberal
upon which you

9.8B
Amesbury
May 6 1869
Dear Sir
I am more sorry
than you can possibly
be that I am not
able to write the
Hymn for your
Hall. But I heartily
approve of your object
as well as the means
you employ to pro-
mote it. May the
Blessing rest
upon you & yours!
Yours truly
John G. Whittier

9.8B
Amesbury
May 2 1876
Dear Sir
I know your works
& labors of love
& the broad & liberal
principles upon which
your Society is
founded ...

II. Miscellaneous Autographs

-BOOTH, Edwin.

Booth's Signature in ink, written on a small printed sheet: "Autograph. Presented to the Mercantile Library Fair ... Boston, March, 1875."

-BRIGHT, John.

Bright's Signature in pencil (dated April 20, 1882), written on the back of a printed card issued to C.B. Patten: "United States Legation. Please admit."

-DANA, Richard Henry.

An undated clipped Signature: "Yours truly, R.H. Dana"

III. Manuscript and Typescript Personal Papers



1. Family History and Autobiographical Materials

-Typescript of Baldwin's autobiography. Quarto. 81 numbered pages (on 81 sheets), and six cover title sheets. Quarto. Bound with brads into six separate sections:

- The Chaffee Family & The Aldrich Family
- The Baldwin Family (with printed material pasted in)
- My Home Life
- My Father's Business Life and My Business Life
- My Educational Life and My Church Life (with annotated printed materials pasted in)
- Political and Public Life (two copies, one with annotated

printed materials pasted in)

-Holograph notes and drafts (for the preceding 81 page typescript). Quarto. About 115 pages, and one notebook of materials relating to the Brackett Family.

2. Original Hymns (Both manuscript and printed, 1872-1896)

Notebook. 12mo. Contains about 26pp. of material (in manuscript and tipped-in), accompanied by seven loose printed sheets. Baldwin composed hymns for specific occasions in this notebook dating from May 1872. Into this notebook he wrote out some of his compositions and pasted in clippings of printed copies of his hymns from leaflets and magazines.

3. Lecture Notes (1895-1896)

Octavo sheets (about 25pp.), written in manuscript in black and red ink, with some clippings pasted in: "My Personal Reminiscences of some New England Men I have known. Nov. 25/95 – Trinity Club – April 17/96 – Union Director's Reception." + 3 quarto sheets of related material written in pencil.

4. Ephemera

Two printed dinner menus given in honor of Baldwin's 70th and 75th birthday (1896 and 1901); newspaper obituaries and other newspaper clippings; an article and printed envelope of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals; and an offprint: "The Individual and the State: The Problem As Presented by the Sentencing of Roger N. Baldwin" (circa 1917).

5. Confederate States of America: Bank Notes and Bond (1863-1864)

Eleven printed notes (in one, five, ten, and twenty dollar denominations) issued in Richmond and Florida, pinned onto blank sheets with ink annotations by Baldwin; one \$1,000 bond issued by the Confederate States of America, North Carolina (with interest coupons attached); one typewritten note from 1900 (regarding the Bond's provenance) Signed by Rufus B. Tobey (founder of Boston's Floating Hospital).

IV. Early Ephemera and Family Papers (circa 1690-1830)

1. Ledger Sheet (1693-1699)

Folio. [2]pp.: enclosed in an envelope with manuscript note by Baldwin: "2 pages from an old Ledger kept in Boston in 1693."

2. Ledger (1810-1832)

BALDWIN, Henry. Manuscript ledger (1810-1811). 16mo. About 40 manuscript pages. Paper wraps, with: "Henry Baldwin's Book No. 3" in manuscript on the front wrap. An account book kept by Baldwin's father, recording cash and credit transactions, and business partnership agreements.

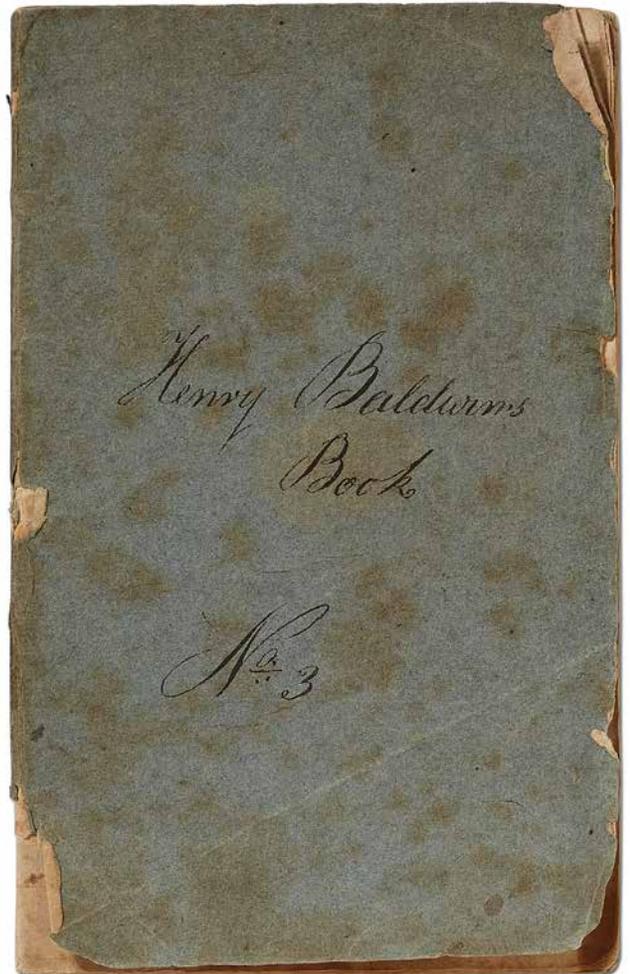
3. Holograph Letter (1827)

BALDWIN, Christopher C. Quarto. 4pp. Worcester, Mass: 20 Sept. 1827. To John Farmer Esq., re: questions about the history of the Baldwin family in America.

4. Two Printed Pamphlets (1827-1830)

-*A Review of the Rev. Dr. Channing's Discourse* Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, and Wilkins, 1827. Octavo. 91, [1]pp. Stitched printed wraps.

-Charles Sprague. *An Ode: pronounced before the Inhabitants of Boston* Boston: John H. Eastburn, 1830. Octavo. 22, [2]pp. Stitched printed wraps.



V. William H. Baldwin, Jr.

1. Typescript copy. (WASHINGTON, Booker T., Felix Adler, Robert Collyer, and Minot J. Savage).

Memorial Services for the late William H. Baldwin, Jr., Held at the Church of the Messiah. New York: January 11, 1905. Quarto. 24pp. Wraps. A transcript of Baldwin's memorial service, containing Booker T. Washington's tribute (pp. 11-18); Felix Adler's tribute (pp. 3-10), and additional remarks by Unitarian clergymen Collyer and Savage.

2. Portrait Prints (1905): Gravure portrait of William H. Baldwin, Jr. (Three copies).

3. Printed Pamphlet. William Henry Baldwin, Jr. 1863-1905. New York: William H. Baldwin, Jr. Memorial Fund, February, 1905.

Small quarto. 16pp. Printed wraps. Laid-in is a printed Appeal letter and envelope. The Fund was established as a permanent endowment for the Tuskegee Institute. (Two copies.)

4. Leather Bound Tribute. (Board for the Atlantic Avenue Improvement).

In Memoriam. (City of Brooklyn, 1905). Octavo. 2pp. The Board's formal tribute to fellow board member William Henry Baldwin, Jr.

5. Offprint. (NUTTER, George R.).

William Henry Baldwin, Jr. (Reprinted from The Harvard Graduates' Magazine, March 1905). Printed wraps. Two copies.

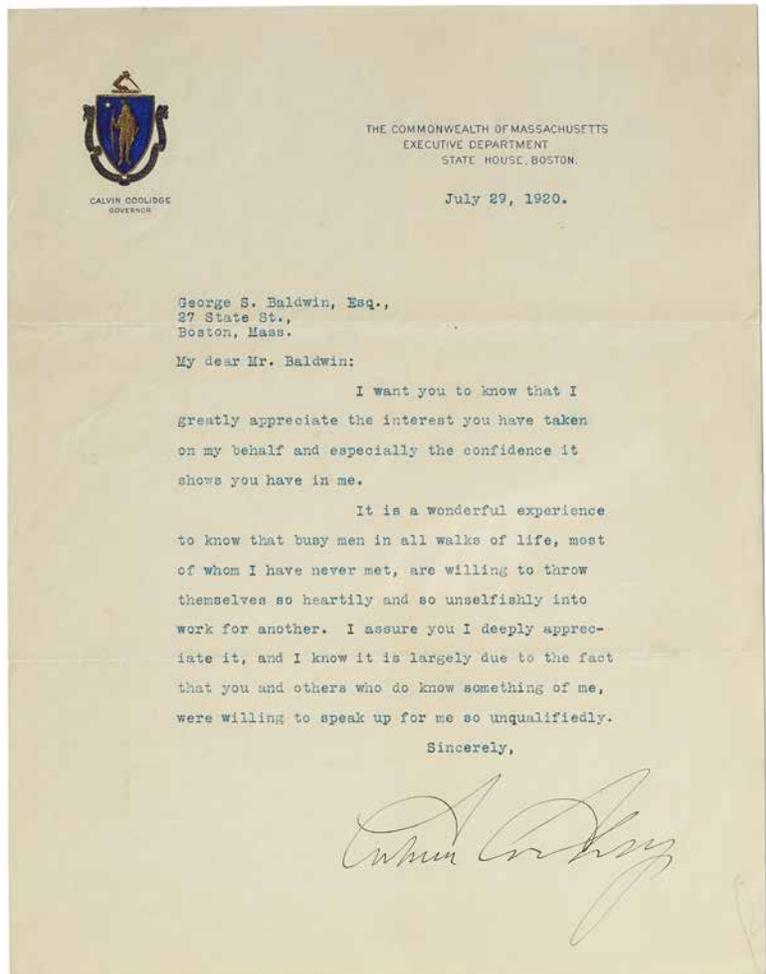
6. Typescript copy. [BROOKS, John Graham].

Quarto. Three copies, each bound with brads. Contains typed copies of letters by many prominent figures (all dating from 1910), sent to John Graham Brooks complimenting his recently published book: *An American Citizen: The Life of William H. Baldwin, Jr.*

VI. George S. Baldwin (correspondence and ephemera)

1. Calvin Coolidge

-Three Typed Letters **Signed**. Quartos. Each 1p. Boston: November 13, 1917; July 29, 1920; and no date.



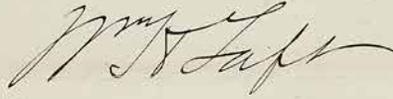
WILLIAM H. TAFT
NEW HAVEN, CONN

March 13th, 1914.

My dear Mr. Baldwin:

I have your letter of March 12th. If I change my plans with reference to my visit to Boston, I shall advise you.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. George S. Baldwin,
27 State Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

2. William Howard Taft

-TLS. Quarto. 1p. New Haven: March 13, 1914.

3. Abbott Lawrence Lowell

-TLS. Quarto. 1p. Harvard University, Cambridge: November 13, 1909.

4. John W. Weeks

-TLS. Quarto. War Department. Washington: June 30, 1921.

5. Typescript and Clipping (1914)

-Two-page typescript of an article appearing in *The Boston Globe* accompanied by a clipping from the newspaper.

6. Newspaper (1922)

Large quarto. 28pp. Front page article: "Death Claims Geo. S. Baldwin" *Brookline Chronicle* February 11, 1922.



VII. Photographs

12 original photographs (circa 1880-1901)

-One cabinet card portrait of Baldwin (**Signed**, and dated January 1888)

-One portrait of Baldwin and his son W.H. Baldwin, Jr. (June 1901)

-“Mother,” other family members and friends, and street views of Baldwin’s Beacon Hill neighborhood in Boston.