

Miscellany.

RUFUS K. SEWALL, Esq., of Wiscasset, Me., is engaged upon a historical work concerning the "Ancient Dominions of Maine," embracing an account of the earliest discoveries, settlements, and historical incidents, at Pemaquid, Sheepscot, Sagadahock, and their dependencies down to the war of 1812. It will doubtless prove a work of much interest.

THE 250th anniversary of the Landing of the Colonists at Jamestown, Va., in 1607, was celebrated on the site of the first settlement, now uninhabited, on Wednesday, May 13th. The Petersburg Express thus speaks of it:—

"The crowd on the grounds is variously estimated at from six to eight thousand, including sixteen military companies from Richmond, Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Petersburg. A large number of ladies graced the scene with their presence, and added greatly to the beauty and attractions of the imposing display. Sixteen steamers, many of them first class, were anchored in the stream, all gaily dressed with flags and streamers, which flaunted in the breeze, and presented a scene at once beautiful and picturesque. Several bands of music were also on the ground sending forth their enlivening notes, and adding largely to the interest of the commemoration. The site selected for the ceremonies was a plat of about ten acres, on the very spot where a large portion of the houses of the colonists were built, and of which now scarcely a trace is discernible. Suitable stands for the orators were erected, and all necessary preparations made for the accommodation of ladies and others. The oration of Ex-President Tyler, which occupied about two hours and a half, is spoken of as an effort eminently worthy the occasion and its distinguished author. The poem, from James Barron Hope, Esq., of Hampton, was received with universal favor, and all accord to it more than ordinary merit. Governor H. A. Wise was present, and being called upon, spoke for about thirty minutes in eloquent and thrilling terms."

HON. HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D., is engaged upon a Life of President Jefferson. "His industry in collecting facts," says the New York

Commercial Advertiser, "has been remarkably successful. Piles of books lay stacked up in every corner of the library, to give up the shelves to authorities. But it is in the original department that his success has been most peculiar. The library is a perfect magazine of personal mementos of Mr. Jefferson, manuscripts, pictures, views of Monticello, ground plans of the garden, grounds and other surroundings in the days of the illustrious owner, personal relics, and things not to be classed." Quite a number of manuscripts were found by Mr. Jefferson's family in 1851, in a dark and entirely forgotten receptacle, where they had lain since Mr. Jefferson's death. Mr. Randall thinks that Jefferson did not remember of their existence, when he wrote his autobiography. Some of these manuscript volumes are in the handwriting of Mr. Jefferson's father.

ALFRED POOR, of Groveland, Mass, has the first number of his "Historical and Genealogical Researches of Merrimack Valley" prepared for the press, and will issue it in a few days. It will contain, besides what is commonly found in an Antiquarian Journal, a record of passing events; and the matter will relate principally to families and places in the Valley, and the descendants of former residents.

WE perceive by an advertisement on the cover of our last number, that a few copies of Dr. O'Callaghan's "History of New Netherland" remain unsold. The author is one of our most thorough historians; and his book is deserving of a place in the library of every lover of sterling historical literature.

HENRY SHERMAN, Esq., of Hartford, Ct., has in press a work entitled "The Governmental History of the United States of America, from the Earliest Settlement to the Adoption of the present Constitution." It will, no doubt, be a valuable book.

WE have been favored, by Samuel A. Green, M. D., with a copy of what is supposed to be the first newspaper printed in America. The copy from which this was made is probably the only one in existence. It was discovered, about twelve years ago, by Rev. Joseph B. Felt, LL. D., in the Colonial State Paper Office, London. The paper bears date Sept. 25, 1690. We shall print it entire.