

1917

27 June - 7

Revised 14 October 1924

4 Nov. 1924

Revised 12-13 Sept. 1927

Revised 4 Oct. 1927

Revised 28 Jan. - 5 February 1930

Revised 30 May 1933

Revised 28 June 1933

Revised 1 September 1933

1808 added 30 March 1934

Revised 29 May 1942

21

40

1712-1715

1807 - The Unmusical name of Brown

1608

Cyrene = my friend

R. to Mary - 13 Oct,

THE UNMUSICAL NAME OF BROWN

1807 Aetat.36

In 1807 Washington Irving visited Philadelphia and made the rounds of fashion and gayety of the city. On 19 March he met Dennie and may have been introduced into the circle, which included Brown, though there is no specific mention of his meeting Brown at this time. Five years ago we saw Brown unsuccessfully soliciting his contributions to the Literary Magazine.

According to Brown's mother's diary Elizabeth Armitt Horner the only sister of Brown died at 4 P.M. on the 3rd. of April, 1807. That Brown had any strong affection for her is not ^{clear} probable for we have only found one record of his visiting her at Princeton in company with his brother Joseph in 1800, and he makes no mention of her in any of the letters ^{we} that have been seen by us. ~~And yet, her son was named after Brown. It is strange that the whole side of the only~~

~~for in the family I should be hidden in a dark cloud.~~
From the same source we learn that on the 26th. of July another son ^{was born} ~~made its entry~~ into the Brown home. This is the Eugene L. Brown concerning whom there is a note at the end of the Boston 1827 Wieland memoir:

"The youngest son, Eugene Linn Brown, died of consumption on the first of April, 1824, in the seventeenth year of his age. Of this boy, much could be told. In love of knowledge, in capacity for acquiring it, and in every endearing virtue of the heart, he resembled his father. He is now mingling with kindred spirits."

1 Egle: Pennsylvania Genealogies Harrisburg, Pa., p. 327 says he had a daughter Emily B; but it cannot be confirmed and is improbable.

Which is obviously an error. Emily B. was the wife of William Brown.

I had a daughter named after her

In the Philadelphia National Gazette and Literary Register for

3 April 1824 his death is recorded:

"On Thursday morning, first instant after a lingering illness in the 17th. year of his age, Eugene L. Brown, son of the late Charles Brown of this city."

The issue for 6 April contained an obituary:

"The recently deceased Mr. EUGENE L. BROWN, son of the celebrated Charles Brockden Brown, was a youth of uncommon talents and promise. By his death our country has been disappointed in the expectations that were reasonably indulged, in anticipation of the maturity of a sound mind cultivated with great application, and strengthened by extensive acquirements. He possessed force of mind very seldom met with even at a much more advanced age; and his conversation, studies and inclinations, marked him a sound, ingenious scholar, and bid fair in mature life to render him a distinguished literary character. A consumption of the lungs caused his dissolution, which, towards the close of his career, was anticipated with the reasoning and composure of a sage.

G.I."

The only letter of this year which we have is given by Dunlap¹
and is to the husband of Brown's sister-in-law Rebecca Linn. It
reads:

To W. Keese, Esq. 2

Philadelphia, (Friday) Oct. 16, 1807.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your agreeable letter arrived this moment, and I hasten to
thank you for giving us so early tidings of the safety of our
dear Rebecca. That the new comer is not a girl, is, you tell
us, a great disappointment to you, and you have been obliged
to play the philosopher on the occasion; but, my good friend,
one smile of the little stranger, a few months hence, will per-
form more for your consolation than all the reasonings in the
world. You will then bless yourself that the bantling is ex-
actly what he is. I have often checked myself in forming
wishes as to the sex of my children, from the utter uncer-
tainty of their future destiny, be they of what sex they may.
Their happiness must depend upon their temper; and mine so
far as it relates to them, upon the opportunity I may have
of witnessing their fate after they have reached maturity.
When I reflect on the innumerable chances against my wishes,
that fatal time, I give all wishes to the air. The chances

for happiness, in either sex, seem to me nearly equal, yet, as a
man, I must necessarily regard a daughter with more tender-
ness than a son, provided they are equal in all other respects;
an equality, however, which is quite impossible.

You are going to call your son by my name, a compliment
that flatters me exceedingly. Yet, for the sake of the little one,
I heartily wish Brown had a little more music and dignity in it.

1 Vol. II, p. 119 ff.

2 William Keese married Rebecca Linn 5 February 1803. He was the
son of John Keese, a lawyer, assistant deputy quartermaster general
on Washington's staff and one of the original members of the
Cincinnati. His license for admission to the bar was signed by
James Kent. By Rebecca Linn, his wife, he had a son John Keese
who became famous as an auctioneer. John Keese had a son William
Linn Keese who died 1904.

3 This son was the third child, not John Keese, the auctioneer, who
was the second.

4 We have no information of this son whom we suppose was named
Charles Brown Keese.

It has ever been an awkward and unwelcome sound to me, and it is with no less surprise than pleasure that I now find it less worthless to the ears of others than it is to my own. I have sometimes been mortified in looking over the catalogue of heroes, sages and saints, to find not a single *Brown* among them. This indeed may be said of many other names, but most others are of rare occurrence, while the most common appellation in almost all languages is *Brown*. It must, then, be a strange fatality which has hitherto excluded it from the illustrious and venerable list. Perhaps, your new comer may be marked out by the powers who manage these matters over our heads, as a vindicator of the name. If the event be otherwise, the disgrace may be saved by veiling the ill fated syllable under the convenient obscurity of an initial.

With affectionate congratulations to you both, believe us ever yours,

C. B. & E. L. B.

So far as we know this is the only letter signed by the initials of Brown and his wife. That it means she had any hand in the composition is doubtful for all of the letter bears the unmistakable stamp of Brown's mind alone. Probably it owes its unique signature to an afterthought such as often leads one to so sign a letter in a spirit of kindness.

Back in 1798 we found Brown and Elihu Hubbard Smith and William Johnson collaborating in the writing of a letter to Dunlap. In the year just passed, 1806, we found Elizabeth Brown adding a postscript to one of Brown's letters to John E. Hall. In the present case we prefer to believe that he would at least have allowed the lady's name to appear first had she actually helped in the composition of the letter.

The opinion expressed of a baby's first smile and its effect on the father is a beautiful gem characteristic of Brown in his domestic life. His tender, thoughtful love for children is noble and may be seen throughout his whole life and in many of the literary works he wrote.

What he there says about the family name is an excellent example of Brown's extreme modesty which in the final sentence is carried to the ironical. We have never looked on the name of Brown as lacking in dignity though it does want musical quality. Our Brown to the contrary notwithstanding, the reader will probably be surprised to learn that the name is rarely met with in Brown's days; so that the jokes about the number of Browns must find their justification in a later time.¹ As for the "catalogue of heroes, sages and saints," of course he did not have the Dictionary of National Biography to consult—though there surely were others—but it seems as if he might easily have known or found some account of the Viscounts Lord Montague and their heroism not to speak of others of the surname.

In this connection it is felicitous if not of import to recall that in two of the Sharpless pastels (I and II) our Brown wore a brown suit—in III, the profile, he was dressed in grey. Some appropriate couplets taken from the

1 The Boston Globe of 1 June 1919 publishes an article in which it is noticed that while there were 51,000 Smiths in the American Expeditionary Forces there were only 9,000 Browns!

Calcutta Telegraph appeared in the Philadelphia Gazette of 8

July 1801. When the reprinting was decided on it appears that the editor added the opening reference to our author though the verse was originally addressed to a lady as is shown by the reference at the closing.

The Philadelphia appearance reads:

"The literary man, brown, were it only in allusion to the old saying "a brown study."

Brown be my coursers, Brown my lofty car,
And Brown be the liveries which my servants wear,--
Brown be my beef, and Brown my bread,
Brown be my coat, and Brown my head,--
Brown be my gloves, and Brown my stick,
Brown be my beer, and Brown my physic,--1
Brown be my windows, Brown my doors,
And of Brown oak be all my floors;
All things be Brown, in honor of her name,
Brown as her eye-brows, lasting as her fame."

Brown's use of his name is a curiosity of his literary life.

At one time he signs it one way at another he signs it in another though as a rule he confines himself to the three initials and the two initials and surname. It thus becomes Charles Brockden B.;

C. Brockden B.; C. Brockden Brown; Brown; Charles Brown; Charles B.

2
Brown; and Charles Brockden Brown. It is more than probable that

1 Curiously the well-known Brown's Jamaica ginger is the product of one of the collateral branches of our Brown family.

2 With and without the "k".

pathetic Chubbey.

1719 A

if there had been four parts to the name we should have had

just as many more permutations of it. ~~This love for experiment~~
like Mrs. Gamp's patient, he was "rather wearin' in his talk for makin'
up a lot of names" as may be seen in its full in the Wieland note-book, where on

Brown ~~the~~ experiments.
several pages he made ~~lists of names~~.

In the list which follows some ~~names~~ ^{of them} will be indicated as with ~~bracketed~~
others; that is, they were placed side by side as if ~~Brown~~ ^{he} were
undecided which to ~~use~~ ^{preserve}. In several instances a group was joined

by a bracket as if they were to be used together. The names
^{appear} which ~~we know he used~~ in his various works are so indicated.

Alstrop
Armidaile (bracketed with Avoxedge. Crossed out)
Astell
Avoxedge (?) (bracketed with Armidaile)
Ayerot (crossed out)
Barwell
Baskett
Baynham (bracketed with Bendyske)
Baynton (used)
Beckwith (used ~~Wilcox~~)
Beddowes (used as Beddoes)
Bedloe (with Melbourne. Used)
Bendyske (bracketed with Baynham)
Bertrand (used)
Blackett (if a negro, used)
Blencowe (bracketed with Bowlby)
Bowes
Bowlby (bracketed with Blencowe. Used as Bowlder)
Bragge
Byrd
Carborough
Carbourg
Cardale
Carew
Carey (bracketed with Carford, Caring and Carton)
Carfield
Carford (bracketed with Carey, Carton and Caring)

Carhill
 Carhuysen
 Caring (bracketed with Carey, Carford and Carton)
 Carrington (Carrington used)
 Carlette
 Carlhurst
 Carling
 Carlingford
 Carlington (Carlton used)
 Carlostein
 Carney
 Carr
 Carrell (Carrol and Carril used)
 Carsburg (the "s" was inserted)
 Carsey (Carse used)
 Carton (bracketed with Carey, Carford and Caring)
 Carville (used as Colvil)
 Carwin (used)
 Caster
 Charlton (Carlton used)
 Clervall (bracketed with Coorksey and others)
 Clough
 Conway (bracketed with Dartrey and Wilmot. Used)
 Coorksey
 Cordwell
 Cornthwaite } (bracketed with Clervall)
 Cowsher }
 Dansey }
 Dartrey (bracketed with Conway and Wilmot)
 Davis (with Dudley. Used)
 Dormer (with Eddowes and Foley)
 Doyne
 Dudley (with Davis. Used)
 Eddowes (with Foley and Dormer)
 Ede (Eden used)
 Edny (used)
 Erle
 Eyre
 Foley (with Eddowes and Dormer)
 Gilchrist
 Goffe
 Gowan (used)
 Gower
 Hane
 Hayes
 Heine
 Hitch
 Howe
 Hyde
 Ingle
 Inglefield (with Lamberton. Used)
 Kelby
 Lamberton (with Inglefield)
 Larham
 Lee
 Lerwitt

Liston
Lodir (used as Lodi)
L m r (Lorimer?)
Lorimer (used)
Lucas
McRea (used as McCrea)
Marcreeve
Mayne
Medway (used)
Melbourne (with Bedloe. Used)
Metcalf
Monro
Monrs (Mowis?)
Moreland
Morley
Pleyel (with Wyndham. Used)
Poore
Rayson
Redmond
Rees
Reeve (used as Reeveland)
Rodney
Romney
Routledge
Rowe
Russell
Smalley
Spearing
Speke
Strangeways
Tavistock
Tillingham
Twyford
Tylney
Weir
Welbeck (used)
Weyland (used as Wieland)
Wilmot (bracketed with Conway and Dartrey. Used)
Wyatte (used as Wiatte)
Wyndham (with Pleyel)
Wynn

In August or September Brown published another political pamphlet known, in absence of a title-page, as the British Treaty. About the 20th. of November the first volume of his American Register was issued. The close of the year with the December number ended the Literary Magazine.

~~CHAPTER XLII~~

~~1852~~

~~JAMES OGILVIE'S LECTURES~~

~~1808 Aetat. 37~~

During 1808

leastⁿ Brown's life went on happily at the Eleventh street home with not the suggestion that he was in poor health and the American Register for proof that he was regularly occupied with his pen. Robinson's Directory still listed him as a "merchant".

Elijah Brown's note-books identify and quote three communications which Brown published in two ~~the Philadelphia~~ Philadelphia newspapers. They concern the lectures of James Ogilvie. ~~These~~ Others should be added so that the series ~~comprises five items which~~ we shall reprint in our volume of Brown's miscellanies.

The ~~writing~~ ^{publication} lead to Brown's acquaintance with Ogilvie.

In ^{his} 1809 he recommended John Howard Payne to meet him. So far as we know there was no intimacy with Ogilvie and the last we hear of him is ^{a mention} in his summer ¹⁸⁰⁹ letter to Mary Ann and