American literature, literature in English produced in what is now the United States [1] of America. "Colonial Literature"American writing began with the work of English adventurers and colonists in the New World chiefly for the benefit of readers in the mother country. The variously gifted Benjamin Franklin forwarded American literature not only through his own writing but also by founding and promoting newspapers and periodicals. Many literary aspirants, such as John Trumbull, Timothy Dwight, Joel Barlow, and the other Connecticut Wits, used English models. The infant American theater showed a nationalistic character both in its first comedy, The Contrast (1787), by Royall Tyler, and in the dramas of William Dunlap.