

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Marvin, Abijah Perkins, Sermons, 1844-1881

**LOCATION:**

Octavo volumes "M"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 folder (44 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For genealogical and biographical notes, see G. F. Marvin, *Descendants of Reinold and Matthew Marvin* (Boston: T. R. Marvin & Son, 1904) p. 198; see also AAS Newsclippings File.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Miss Katharine Marvin, 1944

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Rev. Abijah Perkins Marvin (1813-1889) was an author, essayist, historian, and minister of the Congregational Church in Winchendon, Mass., from 1844 to 1866, and in Lancaster, Mass., from 1870 to 1875. Several publications include History of Winchendon (1868), History of Lancaster (1879), and the Life and Times of Cotton Mather (1892).

The collection consists of forty-four sermons, written from 1844 to 1881, which contain Marvin's views of important people and contemporary events. There are several lengthy sermons containing strong abolitionist views on the admission of Texas as a slave state, the Fugitive Slave laws, the Bible on Slavery, and slavery in general. The Rev. Marvin also spoke extensively on such subjects as the lives of John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) and George Washington (1732-1799), the history of Revivalism in America, the Roman Catholic Church, Calvinism, the Pilgrim Fathers, witchcraft and sorcery, the U.S. as a "melting pot" (with detailed statistics), temperance, year-end historic reviews, and the Election of 1860. Of special interest are many sermons delivered during the Civil War with extensive comments on the Secession Crisis of 1861, land and naval battles (with newsclippings), the origins of this "Rebellion against God," the plight of the young soldiers, lessons from the war, and Lincoln's assassination.