

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Appleton, Nathan (1843?-1906?)** **MC 1998.4**  
Material: Scrapbook (1867-1898)  
Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)  
Donation: Alan C. Smith, in memory of Charles and Barbara Sellers, 1980  
Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

There is little information available about Nathan Appleton. He was a writer, as this collection indicates. The birth and death dates above are taken from a biographical listing of American authors deceased before 1950. The Nathan Appleton that appears in that directory might be the author of this scrapbook, because the date of origin of this album is congruent with the dates above. The only other piece of information extractable from that encyclopedia was that Appleton had been a soldier. There is no indication of this in the letters in this scrapbook. This collection, however, does imply that Appleton was very well traveled; he had been to Russia, Austria, France, Poland, and other European countries.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists of a scrapbook containing clippings of the serial publication "Harry Ashton's Ramblings," with a handwritten preface, penciled editing notes, photographs, drawings, and letters from publishers. The story was published in 28 chapters in the *Boston Globe* in 1873 and concerns the fictional travels of Harry Ashton in Europe and Russia. Much of the story was based on the author's own travel experiences. Correspondents include Charles Lever, Richard Kimball, John Lillies, J. Wesley Harper, T. Niles, Lucy Derby, Franklin Burgess, and William Dean Howells. Most of the correspondence pertains to Appleton's trying to publish the manuscript of "Harry Ashton's Ramblings." The correspondence is listed in the collection inventory in the order in which it appears in the scrapbook. All publishers turned him down; he also got negative feedback from acquaintances and friends.

For related research materials, see the following book in the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections:

Appleton, Nathan. *Russian Life and Society as Seen in 1866-'67 by Appleton and*

*Longfellow, Two Young Travellers from the United States of America. . . .*  
Boston: [Press of Murray and Emery Co.], 1904. [SC 309.147 A651]

COLLECTION INVENTORY

**BOX 1 - MC 1998.4**

SCRAPBOOK

Letters in "Harry Ashton's Ramblings"

1. Charles Lever to C. \_\_\_\_\_ A.L.S. 2 pp. November 13, 1891 (Appended note by Nathan Appleton saying this letter had nothing to do with "Harry Ashton's Ramblings.")
2. J.L. [Milley?] ("U.S. Minister at Vienna", Austria) to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 1 p. March 19, 1867 (Invitation to join J.L.M. at a party at the British Embassy in Vienna.)
3. Preface/manuscript by Nathan Appleton M.S. 2 pp. January 1, 1874 (Explains Appleton's connection to Charles Lever. Appleton was an admirer of Lever's writing; met him at a party at the British Embassy in Vienna.)
4. J. W. Harper to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 3 pp. November 7, 1873 (Refusal to publish the manuscript.)
5. John Lillies to Richard Kimball A.L.S. 2 pp. January 15, 1874 (Refusal to publish the manuscript); Richard Kimball to Nathan Appleton (appended note; January 20, 1874)
6. William Dean Howells to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 2 pp. January 7, 1875 (Howells' opinion on "Harry Ashton's Ramblings" and refusal to publish the manuscript.)
7. T. Niles to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 2 pp. February 15, 1875 (Refusal to publish both "Harry Ashton's Ramblings" and another manuscript.)
8. Lucy Derby to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 1 p. November 20, 1879 ('Thank-you' note for having sent her the manuscript to read.)
9. Franklin Burgess to Nathan Appleton A.L.S. 2 pp. January 17, 1880 ('Thank-you' note for having sent him manuscript to read. Joins in the canon of other correspondents saying that Harry Ashton seems to have been a selfish, unloving person.)

This collection register was prepared by James R. Moser, October 1998.