

# american studies

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**ON THE COVER:** Known to the philosophic world through his "Philosophical Reveries" in the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* and to the citizens of New York through his essays and articles in the *Amsterdam Evening Recorder*, Benjamin Blood typifies a spirit of his age. Independently wealthy, he remained in the big red house on the south bank of the Mohawk until his death, beginning his varied adult life as an inventor, turning to gambling and gymnastics and, ultimately, to poetry and metaphysics. The spiritual insight he gained after the "revelation" remained with him for the rest of his life, and his speculative writing was highly praised (long before William James discovered him) by such men as Emerson, Tennyson and Stevenson. Extolled though he was, Blood yet wrote to James that he had always more or less gone his own way, that he "could never value things at others' rates—never was respectable or conforming." For the impact of Benjamin Blood's "anaesthetic revelation" on William James and Theodore Dreiser, see Lynda Boren's article, pp. 5-17. (The photograph is from Ralph B. Perry's *The Thought and Character of William James*, Vol. II, p. 228.)

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