

work in Portland.  
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by Jack Downing;  
and Literary Friends  
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"The Religion and  
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36. After moving to  
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Jack Downing, his  
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the Portland "Daily  
33, Mr. Smith con-  
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allowell, Maine, in  
land, added that he

was the reputed author of the Jack Downing letters, but a few days later corrected the statement by saying they were written by Mr. Seba Smith, editor of the Portland "Courier."

The wide interest which the Jack Downing letters created during the President's eastern tour in the summer of 1833, brought into the field many imitators, among whom was a rival whose success was even greater than that of Mr. Smith. This was Charles Augustus Davis, of the firm of Brooks and Davis, iron merchants of New York, who began in June, 1833, a series of letters addressed to Mr. Dwight, of the "New-York Daily Advertiser," under the signature of "J. Downing, Major, Downingville Militia, Second Brigade." To make matters more confusing, on the announcement of Mr. Smith's intention to reprint in book form at Boston the genuine Jack Downing letters, Mr. Davis addressed his seventeenth letter, dated October 27, 1833, to "My Old Friend of the Portland Courier," saying: "I see by the public papers you are about to print my letters to you—and you say I have written no other letters except those I write to you. Why, my good old friend, if I had never quit Downingville, and never looked beyond your little Courier, I should never have been so great a man as I now be. . . . Now, if you want to print my letters in a book, you had better git my old friend Dwight to give you all the letters I write to him too; . . . only I now tell you, that my letters to Mr. Dwight are, if any thing, a leetle better than my letters to you; . . . and if it warn't for them I might have been. Major Jack Downing to be sure, but I would not have been J. Downing, Major, Downingville Militia, 2d Brigade."

Another Maine man reputed to be Jack Downing was James Brooks, who was the editor of the "New-York Daily Express," which did from 1837 to 1839 print a series of Downing letters; but these claimed to be, and some of them probably were a continuation of those published in the "New-York Daily Advertiser," by Mr. Davis.

The first collection of Jack Downing letters in book form was published at Cincinnati by J. A. James, in August or September, 1833, containing a selection from the newspapers of letters by Smith, Davis, and others. In November of the same year, Lilly, Wait, Colman and Holden issued at Boston the first authorised edition of the Smith letters. The first edition of the Davis letters came out at New York early in February, 1834, with the imprint of Harper and Brothers; and about the same time the unauthorised "Select Letters," by Smith, Davis, and others, appeared at Philadelphia, without publisher's name. As the entries under Davis, our nos. 18798-18800, Vol. 5, are unsatisfactory, and include two titles which we put now under Seba Smith, the editions of the Davis-Downing letters are given below, as are also several Downing titles by unknown writers or editors.

[DAVIS.] Letters of J. Downing, Major, Downingville Militia, Second Brigade, to his Old Friend, Mr. Dwight, of The New-York Daily Advertiser. *New-York: Published by Harper & Brothers, No. 82 Cliff-Street. 1834. 12mo, pp. viii, (2), 240. Copperplate frontispiece and 6 woodcut plates. 84163*

First edition in book form of the series by Charles Augustus Davis, published early in February, and containing twenty-eight letters only, the last one dated January 31st, 1834. There are two title pages, the first one reading "Major Downing's Letters," with a picture of Andrew Jackson as seen through the glorification spectacles, and imprint similar to the other title but undated. The frontispiece, a line engraving on copper of "Downingville Folks," *J. Downing del.*, has also the faint inscription, *A. L. Dick sc.* The other plates are wood-engravings, several of them signed *Mason*, and apparently the work of A. J. Mason who was working in New York at the time. The plate added in the later editions is a "Political Portrait of Major Downing," his face hidden behind the "New-York Daily Advertiser" which he is reading.