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# Guide to the Donald Grant Mitchell Papers

YCAL MSS 492



by Michael Rush and Aubrey Novak

August 2011

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Collection Overview .....               | 3  |
| Requesting Instructions .....           | 3  |
| Administrative Information .....        | 4  |
| Immediate Source of Acquisition .....   | 4  |
| Conditions Governing Access .....       | 4  |
| Conditions Governing Use .....          | 4  |
| Preferred Citation .....                | 4  |
| Processing Information .....            | 4  |
| Associated Materials .....              | 4  |
| Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908) ..... | 4  |
| Scope and Contents .....                | 4  |
| Arrangement .....                       | 5  |
| Collection Contents .....               | 6  |
| Correspondence .....                    | 6  |
| Third party correspondence .....        | 8  |
| Writings and Related Papers .....       | 9  |
| Correspondence .....                    | 10 |
| Writings and Other Papers .....         | 11 |
| Unsorted Material .....                 | 12 |
| Selected Search Terms .....             | 14 |

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 492

**CREATOR:** Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908

**TITLE:** Donald Grant Mitchell papers

**DATES:** 1787-1936

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.26 linear feet (18 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Donald Grant Mitchell papers contain original correspondence and manuscripts by the prominent nineteenth-century New Haven-area author. Correspondents include Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Augustin Beers, George Washington Cable, William Maxwell Evarts, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas Raynesford Lounsbury, Hamilton Wright Mabie, Noah Porter, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Scribner, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others. Writings include drafts for published and unpublished work and journals, including substantive drafts for *Fresh Gleanings* (1847), *American Lands and Letters* (1897-1899), *English Lands, Letters and Kings* (1889-1890), and *Wet Days at Edgewood* (1865), as well as an unpublished "History of Venice." Other materials include biographical and bibliographical material, financial and legal records, photographs, and printed ephemera.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mitchell>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mitchell>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired through various gifts and purchases from 1938 to 1974. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Donald Grant Mitchell Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Donald Grant Mitchell Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at an unknown date. During further processing in 2011, the material was listed below in the order in which it was arranged and described in the card catalog (Za Mitchell 1, Za Mitchell 2, etc.), with broad groupings for correspondence, writings, and other papers.

Formerly classed as Za Mitchell and Za M692 +S1.

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### Associated Materials

Donald Grant Mitchell Papers (MSS #140). New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

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## Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908)

Donald Grant Mitchell, essayist and novelist, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, graduated from Yale College in 1841 and, after serving abroad briefly as U.S. consul in Venice, Italy, from 1853 to 1854, settled near New Haven, Connecticut. Mitchell wrote literary criticism, travel literature, and volumes of essays on rural themes, including *Reveries of a Bachelor* (1850), *My Farm of Edgewood: A Country Book* (1863), and *Rural Studies* (1867). Other works include the novel *Doctor Johns* (1866), *About Old Story Tellers* (1878), and *American Lands and Letters* (1897-1899).

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## Scope and Contents

The Donald Grant Mitchell papers contain original correspondence and manuscripts by the prominent nineteenth-century New Haven area author. Correspondents include Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Augustin Beers, George Washington Cable, William Maxwell Evarts, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas Raynesford Lounsbury, Hamilton Wright Mabie, Noah Porter, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Scribner, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others. Writings include drafts for

published and unpublished work and journals, including substantive drafts for *Fresh Gleanings* (1847), *American Lands and Letters* (1897-1899), *English Lands, Letters and Kings* (1889-1890), and *Wet Days at Edgewood* (1865), as well as an unpublished "History of Venice." Other materials include biographical and bibliographical material, financial and legal records, photographs, and printed ephemera.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged according to Za Mitchell numbers in card catalog.

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence

|     |  |                       |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| b.1 | <a href="#">Mitchell, Donald Grant</a><br><i>9 Folders</i><br>Contains letters from Mitchell to others, including William Williams, Charles Scribner, and Mary (Perkins) Goddard | [circa<br>1840-1905]  |
| b.1 | Beers, Henry Augustin  | 1886 June 3           |
| b.1 | Cable, George Washington   | 1904 March 1          |
| b.1 | Curwen, John   | 1889-1900,<br>undated |
| b.1 | Evarts, William Maxwell  | 1878 April            |
| b.1 | Gilman, Daniel Coit  | 1883, 1891            |
| b.1 | Harper & Brothers, publishers  | 1847-1857             |
| b.1 | Hubbard, Gardiner Greene   | 1897 July 28          |
| b.1 | Huntington, William Henry  | [circa<br>1858-1884]  |
| b.1 | Law, S. D.   | 1880 January 17       |
| b.1 | Lounsbury, Thomas Raynesford   | 1889-1899             |
| b.1 | Mabie, Hamilton Wright   | 1883, 1889            |
| b.1 | Marble Annie (Russell)   | 1906                  |
| b.1 | Mathews, Cornelius   | 1853 April 20         |
| b.2 | Miscellaneous  | [circa<br>1851-1890]  |
| b.2 | Munger, Theodore Thornton  | 1903 March 4          |
| b.2 | Olcott, James B.   | 1891                  |
| b.2 | Peck, Tracy  | 1901 November<br>2    |
| b.2 | Porter, Noah   | 1884                  |
| b.2 | Pusey, Cécile (Guyot)  | 1849 May 17           |
| b.2 | Rantoul, Robert Samuel   | 1904 August 23        |
| b.2 | Scribner, Arthur Hawley  | 1889, 1892            |
| b.2 | Scribner, Charles (1821-1871)  | 1856-1866             |
| b.2 | Scribner, Charles (1854-1930)  | 1883-1907             |

|      |                                |                 |
|------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| b. 2 | Smyth, Albert Henry            | 1889-1899       |
| b. 2 | Stokes, Olivia Egleston Phelps | 1901 October 24 |
| b. 2 | Weir, John Ferguson            | 1894 May 15     |
| b. 2 | Welles, Edwin Stanley          | 1894 February 6 |
| b. 2 | Yarnall, Thomas Coffin         | 1901, 1905      |

**Third party correspondence**

|      |  |                    |
|------|--|--------------------|
| b. 2 | Bigelow, John  | 1906 November<br>8 |
| b. 2 | Blake, Henry Taylor  | 1886 May 17        |
| b. 2 | Hutchinson, Thomas   | 1896, 1902         |
| b. 2 | Kennedy, John Pendleton  | 1853 June 15       |
| b. 2 | Mitchell, Lucretia Mumford (Woodbridge)  | 1809-1832          |
| b. 2 | Mitchell, Mary Frances (Pringle)   | 1862-1884          |
| b. 2 | Roosevelt, Theodore  | 1907               |
| b. 2 | Charles Scribner & Sons<br><i>2 Folders</i><br>Includes memoranda of agreement | 1872-1906          |
| b. 2 | Shaw, Thomas   | 1795 March 10      |



**Writings and Related Papers**

|      |  |                  |
|------|--|------------------|
| b. 2 | Bibliography of his own work<br>Includes letters to Walter L. Mitchell | 1909, undated    |
| b. 2 | Bibliographies of other works  | undated          |
| b. 2 | "The Bride of the Ice-King"  | [1864]           |
| b. 2 | <i>Old Christmas Reminiscences</i>                                     | undated          |
| b. 2 | Dedication for <i>American Lands and Letters</i>                       | 1897 February 22 |
| b. 2 | <i>Fresh Gleanings</i>   | 1847 July        |
| b. 3 | <i>American Lands and Letters</i>                                      | undated          |
| b. 3 | <i>English Lands, Letters and Kings</i>                                | undated          |
| b. 3 | Miscellaneous manuscript fragments                                     | undated          |
| b. 3 | Lectures and speeches  | undated          |
| b. 3 | <i>Farmers' Homes</i>  | undated          |
| b. 4 | [Art and common sense]   | undated          |
| b. 4 | "Towns : Streets"  | undated          |
| b. 4 | "Parks : etc."   | undated          |
| b. 4 | "Buildings"  | undated          |
| b. 4 | Essay fragments  | undated          |
| b. 4 | Typescript copy of inscription   | undated          |
| b. 4 | Private papers   | 1908, undated    |
| b. 4 | Journals<br><i>5 Folders</i>   | 1859, undated    |
| b. 5 | Journal of finances and writings                                       | undated          |
| b. 5 | Essay on farms and farm houses   | undated          |
| b. 5 | Royalty statements from Charles Scribner & Sons                        | 1850-1936        |
| b. 5 | <i>Wet Days at Edgewood</i>  | undated          |
| b. 6 | Journal, Index of agriculture  | 1837             |

## Correspondence

### Incoming

|      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 6 | Typescripts of selected correspondence     | undated               |
| b. 6 | Beecher, Henry Ward; Beecher, Catherine E. | 1869, 1873            |
| b. 6 | Beers, Henry Augustin                      | 1886 July 8           |
| b. 6 | Cable, George Washington                   | 1899                  |
| b. 6 | Cooke, John Esten                          | 1899                  |
| b. 6 | Curtis, George William                     | 1859, 1885            |
| b. 6 | Fields, James T.                           | 1863-1866             |
| b. 6 | Halleck, Fitz-Greene                       | 1869                  |
| b. 6 | Holmes, Oliver Wendell                     | 1869-1891             |
| b. 6 | Larcom, Lucy                               | 1869-1870             |
| b. 6 | Mabie, Hamilton Wright                     | 1902, undated         |
| b. 6 | Porter, Noah                               | 1865 May              |
| b. 6 | Sigourney, Lydia                           | 1863                  |
| b. 6 | Simms, William Gilmore                     | 1853, undated         |
| b. 6 | Stedman, Edmund Clarence                   | 1866-1897             |
| b. 6 | <a href="#">Stowe, Harriet Beecher</a>     | 1868-1870             |
| b. 6 | Taylor, Bayard                             | 1862-1869             |
| b. 6 | White, Richard Grant                       | 1850, 1883            |
| b. 6 | Winter, William                            | 1896-1908             |
| b. 6 | Miscellaneous<br><i>2 Folders</i>          | 1851-1906,<br>undated |
| b. 6 | Catalog of autograph letters               | [circa 1900]          |

### Outgoing

|      |   |                       |
|------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 6 | Mitchell, Donald Grant<br><i>12 Folders</i> | 1848-1904,<br>undated |
|------|---|-----------------------|

**Writings and Other Papers**

|      |  |               |
|------|--|---------------|
| b. 6 | Biographical sketch of Louis Mitchell        | undated       |
| b. 7 | "A History of Venice"<br><i>16 Folders</i>   | 1857, undated |
| b. 7 | History of Venice: lecture                   | undated       |
| b. 8 | Journal, History of Venice                   | undated       |
| b. 8 | Journal: Venetian notes                      | undated       |
| b. 8 | Journal: History of Venice                   | undated       |
| b. 8 | Notes on Venetian history by Louis Mitchell  | undated       |
| b. 8 | Notes on Italy especially relating to Venice | undated       |
| b. 8 | Appendix of the statutes of the Inquisition  | undated       |
| b. 8 | Catalogo dei libri della Biblioteca d' Brera | undated       |
| b. 8 | <i>Valery's Travels in Italy</i>             | undated       |
| b. 8 | Lectures II-VI                               | undated       |
| b. 9 | Commonplace book                             | undated       |

**Unsorted Material**

|                  |   |                        |
|------------------|---|------------------------|
| b. 9             | Letters and clippings sent between William Winter and Mitchell  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Fan mail sent to Mitchell   | 1844-1900,<br>undated  |
| b. 9             | "Lorgnette material"  | 1850-1851              |
| b. 9             | De Koven, Henry letter  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Dunn, Waldo H. letter<br>Poem: On the 80th birthday of Donald Grant Mitchell  | 1902 April 12          |
| b. 9             | Fragment of address from Oliver Wendell Holmes to Mitchell  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Miscellaneous writings  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Letters sent between Waldo H. Dunn and Mitchell   | 1902-1906              |
| b. 9             | Miscellaneous   | 1897-1903              |
| b. 9             | Photographs, interiors of Edgewood, with notes by Waldo H. Dunn   | undated                |
| b. 9             | Summons signed by Stephen Mix Mitchell, grandfather of Donald Grant Mitchell  | 1787 December          |
| b. 9             | Printed matter by and about Mitchell<br><i>2 Folders</i>  | 1856-1901,<br>undated  |
| b. 9             | Proof for preface to <i>Doctor Johns</i>  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Holograph preface to the Edgewood edition of <i>Works of Donald Grant Mitchell</i>  | undated                |
| b. 9             | Holograph of Chapter VII of the first volume of <i>American Lands and Letters</i>   | undated                |
| b. 10            | Scrapbooks<br>Originally the day book of attorney Levi H. Goddard, including financial records and clippings of Mitchell's <i>Letters from Paris</i> (1848) and <i>Capitol Sketches</i><br>Also stored at Za M692 +S1 | 1848, undated          |
| b. 10            | <i>The Dignity of Learning: A Valedictory Oration</i>   | 1841                   |
| b. 10            | Typescript of <i>Letters from Paris</i>   | undated                |
| b. 11            | Card catalog of Mitchell's library  | undated                |
| b. 12            | "J. G. Dill's Best Cut Plug" tobacco tin<br>Contains Mitchell's Skull and Bones pin, undated, and an award medal granted to Mitchell by the New York State Agriculture Society, 1843.                                 | 1843, undated          |
| b. 13            | Photographs and engravings of Donald Grant Mitchell<br><i>6 folders</i>   | 1903, 1905,<br>undated |
| b. 14            | Scrapbook of engravings   | undated                |
| b. 15 (Oversize) | Awards<br><i>3 folders</i>  | 1878, 1879, 1883       |

## Scrapbooks of clippings

Scrapbooks kept by Mitchell and his family, containing press coverage of Mitchell and his writings, lectures, and home at Edgewood, as well as notices of his death and that of his wife.

Arranged chiefly by size.

|       |  |                 |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| b. 16 | circa 1880-1907  | circa 1880-1907 |
| b. 16 | circa 1885-1908  | circa 1885-1908 |
| b. 17 | circa 1890-1908  | circa 1890-1908 |
| b. 17 | 1851-1909  | 1851-1909       |
| b. 17 | circa 1890s  | circa 1890s     |
| b. 17 | 1901<br>Contains obituaries for Mary Pringle Mitchell.     | 1901            |
| b. 18 | 1908-1909<br>Contains obituaries of Donald Grant Mitchell. | 1908-1909       |

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

American literature -- 19th century  
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 19th century

### **Names**

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887  
Beers, Henry A. (Henry Augustin), 1847-1926  
Cable, George Washington, 1844-1925  
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901  
Halleck, Fitz-Greene, 1790-1867  
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894  
Lounsbury, Thomas R., 1838-1915  
Mabie, Hamilton Wright, 1846-1916  
Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908  
Porter, Noah, 1811-1892  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919  
Scribner, Charles, 1821-1871  
Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908  
Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896