Who Reads an Early American Book?



Presented as part of the Special Literature Issue

Can early American books regain such a readership in the twenty-first century?

Reading with Wonder: Encounters with Moby-Dick



We are at sea even before the Pequod's voyage begins.

Flimsy Fortunes: Americans' old relationship with paper speculation and panic



In the two hundred years between the Revolution and the 1980s, over a dozen episodes of overextended credit or speculative frenzies grew into full-fledged financial panics, some followed by years of depression.

[A Note on Early American Music Studies: Introduction to Common-place 13:2]



Providing the gamut of contexts for specific musical expressions in America’s past makes them all the more comprehensible, and conveys an appreciation for the ubiquitous importance music had for people long before the age of electronics.

Art, Violence, and the American Revolution



Artists seemed to float above (or outside) the fray, but they certainly made hay in the shadow of the Revolution fixing the public memory of the event and its cast of characters.

The California Gold Discoveries



Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Even before the confirmation of the gold discoveries—or simultaneously with the confirmation—the French began to think about the significance of California as an American possession.

Over the Hill and Out of Sight: Locating Old Age in Nineteenth-Century American Culture



"GRANDMA, SEE WHAT I 'VE BROUGHT YOU."

OVER.

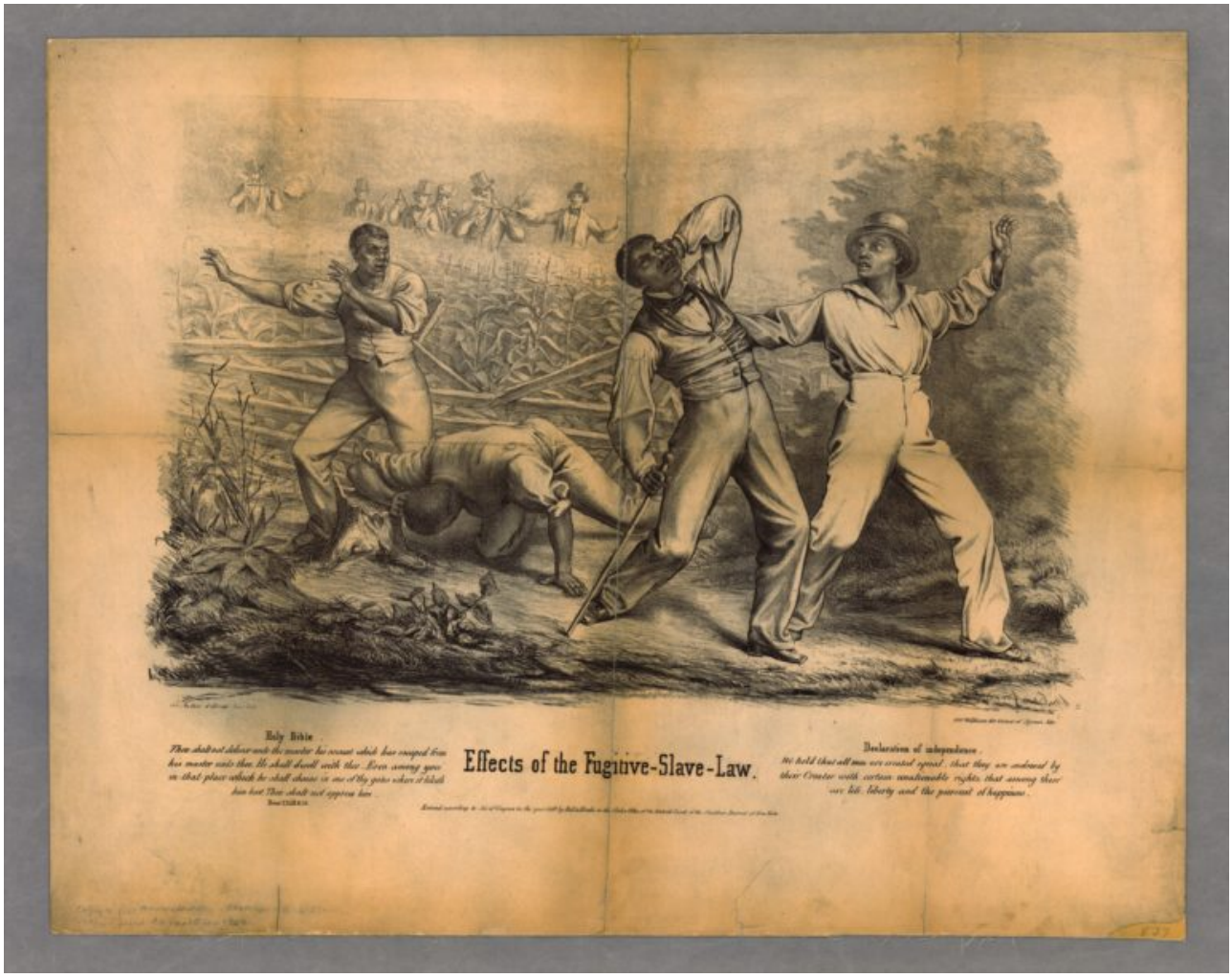
Age-phobic rhetoric is commonplace in American culture, especially as it relates to women, its history stretching back at least to the second half of the nineteenth century.

On Borrowed Time



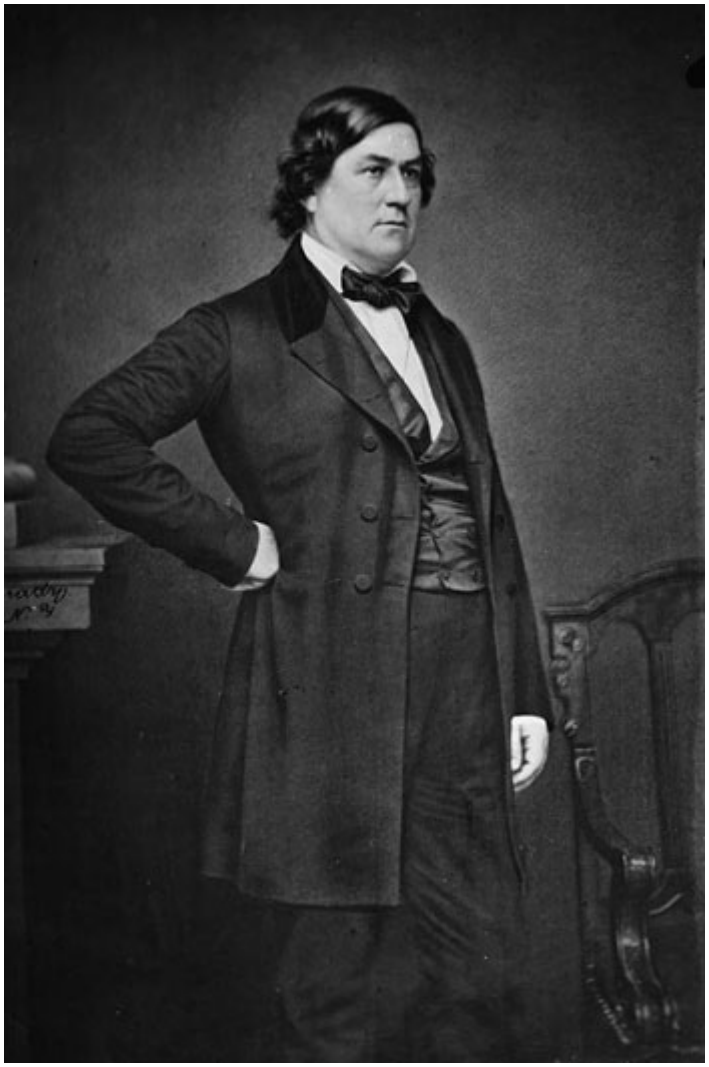
Pawning past and present

“A Genuine Article” Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Andrew Jackson



Stowe took a fugitive black man into her home and, under the threat of very real danger, waited upon him, hid him, and allowed her children to help care for him.

Arsenal of Empire: Southern Slaveholders and the U.S. Military in the 1850s



How did a speech that began in Kansas end up in the Caribbean, by way of Crimea?