



19th Century American Fiction

Notions of the Americans (1828) by James Fenimore Cooper


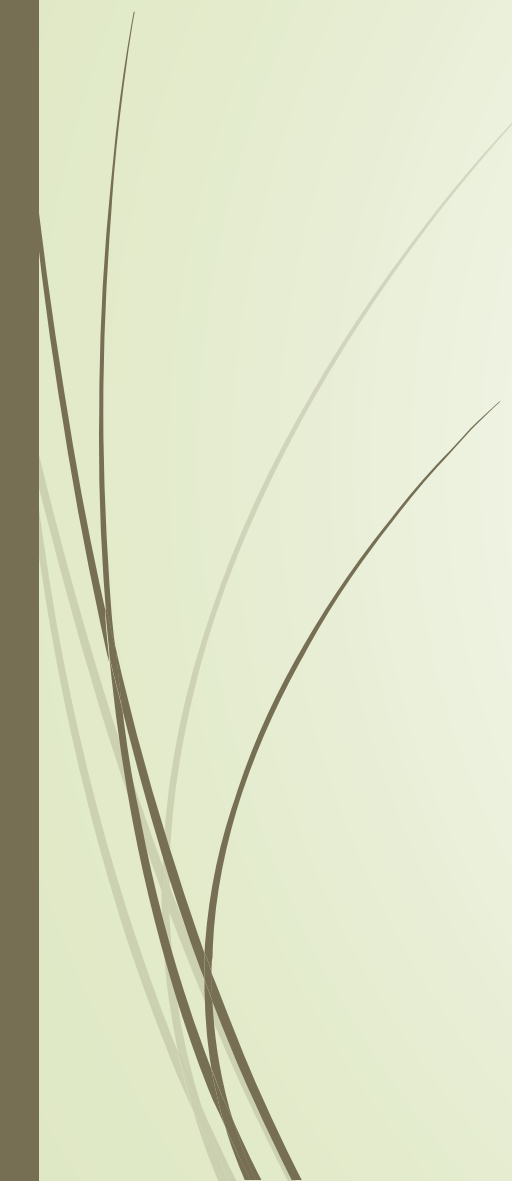


Universities

- Harvard (1636)
- Yale (1701)
- Columbia (1754)

And some of the oldest Universities in Europe:

- University of Bologna (1158)
- University of Oxford (1167)
- University of Salamanca (1218)

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- At least 1 university/state
 - 5000 people have graduated from Harvard (around 350-400 students)
 - In 1820, 1406 out of 8000 graduates were clergymen
 - Less attention is paid to classical studies
 - More practice, less theory
 - Medicine is almost as good as in Europe.



Newspapers/journals

- ▶ 600-1000 journals
- ▶ In New York and Pennsylvania 200 journals for 3 m population
- ▶ (3.9 m in 1790, 5.3 m in 1800, 7.2 m in 1810, 9.6 , in 1820, 12.9 m in 1830, 17 m in 1840 and 23.2 m in 1850)
- ▶ Sometimes journals were... one man show
- ▶ Focus on facts
- ▶ Press is more decent than in England
- ▶ An editor can even bring a criminal charge to the president
- ▶ However, they print the proceedings of the courts (Cooper complains)



Literature

- Before 1776 English authors are considered common property
- There are not a lot American authors because of two obstacles
 - I. Printing English books is cheaper
 - II. “There is scarcely an ore which contributes to the wealth of the author...”
- A couple of French translations
- Some authors printed in England
- Poets focus on nature



Theatre

- Variety of theatres
 - Well-paid actors
 - Better quality than in England for two reasons:
 - I. People don't like caricatures
 - II. Small number of theatres guarantees quality
 - There are no dramatic authors (playwrights)
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