

States. The two volumes contain twenty illustrations, both of Astor at various stages of his career and of persons and scenes connected with his life.

Another volume which will shortly appear is a study based on the Medici documents loaned to Baker Library by Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge of London. This volume is being edited by Dr. Gertrude R. B. Richards and will be published under the auspices of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. In addition to editorial introductions explaining the setting and significance of these Medici papers, the volume will contain translations of selected items. It will serve the dual purpose of giving to the student of Renaissance business new material on the conduct of commercial relations between Florence and the Near East at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and at the same time reveal the richness of this Selfridge collection to those who may be interested in pursuing special lines of investigation in this same field. The volume is compounded primarily of letters written from Pera (the foreign quarter of Constantinople) and Florence, and necessarily leaves largely unexplored the many volumes of mercantile account books which form a large part of these Renaissance documents. The volume will appear under the title, *Florentine Merchants in the Age of the Medici* and should prove a valuable and interesting addition, in some measure a corrective, to our knowledge of business methods at this closing period of Florentine commercial leadership.

## Meetings

THE fifth annual meeting of the Business Historical Society, Inc., will be held on Friday, December 11, 1931, at eleven o'clock, in Room 232 of Baker Library at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

After a short business meeting for the purpose of electing officers and members of the council, three addresses will be delivered on topics relating to business history. Frederick Merk, member of the History Department at Harvard, will discuss "The Historian's Use of Business Manuscripts;" John W. Higgins, president of the Worcester Pressed Steel Company, will talk on "Romance and Art in Steel;" the topic of Wendell Phillips Dodge of Boston will be "The Development of the Theatre as a Business in the Past."

Luncheon will be served at the Business School Faculty Club immediately after the meeting.

On December 28, 1931, during a meeting of the American Economic Association in Washington, there will be a joint session of the American Economic Association and representatives of the Business Historical Society. The subject is "Private Enterprise in Business History." This means, of course, that attention will be focussed upon the part that business has played in general economic development. The occasion is the first on which the Business Historical Society has coöperated with the American Economic Association.

The first address is by Professor N. S. B. Gras on the subject of "The Rise of the Business Man." It will provide a background for the other papers which are on more modern aspects of the subject. It will show that modern business took its start not later than the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in southern and western Europe. An address will be given by Professor William Jaffé of Northwestern University on "The Exchange of Goods and Services as a Key to Modern Economic History." Professor Edwin F. Gay of Harvard University will deal with the subject of "The Effect of Competition on Forms of Industry." Professor Gay has given a great deal of attention to the commercial aspects of industrial development. Professor I. Lippincott of Washington University is to deal with the subject of "The Effect of Substitute Industries and Services on the Development of the Competitive System," and Professor Carter Goodrich, now of Columbia University, with "The Treatment of the Individual Worker in Economic History."

At this same conference Dean Arthur B. Adams, University of Oklahoma, and Dr. Thomas P. Martin of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, will discuss briefly the subject of "Materials for Research in Economics." This part of the program has been arranged at the request of a committee of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. This committee is eager to discover new materials of value for the study of economic problems.