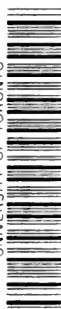
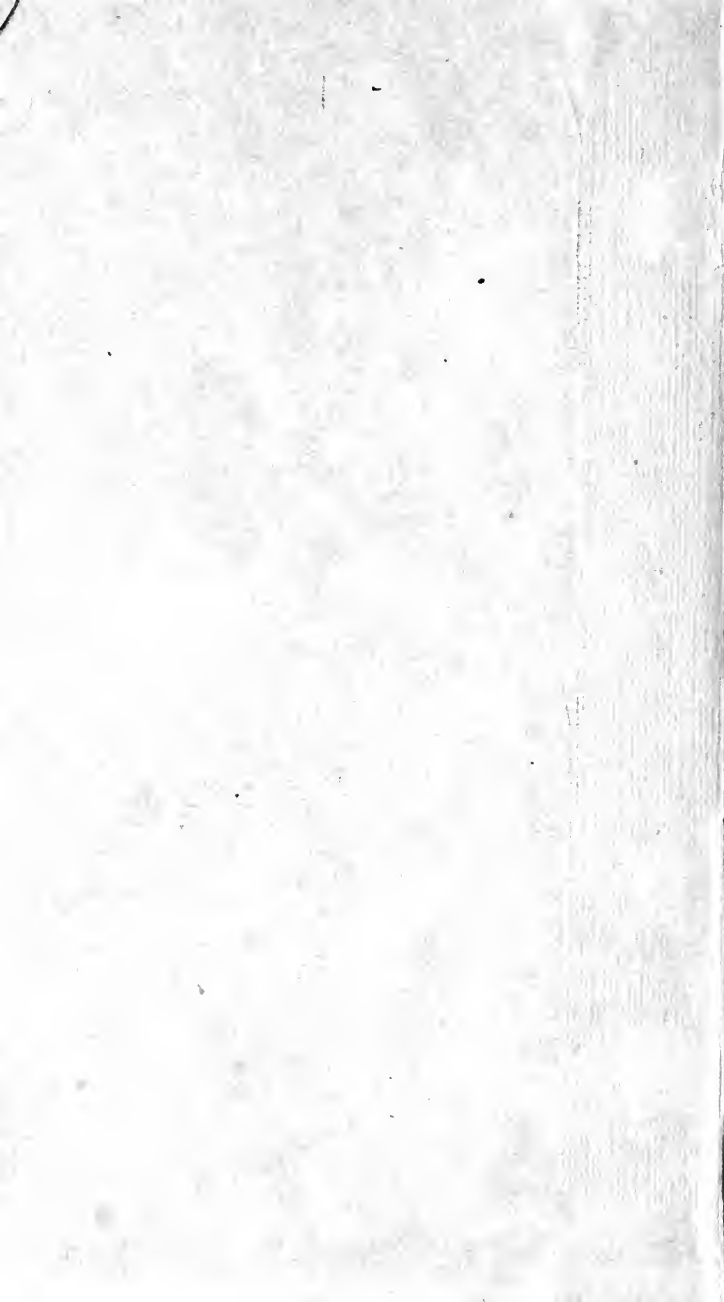



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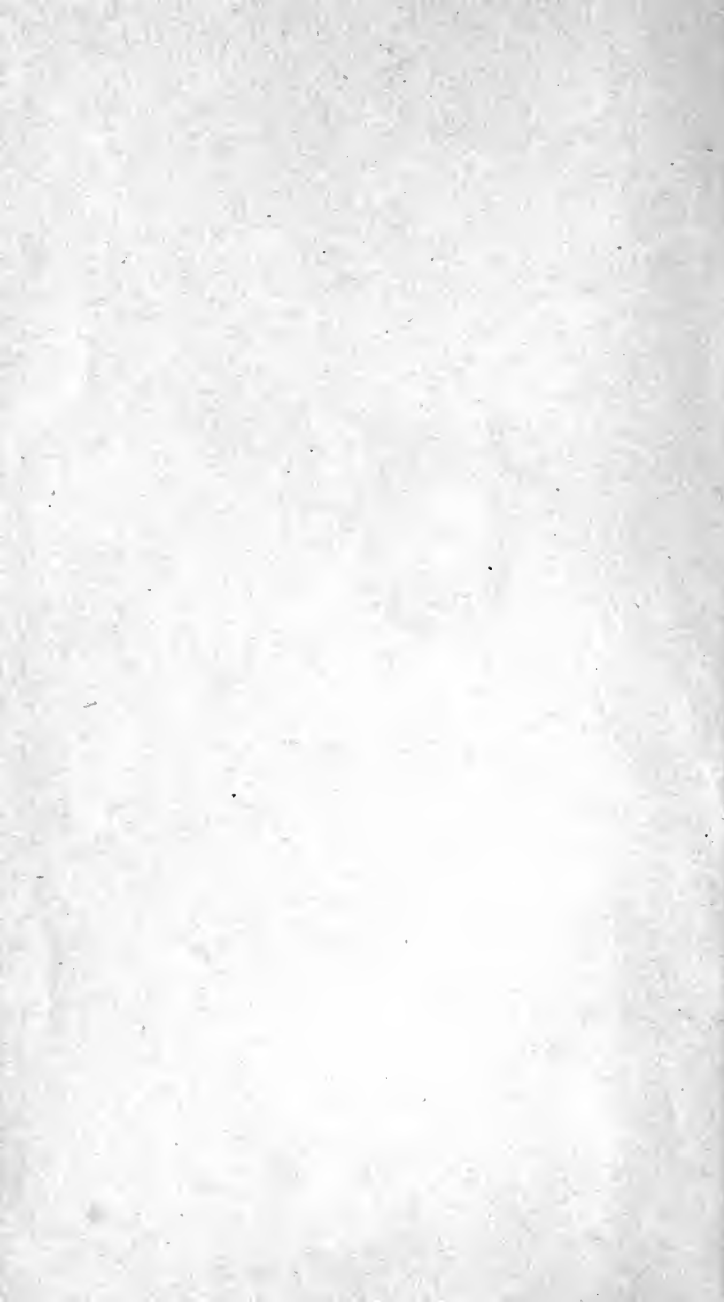


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The Book-Lover's Library.

Edited by

Henry B. Wheatley, F.S.A.

BOOK AUCTIONS IN  
ENGLAND

IN THE

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

(1676-1700)

*WITH A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE BOOK AUCTIONS  
OF THE PERIOD*

BY

JOHN LAWLER

(COMPILER OF THE SUNDERLAND, GENNADIUS, ASHBURNHAM  
AND OTHER IMPORTANT SALE CATALOGUES, ETC.)

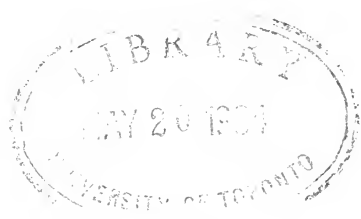


LONDON

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER.ROW

1898

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**Dedicated**

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT

TO

EDWARD GROSE HODGE

(OF SOTHEBY'S),

BY HIS

PRINCIPAL BOOK-CATALOGUER,

JOHN LAWLER.





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## PREFACE.

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**ONE** consolation gratifying to the writer of a book such as the present is that he need have little fear of serious criticism, for its comparative insignificance precludes this, and the undertaking would

*“Resemble ocean into tempest tossed  
To waft a feather, or to drown a fly.”*

I hope, however, that this little work may have some interest for Book-lovers, as introducing them to a little-known episode in the history of the dissemination of literature under the hammer of the auctioneer. In more experienced literary hands the volume could certainly have been made more entertaining; but I thought, in dealing with the first Catalogues of Book Auctions in

*England, that I could not do better than let the auctioneers of the time speak for themselves, which they do in their quaint and often useful and informing Prefaces. The most interesting of these Prefaces have therefore been copied in full, with all their singular turns of spelling, grammar and phrase.*

*I do not pretend to have dealt exhaustively with the subject, for, although the materials are scanty and scattered, a person with more leisure could have gained fuller information, if not about the auctioneers themselves, certainly about the buyers at the sales and the formers of libraries at the period treated of. Such as it is, however, it appears, like imperfect books in auctioneers' catalogues, "With all faults."*

*I have not made any mention of Scottish auctions, as I had not seen any catalogues of them before the book went to press, but Mr. J. H. Slater has since given me a reference on this subject. Mr. Dobson, in his "History of the Bassandyne Bible," has noticed that "the first sale of books by auction in Scotland was in November 1688" (in Edinburgh), the announcement*

of which was made by Andrew Anderson (the printer) as follows: "A Catalogue of excellent and rare Books, especially Histories and Romances, for the most part in English, and the Variorums, are to be sold by way of Auction the 12th day of November, 1688."

The occasions on which the claims of rival book auctioneers have given opportunity for epigram are so very rare that an unprinted specimen may not be thought to be inappropriate here; although it is not connected with the period treated of in the present volume. It is in manuscript in the handwriting of Thomas Park, the well-known antiquary, and refers to the (at that time) two chief and rival firms of auctioneers King and Leigh in 1774. As will be seen, it alludes to George Steevens' edition of Shakespeare. I transcribe it in full, notes and all:—

"Tom King, the pomposo of book-auctioneers,  
 And no delicate hand at a puff,  
 Deem'd this modish<sup>1</sup> edition by George and  
 Compeers  
 Immaculate! . . . erat quam suff.

<sup>1</sup> So termed by Ireland Senr. in one of his advertisements.

*Now Leigh, the less pompous, some flaw brought  
to light  
In his notes upon Dodd's ancient things<sup>1</sup>;  
So Farmer's whole pack<sup>2</sup> of black letter and  
white  
Were sent to break cover at King's."*

*Even in the smallest book the author is often indebted for pieces of information and suggestions to his friends, which it is a pleasure to him to acknowledge. My colleague at Sotheby's, Mr. J. C. Wilson, has been very helpful in going over the proofs and in other matters; and my friends Mr. George Cook and Mr. Edwin Ellington*

<sup>1</sup> Leigh in his catalogue of Dodd's Library had copied some manuscript notes before one of the quartos of Shakespeare, which pointed out a casual error in Steevens's list of ancient editions. This circumstance, insignificant as it may appear, is likely to have obtained for King the sale of Dr. Farmer's collection of books, as Mr. S—— (who was acting executor) went with great warmth to Leigh, to remonstrate with him on the above occasion, and desisted ever after from calling at his shop, as he had long been accustomed to do.

<sup>2</sup> "Mounted in rear see Steevens whipper-in,  
Rich with the spoils of Learning's black domain,  
And quite supreme on all the tainted plain."



*(of Puttick's) have interested themselves in the work. The index has been compiled by my son, A. J. Lawler, of Messrs. Sotheran's.*

*JOHN LAWLER.*

*November 1898.*







## INTRODUCTION.

*“ And much more honest to be hir’d and stand  
With Auctionary Hammer in thy hand,  
Provoking to give more and knocking thrice  
For the old household stuff and pictures’ price.”*

DRYDEN.



*THE subject of English Book Auctions in the Seventeenth Century has never been treated in any detailed form. Information relating to them, apart from that to be gained from the catalogues of the period, is very meagre and much scattered. Even in the work in which we should have expected to find full details, written by one who played no small part in the dissemination of Literature by the auctionary method, only a few slight references to the matter occur. We refer, of course, to the “Life and Errors” of John Dunton, the eccentric bookseller, auctioneer and author, who, though he does not appear as an auctioneer in London, held sales in Ireland*

*Scotland, Holland, and even in Boston, N.E. It would seem, however, that there is much interest and perhaps some importance in connection with the subject. It seems that, although Lord Macaulay was familiar with the mass of pamphlet literature of the period, he either ignored, or was unacquainted with, the catalogues of book auctions. Yet we fancy that, had he known them, some of his remarks on the dissemination of literature, and the libraries of the country clergy, in his great essay on the "State of England at the Death of Charles II.," would have been somewhat modified. Many interesting notices of some of these early catalogues have occurred from time to time in the old "Gentleman's Magazine" (by Richard Gough), Nichols' "Literary Anecdotes," Dibdin, Clarke in his "Repertorium," through "Notes and Queries," and in other places; and Mr. H. B. Wheatley and Mr. A. W. Pollard have written extended articles upon them. But they are now treated for the first time at length, and though not in exhaustive, yet, perhaps, in sufficient detail for the purpose.*

THE AUCTIONS.—*Book auctions had been in vogue in Amsterdam and Leyden at least since*

1604, in which year the Elzevirs sold, at their own house in Leyden, the library of the learned George Dousa, as late as 1633 that of John Rutgers, and in 1681 some of their own stock in Amsterdam. In England the book auctions were commenced in October 1676 by William Cooper, a bookseller dwelling at the sign of the "Pelican" in Little Britain. The method immediately commended itself to collectors and persons wishing to dispose of their libraries; and so from 1676 to 1700 upwards of a hundred auctions were held, which meant the disposal of some 350,000 works, realising a round sum of about £250,000, or perhaps three quarters of a million in our money. Encouraged by their success in London, we soon see them spreading into the provinces—into the cathedral cities of Oxford, Durham, Norwich and others; libraries of deceased country divines were sold at their own houses, or at inns, in such places as Chelmsford and St. Albans. Auctions of books were held in booths at country fairs. Dunton boasts of shipping "ten tuns" of books to Ireland for sale by auction there. From the time of Andrew Maunsell, who issued the first English catalogue of books in 1594, to that of Clavell, the great bookseller of the

*Commonwealth, no bookseller had apparently issued a catalogue (except lists appended to the works they published), but the great impetus given to Continental travel in the troublous times of the Great Rebellion led, in the quieter times of Charles II., to large importations of books "from beyond seas"; and the great booksellers, like Scott of London, and Davis and Moses Pitt of Oxford, accumulated a mass of literature more than sufficient to supply their ordinary customers. Upon the introduction of the auction method into England, they therefore, emulating the example of the Elzevirs, with whom they were chiefly in touch, made sales of their superfluous stocks, and thus found a larger circle of purchasers, necessarily followed by a wider dissemination of literature, so creating more readers, and an increased demand for books to read. In fact, it does not seem too much to say that the introduction of book auctions into England gave a great and important impetus to the spread of literature, and the increase of book-buyers and of publications, as well English as foreign. The general prices realised for ordinary good and readable books were by no means outside the reach of a reader with an ordinary income. When biographies like*

Walton's "Life of Hooker" could be got for 9d., Bishop Burnet's "Life of Hale" for 1s. 6d., "The Life and Trial of Sir W. Raleigh" for the same sum, Lancelot Addison's "Life of Mahomet" for 4d.; when theological books like the separate works of Baxter and other divines of different schools could be obtained for 1s. each; the "Paradise Lost" for 3s.; and "Bacon's Essays" for 2s. 4d.—books which, it must not be forgotten, were then comparatively new—we need not be surprised that such favourable opportunities as frequent auctions afforded, for the acquirement of libraries by people of modest means, were eagerly welcomed and widely taken advantage of. Indeed, the capacity and love of reading amongst the country people of that time must have been larger than is generally thought, since a catalogue was issued in 1685 of Bibles, Testaments, Prayers, Psalms in metre, and Bible histories, in which the country clergy are invited specially to buy at low prices for distribution amongst their parishioners.

The introduction of book auctions into England met, as we have said, with general approval. There were, however, one or two well-known persons, who, loving books and collections themselves, regretted to see the

*dispersal of "noble libraries." One of these was John Evelyn, who in his "Diary" refers to the "Humour of disposing books sub hasta" as become "epidemical." He wishes Pepys to "secure, what with so much cost and industry you have collected, from the sad dispersions many noble libraries and cabinets have suffered in these later times"; and mentions one auction in particular, "I may call it a diminution, which in a day or two has scattered what has been gathering many years." The tricks, too, of some of the early auctioneers in raising fictitiously the prices of the books coming under their hammers, or employing "setters" to "run them up," brought some disrepute to the method. But it was soon perceived, that when necessity or inclination determined the disposal of libraries, the auction method was on the whole by far the best, producing, as it did, and still does, competition amongst a larger circle of intending purchasers, with a better result than would have been obtained by selling en bloc.*

*Nearly all the early auction catalogues to 1700 are introduced to the public by long or short prefaces, giving some particulars as to the books and the owners of the collections. This is their most interesting feature. As*



*bibliographical catalogues they have no value, a single line in most instances sufficing for the description. The first ones have no reference to condition or binding, but it was soon found to be of great advantage to have a book well bound, and Millington and the later auctioneers introduced references to the binding, and in some instances distinguished a book as "editio optima" or "charta magna." All the early auctioneers had a considerable degree of learning, and made their titles and classifications chiefly in Latin. Additional interest is of course attached to those early catalogues in which contemporaries who attended the sales noted the prices of the books sold, in the margins. The British Museum contains a volume of the first eleven sales, which are priced by Narcissus Luttrell, Member of Parliament in Charles II.'s time; and the present writer has several with contemporary prices, one of which evidently belonged to an enthusiastic buyer and a knowing one, who has made interlineary notes as to the editions and former prices. As to the conditions of sale, they were as nearly as possible those that obtain in our own day. The early auctioneers did not state the number of lots they intended to sell in the day. They began their sales*

generally at nine o'clock in the morning, sold until twelve o'clock, had two hours' interval, and resumed at two o'clock to finish for the day at six. As far as can be ascertained, the rate of selling was much about the same as at present. Cooper managed to sell about six hundred lots in his seven hours, which may be taken at about the average. On one occasion this auctioneer offered to begin business as early as eight in the morning if he could be sure of twenty people being present. The experiment does not seem to have been encouraging, as he soon reverted to the usual hour of nine. As to the amount at which a book was started, it was evident that it was as low as one penny, at which sum single books were often knocked down; and between one penny and one shilling, halfpenny bids were taken, and so we get the curious sums of  $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ ,  $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ ,  $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ , and so on. The early auctioneers advertised their sales in the "London Gazette," in a newspaper called "Public Occurrences," and in the "Old Bailey Sessions Papers"; in which are also found advertisements of collections of books to be disposed of by lottery and inch of candle. We have no information as to the commission paid to the auctioneers, or the general charges incurred by the owners in

*the disposal of their libraries. We might have expected to find some particulars in the diaries of Pepys and Evelyn, who were both frequenters of auctions; but they are silent about it, and so is Dunton. That the charges were sufficiently large to a successful auctioneer to induce a bookseller to give up bookselling in the ordinary mode, and devote himself to auctioneering, is evident from the example of Edward Millington.*

PLACES WHERE THE AUCTIONS WERE HELD.

*—In the seventeenth century and for a long time afterwards, there were no fixed firms of auctioneers selling always at the same place. The localities were determined by circumstances. The first book auction—that of Lazarus Seaman—was held in the deceased's own house in Warwick Court, Paternoster Row. Kidner's library was brought up from Hitchin and sold at "The King's Head" in Little Britain; Dr. Worsley's at the sign of "The Hen and Chickens" in Paternoster Row; Dr. Manton's at his own house in King Street, Covent Garden; the sale of Greenhill's library was held in Bread Street "in the House of Ferdinand Stable, Coffee-Seller, at the Sign of the 'Turk's Head.'" In fact, the localities at*

which the auctions took place are nearly as numerous as the sales themselves, but chiefly (in London) clustering round Paternoster Row. One was at Westmoreland Court, in St. Bartholomew's Close; another at the sign of "The Harrow," near the London College of Physicians in Warwick Lane; another at "The White Hart" in Bartholomew's Close. Dr. Bernard's vast library was sold at his own house in Little Britain. Cooper having a good bookselling business, and evidently large premises, sold several libraries at his own warehouse in Little Britain. Many sales were held at coffee-houses, some in Petty-canon's Hall, in St. Paul's Churchyard; at the houses of city upholsterers, at certain houses in the City as the titles state, "amongst the Woollen-Drapers," or "amongst the Linen-drapers." One house, in Ave-Maria Lane, opposite the "Black Swan," is dignified as "Domus Auctionaria," but fewer auctions were held there than at Cooper's house in Little Britain. In the provinces Cooper and Millington sold Richard Davis's stock at his warehouse in the High Street, Oxford, near the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. In Cambridge Millington sold the library of Dr. Castell at the house of Robert Skyrings, at the sign of the "Eagle and

*Child*" opposite *St. Benedict's*, and the same auctioneer held annual sales at *Stourbridge Fair*, near *Cambridge*, in booths. At *Norwich* an auction was held in the city "at *Mrs. Elizabeth Oliver's house*," and at "*St. Edmundsbury's Fair*" in a booth. The library of the *Rev. Robert Whitehall*, Vice-Principal of *New Hall*, *Oxford*, was sold "at *Mrs. Weaver's Dancing-School* in *Holywell*."

THE AUCTIONEERS.—The business of auctioneering not having, at the period of which we write, acquired the status it has in our time, was open to anybody who chose to embark in it. So we find, soon after *Cooper* had successfully inaugurated the method, quite a large number of booksellers and others trying their hands at it. There occur the names of *Thomas Parkhurst*, *John Bullord*, *Zachary Bourne*, *Christopher Bateman*, *Benjamin Tooke*, *Samuel Ravenshaw*, *Benjamin Walford*, *Thomas Bentley*, *John Dunmore*, *Richard Chiswell*, *Nathaniel Ranew*, *Moses Pitt* and *Samuel Carr*, all booksellers; and *Nathaniel Rolls*, a coffee-house keeper. A number of the catalogues were issued without the name of the auctioneer appearing. Most of these auctioneers, however, sold only one, two or three

libraries at the most. The three men who came most to the front as book auctioneers in the seventeenth century are William Cooper, Edward Millington and John Dunton. Of these three Dunton is chiefly notable for the large sales he made in Ireland and on the Continent, of which we have been given particulars at the end of this book. So it leaves Cooper and Millington as the two foremost book auctioneers of their day. Of Cooper very little is known: even his contemporary Dunton mentions him only briefly as an auctioneer under the name of "Cowper." That he was a thriving bookseller and publisher, is certain. He was also a student and publisher of those empirical works coming under the heading of the "Occult Sciences"; publishing several small books, chiefly translations of Paracelsus and Von Helmont. In 1669 he had printed for him by Mr. Godbid in St. Bartholomew's Close, a "Treatise of Richard Vaughan the Alchemist" (Eirenceus Philalethes) under the following quaint title: "Secrets Revealed, or an Open Entrance to the Shut Pallace of the King; containing the greatest Treasure in Chemistry never yet so plainly discovered, composed by a famous Englishman, styling himself Anonymus or Eirenceus Philaletha Cosmopolita, who by

inspiration and reading attained to the *Philosopher's Stone*; at his age of twenty-three years, Anno Domini 1645, published for the benefit of all Englishmen by W. C. true lover of Art and Nature." In 1673 he published "*The Philosopher's Epitaph, with a Catalogue of Chymical (Alchemical) Books*"; this catalogue was afterwards enlarged and issued separately by him in 1675. At the end of this latter he issued a list of sixty-three books printed and sold by him at the "*Pelican*" in Little Britain. In this list we find fifteen of Vaughan's writings, besides some of Geber, Glauber, Helvetius, Dr. Dee, Paracelsus, Behmen and other mystics; and also, it is curious to notice, that rare little book of Richard Brathwaite "*Regicidium Tragicomædia*." Cooper must have died before November 1689, as on a catalogue title of that date we read of "*The Widow Cooper in Little Britain*." Between October 1676 and June 1688, Cooper sold a large number of libraries, some of the catalogues of which have perhaps perished. The present writer has twenty-five of these. In his chronological list of libraries disposed of from 1676 to February 14th, 1686-7 Cooper enumerates seventy-four sales. Millington and other auctioncers sold a good number of these; so

*perhaps twenty-five is as complete a collection of Cooper's sales as it is possible to obtain. Probably the last sale held by this industrious and enterprising bookseller and auctioneer was the third portion of the vast stock of Richard Davis the Oxford bookseller, which took place at Oxford in June 1688.*

*But by far the most prominent and best-known of the first English Book-Auctioneers, was, undoubtedly, EDWARD MILLINGTON. By his unlimited enthusiasm, tact and activity, he contributed largely to the success of the "Auctionary Way." Although he did not, perhaps, sell more libraries than his friend and rival, Cooper, he had such a reputation for liveliness, wit and satire, in the conduct of his sales, that he drew towards him a larger number of clients, who were much entertained by his sprightly remarks; and so probably managed in many instances to enhance the prices of the books he sold. Millington was responsible for the introduction of book auctions into the provinces, and appears to have travelled from town to town with a load of books of all kinds. His prefaces to his catalogues of sales held in country towns shows great perspicacity in gauging the particular class of book likely to be most sought for in different places, and he*



has an artful way of insinuating himself into the favourable regard of his intending patrons. He generally intimates on the titles of his catalogues that his auction will be held "for the diversion and entertainment of the Gentlemen" of the towns he visits. He boldly declares at each place, that, if he did not know the general intelligence and wisdom of its inhabitants, he would not dare to come amongst them. He assumes an air sometimes of independence and indifference to his own profit, "not being solicitous as to the event, be it better or worse," and he will be very well satisfied if he "can but offer matter of Diversion to the Company, minister to the advantage of others, please the generality of my Customers, without sinister regard to Profit or Advantage." Dunton, who made Millington's acquaintance at the Annesley sale, calls him "the famous Millington" and a "man of remarkable Elocution, Wit, Sense and Modesty. Originally a Bookseller, he gave up the business, being better cut out for an Auctioneer. He had a quick wit, and a wonderful fluency of Speech: there was usually as much Comedy in his 'Once, twice, thrice' as in a modern Play." Millington also has considerable interest from his connection with Milton. The Richardsons, who

wrote "*Explanatory Remarks on Milton's Paradise Lost*," published in 1724, refer to this connection as follows: "One that had often seen Milton told me he used to come to a house where he lived, and he has also met him in the street led by Millington, who was so famous an auctioneer of Books about the time of the Revolution and since. This man was a Sealer of Old Books in Little Britain, and Milton lodged at his house three or four years before he died." And again: "About 1670, I have been told by one who knew him that he (Milton) lodged some time at the house of Millington the famous Auctioneer some years ago, who then sold Old Books in Little Britain, and who used to lead him by the hand when he went abroad." Millington appears to have begun selling in 1680, and his last sale was apparently that of the *Regius Professor* at Oxford, Dr. William Levinz, which he sold at Oxford in June 1698. During these eighteen years he must have disseminated in London and the provinces vast quantities of books, carrying them to the doors of country clergymen and gentlemen, to their undoubted advantage and the spread of knowledge. During these years Millington visited with books, Oxford, Cambridge, Norwich, Stourbridge and St.

*Edmundsbury fairs, St. Albans, Chelmsford, Abingdon, Hatfield, Tunbridge Wells, and other cities and towns in England. Of the date of his death we have no precise information, but it must have been before 1718, as in that year the facetious Mr. Thomas Brown composed an elegy and an epitaph on him, which he printed in "Familiar Letters of Love, Gallantry, etc.," published in 1718, which is quoted below:—*

"AN ELEGY ON THE DEATH  
OF MR. EDWARD MILLINGTON THE  
FAMOUS AUCTIONEER.

*"Mourn, Mourn, you Booksellers, for Cruel  
Death*

*Has robb'd the famous Auctioneer of Breath ;  
He's gone, He's gone, ah the great loss deplore :  
Great Millington ! alas he is no more ;  
No more will he now at your Service stand  
Behind the Desk, with Mallet in his hand.  
No more the Value of your Books set forth,  
And sell 'em by his Art for twice their worth ;  
Methinks I see him still, with smiling look  
Amidst the Crowd, and in his hand a Book,  
Then in a fine facetious pleasing way,  
The Authour's genius and his wit display ;  
O all ye scribbling tribe, come mourn his death,*

*Whose wit has given your dying fame new  
birth ;  
When your neglected works did mouldring lie  
Upon the shelves, and none your Books would  
buy,  
How oft he has with strainèd Eloquence,  
Affirmed the leaves contained a World of Sense,  
When all insipid dull impertinence.  
' Come, gentlemen, come, bid what you please,  
Upon my word it is a curious piece ;  
Done by a learned hand, and neatly bound,  
What say you ? come, I'll put it up one pound ;  
One pound, once, twice ? fifteen—who bids a  
crown ?  
Then shakes his head with an affected frown ;  
Good lack-a-day, 'tis strange, then strikes a  
blow,  
And in a feignèd passion bids it go' ;  
Then in his hand another piece he takes,  
And in its praise a long harangue he makes ;  
And tells 'em that 'tis writ in lofty Verse,  
One that is out of print and very Scarce ;  
Then with high language and a stately look,  
He sets a lofty price upon the Book ;  
Five pound, Four pound, Three pound,' he  
cries aloud,  
And holds it up, expose it to the crowd,  
With Arm erect the bidders to provoke  
To seize the price before the impending stroke.  
This in the strong does emulation breed,  
And makes 'em strive each other to out-bid ;*

*While he descants upon their learned heats,  
And his facetious Dialect repeats :  
For none like him, for certain, knew so well  
By way of Auction, any Goods to sell ;  
'Tis endless to express the ways he had,  
To sell the good, and to put off the bad ;  
But ah ! in vain I strive his fame to spread :  
The Great, the Wise, the Knowing man is  
dead.*

*And you, in painting skilled, his loss bewail,  
He's dead that did expose your works to sale ;  
See how he lies, all dismal, wan and pale.  
No more by him your praise will be exprest,  
For ah ! he's gone to his Eternal Rest.  
Can you forget how he for you did bawl,  
Come, put it in, a fine Original,  
Done by a curious hand, what stroakes are  
here,*

*Drawn to the life : how fine it does appear !  
O lovely piece ! Ten pound, five pound,—for  
shame,*

*You do not bid the value of the frame ;  
How many pritty stories would he tell,  
To inhance the price, and make the Picture  
sell ;*

*But now he's gone, ah ! the sad loss deplore !  
Great Millington, alas he is no more.  
And you the Muses darling to rehearse,  
Your Sorrow for the loss of him in Verse ;  
Mourn, mourn together for that Tyrant Death,  
Hath robbed the famous Auctioneer of Breath."*

## "HIS EPITAPH.

*"Underneath this marble stone  
Lies the famous Millington,  
A man who through the world did steer  
I' th' station of an Auctioneer ;  
A man with wondrous sence and wisdom blest,  
His whole qualities are not to be exprest."*

## THE LIBRARIES AND THEIR OWNERS.—

*The greater number, by far, of the libraries sold by auction in the period treated of in this volume, were those of eminent contemporary divines. They include the names of many, not only of eminence in their day, but occupying prominent positions in the thought of our own times. We can refer particularly to a few only. Dr. Lazarus Seaman, of London, one of the Assembly of Divines, had a very extensive professional library, the catalogue of which occupies 137 pages, each book being described mostly in a single line. It contained some 7000 different works, and was the first Library sold by Auction in England. Dr. Thomas Manton, whose London sermons were so popular and were collected in five huge folio volumes, also had a large library ; and fair libraries of a professional character were collected by such eminent men as Dr. John*

Owen, Dean of Christ Church, Dr. Stephen Charnock, Bishop Gulston of Bristol, Dr. Ralph Cudworth, author of the "Intellectual System of the Universe," Bishop Brian Walton, the learned editor of the Polyglot Bible (brought out under the patronage of the Protector); his contemporary Dr. Castell, who edited the Dictionary to accompany the Bible; Warner, Bishop of Rochester, Dr. Thos. Jacomb, and others. But all these libraries consisted of books concerned with the Clerical profession only—ponderous folios of the writings of the Fathers, commentaries, Greek and Latin philology, controversial books and pamphlets, and are chiefly remarkable for the entire absence in them of light literature, and are of no interest to the general reader. The two other professions of Law and Medicine also are represented in the sale catalogues of the time. The library of Lord Justice Godolphin was sold in 1678, Justice Raymond in 1683, and there were several anonymous sales of law books. Of the doctors the most important sale of the century was that of Dr. Francis Bernard, whose library was sold in 1698. This famous physician was an omnivorous collector, to whom nothing in the shape of a book came amiss. It is surprising that this

*vast collection should have escaped the notice of the indefatigable William Oldys, when he compiled his notice of the London libraries. I have referred to this library in the body of the present volume.*

*But the most interesting catalogues of the period are undoubtedly those of non-professional collectors, such as the Earl of Anglesey, Lord Lauderdale, Richard Smyth, Brooke, Lord Warwick, Peter Hushar (a city merchant), Sir Richard Weston, Kenelm Digby, Sir Edward Bysshe and others, who admitted to their libraries whatever was curious or valuable in itself without reference to the subject. Oldys, commenting upon the habit of the Earl of Anglesey (as well as other noblemen) in purchasing whole libraries, notes that he occupied himself thirty years in this pursuit, and that amongst others he acquired that of Mr. Oldenburgh, secretary of the Royal Society, who died in 1678. "Hence," says he, "his collection was so numerous, hence so universal, so extraordinary for its abundance, as well as scarcity thereof, hence such recourse, such acknowledgement thereunto by many persons of honour and learning, though possessed of very great libraries themselves, for the sight of many they could nowhere else see. This*



large and important collection was sold by auction by Millington in October 1686. The catalogue was apparently made by Thomas Philipps, his lordship's gentleman, whose name appears on the title. Particular reference has been made to this catalogue in the body of this work. But it has another interest, in the fact that it was in this library that the discovery was made of the Earl's note in a copy of the "Eikon Basilike" attributing the authorship of that famous work to Bishop Gauden. Millington discovered this paper which is given here: "King Charles II. and the Duke of York, did both (in the last session of parliament, 1675, when I showed them in the Lords' House the written copy of this book, wherein are some corrections and alterations written with the late King Charles Ist's own hand) assure me, that this was none of the King's compiling but made by Dr. Gauden, Bishop of Exeter; which I here insert for the undeceiving others in this point by attesting so much under my hand.—Anglesey."

After Lord Anglesey's the greatest collection (for a commoner) was that of Richard Smyth, Secondary of the Poultry Compter. For variety and extent this library was one of the largest of any private collection brought to the hammer

*in the seventeenth century. Oldys says of this collection, "For persons of inferior rank, we never had one more successful in his time for picking up whatever was valuable and scarce and in such abundance. There was no day passed over his head in which he did not visit Moorfields, Little Britain, or Paul's Churchyard; and for many years together suffered nothing to escape him that was rare and remarkable. He had laid in a good stock of acquaintance with all our writers and eminent men, knew their characters and compositions, and, therefore, how much from time to time he wanted to make any argument, controversy, etc., complete. He had pamphlets as valuable as manuscripts, was an author as well as a buyer of books." The sale catalogue of this immense collection occupied 400 closely printed quarto pages. It was sold by Richard Chiswell, the bookseller, by auction, at the Swan in Bartholomew's Close, in May 1682.*

*Richard Maitland, fourth Earl of Lauderdale, had a fine collection of books, and a large number of drawings, prints and manuscripts. The noble owner's own catalogue, which was compiled under his own direction, is highly praised by Oldys, who remarks that "no catalogue is perhaps now perfect except the*

*Lord Maitland's, which gives the author's name, place where printed, printer's name, date, and subject-matter contained in the book. Catalogues of this nature," he continues, "would give us very great intelligence in a little time." Maitland's library was sold in Ave Maria Lane in 1689.*

*Sir Kenelm Digby must be regarded as one of the earliest collectors who clothed his books in fine bindings. Most of these were done in France by the best binders of the period. Specimens of his library, with his arms and initials combined with that of his wife Venetia, still exist. His library had been conveyed to France during the Civil War. He died there in 1665, and his books became the property of the Crown by "Droit d'Aubain." Some remission was obtained by his relation George Digby, Earl of Bristol, and some were sold by auction in London in May 1680. The catalogue contained some interesting MSS. The whole of Sir Kenelm's library, however, could not have been brought to London, as the total proceeds were only £908.*

*A library sold in November 1687 is said to comprise the main part of the library of William Cecil Lord Burghley, and it contained a number of fine and extremely rare*

*MSS.*, said to have many annotations in the great statesman's own handwriting. This catalogue has the largest number of *MSS.* which had ever before been sold by auction, and it would be very difficult to get such a collection together even in our own time. They comprised 130 in Latin, 20 in French, and 99 in English, and some of these were bound volumes containing several different *MSS.* in each. Most of them were on vellum, and included Bibles, histories, charters, monkish chronicles, codices of classic authors, voyages, original unpublished treatises of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth's time, the old romances and other interesting items, mostly connected with English History. It would have been interesting to know amongst how many different buyers this important collection was distributed and where they are now. Some of them, judging from the catalogue description, recur as individual items in other catalogues of the period.

A small collection of books belonging to Sir William Coventry and the Hon. Henry Coventry, sold at "the late dwelling house of Mr. Secretary Coventry, at the upper end of the Haymarket" in May 1687, is remarkable for the first appearance in an auction of a

*first folio Shakespeare. Special attention is drawn by the auctioneer to the condition of the books in this catalogue, "being most of them curiously bound and gilt back." The first appearance of a Caxton is noted as occurring in a sale of the libraries of Dr. Richard Chace, Dr. Christopher Bathurst and Dr. George Tunstall in March 1683-4.*

*The library of Sir Edward Bysshe, Clarenceux King of Arms, was also remarkable for books "curiously bound and richly gilt." It was, of course, notable for the large number of books on genealogy and heraldry, comprising 243 different works of that nature. Bysshe's library occupies 704 to pages, and contains about 3000 lots. The stocks of large booksellers in London were also wholly or in part sold by auction in the seventeenth century. Amongst them were the unfortunate Moses Pitt, Abdiel Mill, Jonathan Edwin, Thomas Parkhurst, John Dunton, Abell Roper and others.*

*But the largest sales were made from the stock of Richard Davis, the great Oxford bookseller, who had three different sales, in April and October 1686 and in June 1688. These three catalogues occupy 548 closely printed pages, and extended to the enormous*

number of 22,000 different works. These sales were celebrated at the time in a Latin poem entitled "*Auctio Davisiana*."

The general character of the contents of the libraries has been already hinted at, and it only remains to point out that no one in this early period bought a book for the mere rarity of it, but only for its contents, not as a piece of furniture or as a work of art; for most of the books were in their original calf or vellum, or boarded pig-skin as issued by their publishers. It is true that formers of libraries soon began to like to have their books in good order, and a craving arose for books "curiously bound with gilt backs," but this was only from a sense of the necessity of brightness, cleanliness and adornment. In no catalogue of the time we write about is there any indication of the growth of any "*Bibliomania*." There is "*Bibliosophia*" and "*Bibliophilism*," but from a literary and educational point of view only. No desire appears to have been formed for any special collection; no regard to the history of printing—apparently no notion of the existence of a vast number of books printed before 1500. In the preface to the catalogue of the library of Monsieur Massauve, Counsellor

of the Parliament of Montpellier, sold in February 1686-7, the auctioneer says there are books in the catalogue of the most celebrated and learned printers of the world, "even from the origin of printing"; and he then goes on to give their names,—The Etiennes, Plantin, Aldus, Vascosan, Petit, Gryphius, Crispin, Colin,—but apparently knows nothing of Gutenberg, Fust and Schœffer, Sweynheym and Pannartz, Gering, Froben, Ulric Zell, the Spiras, Neumeister, Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde. Very few books occur in any of the catalogues before the time of Henry VIII., and these not in large numbers. The greatest proportion of the books were those published after 1600, which would then, of course, be comparatively new. There was no particular interest taken in any of the Elizabethan writers or of the early years of James I. Shakespeare, Spenser, Bacon, Ben Jonson, took their places as ordinary writers, and the minor celebrities of the time were less regarded. The first folio Shakespeare produced 14s. because it was a folio volume; as much did Jonson's and Davenant's folios reach; and most of the prices were regulated by sizes. It is clear that the buyers of books at that period were not afflicted with bibliomania; and that

*it was not until a later period that Pope's satire was necessary :*

*" In Books not Authors curious is my Lord,  
To all their dated backs he turns you round ;  
These Aldus printed, those Du Seuil has bound.  
So some are vellum, and the rest as good."*





# BOOK AUCTIONS IN ENGLAND IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (1676-1700).

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## CHAPTER I.

### WILLIAM COOPER'S SALES, 1676-88.

**T**HE method of selling books by public competition to the highest bidder was introduced into Europe by the Elzevirs at Leyden and Amsterdam. As early as 1604 the sale of the libraries of George and John Dousa took place at the Elzevirs' house in Leyden, the auctioneer being Thomas Basson. This, however, as Willems remarks, was probably not the first sale held by the Elzevirs, but it is the first on record. Between this date and 1681 this long-lived family of Dutch booksellers sold by auction the libraries of several eminent men, including those of the learned Scaliger, Vulcan, Canter, John of Wittenhorst, Rapheleng, L. de Dieu and others. They also, after the decease of any of the family,

held sales of their own stock *in Officina defunctorum*, for the purpose either of reducing their immense stock or of facilitating the division of the property. Their Catalogues formed the model for our English ones.

The honour of introducing into England the method of selling books by auction (under the Hammer) belongs to William Cooper, bookseller and publisher, carrying on business at the sign of "The Pelican" in Little Britain. His preface to the first English Book Auction Catalogue is as follows: "It hath not been usual here in England to make Sale of BOOKS by way of *Auction*, or *Who will give most for them*; but it having been practised in other Countreys to the Advantage both of Buyers and Sellers; it was therefore conceived (for the encouragement of learning) to publish the Sale of these Books this manner of way; and it is hoped that this will not be unacceptable to Schollers; and therefore we thought it convenient to give an advertisement concerning the manner of proceeding therein.

"First, that having this Catalogue of the Books, and their Editions under their several heads and numbers, it will be more easie for any person of quality, gentlemen or others, to depute any one to Buy such Books for them as they shall desire, if their occasions will not permit them to be present at the Auctions themselves.

"Secondly, that those which bid most

are the buyers; and if any manifest differences should arise, that then the same Book or Books shall be forthwith exposed again for sale, and the highest bidder to have the same.

“Thirdly, that all the Books according to the Catalogue are (for so much as we know) perfect, and sold as such; but if any of them appear to be otherwise before they be taken away, the Buyer shall have his choice of taking or leaving the same.

“Fourthly, that the Mony for the Books bought, be paid at the delivery of them, within one month’s time after the auction is ended.

“Fifthly, that the Auction will begin the 31st of October at the Deceased Dr’s. house in Warwick Court in Warwick Lane, punctually at Nine of the Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon, and this to continue daily until all the Books be sold; wherefore it is desired that the gentlemen or those deputed by them, may be there precisely at the Hours appointed, lest they should miss the opportunity of Buying those Books which either themselves or their friends desire.”

As this first English Book-Auction Catalogue is of very great rarity, we transcribe the title in full. “*Catalogus | variorum et insignium | Librorum | instructissimæ Bibliothecæ | Clarissimi Doctissimiq. ; Viri | Lazari Seaman S.T.D. | quorum auctio habebitur Londini*

| *in ædibus defuncti in Area & Viculo |*  
*Warwicensi, Octobrio Ultimo Cura Gulielmi*  
*Cooper Bibliopolæ | Londini |*

Apud { *Edw. Brewster*  
 &  
*Guil. Cooper* } *ad insigne*  
 { *Gruis in Cæmeterio Paulino*  
*Pelicano in Vico vulgariter dicto*  
*Little Britain.* }

It is a small quarto volume of 137 pages, besides title, preface and index, divided into classes and sizes, as *Patres Græci*, *Patres Latini*, *Biblia Varia*, *Rabbini*, *Philologi Latini*, *Divinity* and *Expositors in English*, etc. It has, like all the other catalogues to the end of the century, no bibliographical value, the titles being simply recorded in a single line each, and no mention made of edition, condition or binding. The contents are sufficiently indicated by the headings already given above, and show the library to be such as a learned theologian and controversialist like this prominent City divine would gather round him. The writings of the Fathers and learned Biblical expositors are to be found in it. But lighter literature is entirely unrepresented. There is no poetry of any sort. Even Milton's name does not appear. But there are several important English theological books of the sixteenth century which are now of considerable rarity and value. From a contemporary priced copy

of this Catalogue we take some of the most interesting of these, and they will serve as a general example of the value of this class of second-hand literature down to the end of the century. The old Latin and Greek folios found here have not much altered in value, roughly speaking, even in our own days; but certain books then little valued have since reached prices which would seem astonishing to our ancestors, to whom the fabulous sums which some now realise were entirely unknown. Dr. Seaman's copy of the Indian Bible of John Eliot, the first missionary to the Indians, sold for 19s. A copy sold in America a year or two ago for £300. Many people would like to buy now the Homer of 1488 for 9s., the sum realised for the copy in this Catalogue, and Gaza's *Introductivæ Grammatices*, printed by Aldus in 1495, for 3s. 6d.

But the most interesting items, and those which make the enthusiastic book-lover almost wish he had lived in the times when they were dispersed, are the American books and tracts, the productions of the Early English press, and those out-of-the-way curious books which now constitute the *summum bonum* of the collector. Here he might have obtained the *Novus Orbis Regionum ac Insularum Veteribus incogniti Scriptores Varii*, printed at Basle in 1555, for 5s.; Holland's *Herōlogia*, with the fine portraits by Pass, for 7s.; Edward VI.'s *Prayer*

*Book* of 1552 for 16s.; the Jenny Geddes *Prayer Book* of 1637 for 4s.; John Reynolds' *Overthrow of Stage Plays*, 1599, and three others, for 4s. 6d.; King Henry VIII.'s *Necessary Doctrine*, 1543, and Marbeck's *Common Prayer Noted*, 1550, for the same sum. Here occur Queen Mary's *Primer in Latin and English*, 1555, for 3s.; the first edition of Bacon's *Advancement of Learning* for 1s.; a Series of 'Twenty Tracts on the Spanish Armada, Northumberland's Treason, Ireland, and including Robert Greene's *Notable Discovery of Coosenage*, 1591, for 8s., and so on. In fact, this and most of the early catalogues demonstrate the indifference, not to say contempt, with which that class of Early English Literature, not theological, which is now so dearly prized and highly priced, was regarded by the learned men of the seventeenth century. Dr. Seaman's library makes the respectable number of 5639 lots in the Catalogue, of which only 1247 are English. This total would represent a collection of 15,000 or 20,000 volumes—no insignificant number, when it is considered that most of them had to be obtained from beyond seas. The amount realised for them at the sale seems to be about £3000.

In the writer's copy of the Catalogue the same contemporary hand which has noted the prices has at the end also recorded that the "Auction" ended November 8th, 1676. This note shows that Cooper took eight days to

sell the library, allowing for the intervening Sunday, making the average number of lots sold per day at 700, about double the number sold each day by modern auctioneers. But Cooper and all the other early auctioneers sold by time, and not by a fixed number of lots as at present.

Cooper's second sale (and the second book-auction in England) was that of the library of the Rev. Thomas Kidner, Rector of Hitchin, Herts. This commenced on February 6th, 1676-7, near the auctioneer's own place of business at the sign of the King's Head in Little Britain. It is described on the title as "*Catalogus Variorum et insignium Librorum selectissimæ Bibliothecæ.*" The preface is interesting as giving Cooper's impressions as to the result of his first experiment in book-auctions. "The first attempt in this kind," he says in his preface "(by the Sale of Dr. Seaman's Library), having given great content and satisfaction to the Gentlemen who were the buyers, and no great discouragement to the Sellers, hath encouraged the making of this Second Trial by the exposing (to Auction or Sale) the Library of Mr. Tho. Kidner, in hopes of receiving such encouragement from the learned, as may prevent the Stifling of this manner of Sale, the benefit (if rightly considered) being equally balanced between Buyer and Seller." The Conditions are the same as in the first Catalogue, with the

addition that the Books will be on View any time before the Sale commences. Kidner's library was of the same professional character as Dr. Seaman's, but not nearly so extensive. The catalogue consists of fifty-three pages only, with nearly the same divisions as in the first. It contains the same foreign and English books in divinity and religious controversy, and contains 1500 lots representing about 5,000 volumes. Of these numbers 579 lots are English. There occur the usual sets of the Fathers and Biblical Expositors, the Polyglott of Brian Walton (which with Castell's *Lexicon* sold for £10), and kindred books. The English sections consist chiefly of the writings of the Puritan Divines, but amongst them occur several rare items, of which it will be interesting to note at what value they were appraised at the time. There occur King Edward VI.'s *Prayer Book* of 1551, 16s. ; Archbishop Laud's *Prayer Book* for Scotland, 1637, 5s. ; Granville's *De Proprietatibus Rerum* in English, 1535, 4s. ; King Henry VIII.'s *Necessary Doctrine*, 1543, 5s. ; William Prynne's *Histrion-Mastix*, 1625, 4s. ; and amongst a collection headed "A Bundle of Pamphlets," that rare American tract entitled *Tears of Repentance, or a further Narrative of the Progress of the Gospel in New England*, 1653, which with forty-seven others realised the sum of £1 1s. As an indication of what was considered, in those early days, the most important class of



literature, it may be mentioned that the method of setting up an article in small capitals, by which modern auctioneers call attention to anything of special value, is here for the first time applied, and that only once throughout the catalogue, and the book selected for this distinction is *Robert Abbot's Defence of Will Perkins Reformed Catholick against the Calumniation of D. Bishop*, 2 vols., which realised 3s. 6d. There is here again an entire absence of all that class of literature coming under the heading of *Belles-Lettres*.

Cooper's third sale, and the fourth book-auction in England was that of the library of Dr. Thomas Manton, the eminent Puritan divine. In his Preface to the Reader, the auctioneer says: "We question not but that this manner of Sale by way of Auction is pretty well known to the learned; nor can we doubt their encouragement for the advantage which they (as well as we) may in time reap thereby; wherefore we are resolved (*Deo Volente*) to make a fourth trial with the Library of Dr. Tho. Manton, which is not contemptible either for the value, condition, or number, as will appear upon sight thereof, which is free for any gentleman that shall be pleased to take that pains."

The professional instincts of the auctioneer and his desire for fair play are exhibited in the following curious note at the end of the preface: "This Catalogue was taken by Phil.

Briggs and *not* by W. Cooper, but afterwards in part methodized by him; wherefore he craves your excuse for the mistakes that have hapned, and desires that the Saddle may be laid upon the right Horse." The note also reveals the fact that Cooper usually made his own catalogues.

Manton's sale took place in the deceased Doctor's own house in King Street, Covent Garden, at the hours of nine in the morning and two in the afternoon, beginning the 25th of March, 1678.

Notwithstanding Cooper's boast about the number, the catalogue contains only seventy pages, divided into *Patres Græci et Latini in folio*, *Scriptores in Scripturam in folio*, *quarto* and *octavo*, *Rabbini*, *Theologi*, *Philologi Græci et Latini*, *Expositors in English*, *Divinity in English*, *History in English*, *Philologie in English*, *Collections of Pamphlets*, and *Bundles of Pamphlets*. The catalogue contains 2135 nos., which represent somewhere about 7000 volumes, and include a large number of pamphlets. About two-thirds of the collection are English. One of the highest sums reached for any book in this library was £14 6s. for a copy of Brian Walton's *Polyglot*, which is described as being in "*Corio Turcico compacta cum foliis deauratis et lineis rubricis*"—undoubtedly a very fine copy. But there is a copy of the *Corpus Byzantinæ Historiæ*, 18 vols., printed at Richelieu's Royal Press at Paris, which

sold for £23 10s. Manton's English books were mostly the productions of his contemporaries or of the preceding generation. They are not what would be regarded as particularly interesting in our day, but amongst the "Philological" division we find the first edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which sold for 3s.; Dugdale's *History of Warwickshire*, 1656, 26s.; Morland's *Churches of Piedmont* (dedicated to the Lord Protector), 1658, 10s.; Gage's *Survey of the West Indies*, 1648, 4s. 8d.; Lambarde's *Perambulation of Kent*, first edition, 1596, 6s. 6d.; George Wither's *Abuses Stript and Whipt*, 1613, 1s. Among the pamphlets occur many rare ones relating to America, selling for almost nothing, but which are now literally worth their weight in gold. John Ball's *Trial of the Church Way in New England*, 1644, and three others, 2s. 2d.; *Nova Francia*, 1621, 3s.; Hartlib's *Reformed Virginian Silkworm* and sixteen others, 6s. 4d.; Sheppard's *Historical Narration of the Conversion of the Indians*, 1648, and six others, 3s. 10d.; Wood's *Prospect of New England*, 1639, and seven others, 2s. 10d.; *The Indians' Conversion in New England*, 1653, and *New England's First Fruits in the Conversion of the Indians*, 2s.; *New England's Jonas cast up at London*, 1647, and ten others, 3s. 10d., and a number of others similarly rare at very small prices. The total sum realised by the sale was about £1,000.

We now come to the most interesting catalogue of books hitherto sold by auction in England. It is Cooper's fourth auction. It consists of the libraries of the learned Admiralty lawyer, Dr. John Godolphin, and of a learned Tutor of Winchester College, Dr. Owen Phillips, A.M. The sale took place in Westmorland Court in St. Bartholomew's Close on November 11th, 1678. In the preface Cooper says: "We question not but that this manner of Sale by way of *Auction* is pretty well known to the learned; nor can we doubt their encouragement for the advantage which they (as well as we) may in time reap thereby; wherefore we have again by your unanimous encouragement, exposed to sale the Libraries of Dr. Godolphin, Mr. Phillips, etc., jointly, not doubting to give you the same content as formerly." Westmorland Court, where the sale took place, is described in the preface as being situated "by the New Alley that runs into Aldersgate Street." The catalogue is divided into two parts, and consists of fifty-two and fifty-nine pages respectively. It contains about five thousand lots, which represent some 15,000 volumes. The first part, being the library of a lawyer, consists chiefly of English and foreign law books with the usual sprinkling of fathers and Biblical expositors, and is of little interest, except that amongst the "*Libri Philologici*" (always the most attractive division in

these early catalogues) we find some of De Bry's books on America, with his vivid, if fanciful, engravings, and a few other folio books on the same country. But it is in the second part, presumably that which contains the library of Tutor Phillips, that the interest increases. Here we find, under the heading of "Divinity in folio," such books as *The Flower of the commandments of God*, printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1521; Henry VIII.'s *Necessary Doctrine*, 1543; John Knox's *Defence of Predestination*, 1560; *Answer to the Devilish Direction of Stephen Gardiner* 1547; *The Papists' Lamentation of the Death of the Mass, with a Dialogue in old verse*, 1546; Stephen Gardiner's *Oration of true Obedience*, 1536; a series of pamphlets relating to Northumberland's rebellion, and other equally rare items which now set collectors by the ears, in their eagerness to acquire them. The rarer Americana also make here a very respectable show. Again, under "Philology," occur *Purchas his Pilgrims*, 5 vols., folio; *Thomas Gage his English American*, 1648; *Simplicity's Defence against Seven-headed Policy united in New England*, 1646; *O. Lopez, his Report on the Kingdom of Congo*, 1597; Lopez de Castañeda, *Discovery and Conquest of East India by the Portugals*, 1582; Captain John Smith's *New-England's Trial by the Success of 80 Ships in 8 years*, 1622; *A Good Speed to Virginia*,

1609, *A Declaration of the State of the Colony and Affairs in Virginia*, 1612; and *The later "Declaration,"* 1620, *Nova Britannia offering most excellent fruits by planting in Virginia*, 1609; and other similar rarities. Unfortunately the catalogue of this sale in the writer's possession is not priced, but no doubt the sums realised were as small as those of similar books in other catalogues.

Perhaps the most interesting fact connected with this catalogue is that we have here recorded for the first time a book printed by Caxton, as well as some of the writings of Shakespeare, a second copy of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and a good sprinkling of books coming under the denomination of "*Belles-Lettres*," which are conspicuous by their absence in former auction catalogues. The Caxton here entered is "*Geffry Chaucer's Translation of Boetius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*, in English, and printed by William Caxton." No colophon or any description is given, but it is of course the one printed at Westminster about 1479. There is also Lydgate's *Translation of Boccaccio's Fall of Princes*, without date, as well as his *Translation of Daretas and Dictus*. "The Shakespeare item is the first edition of his poems in 1640. The English writers up to the date of the catalogue are in good evidence, and include names whose books are now much sought after by collectors, such as John Lyly, M. Drayton, Lord Bacon,

N. Breton, T. Dekker, John Taylor the Water Poet, Coryat, And. Boorde, King James I., with the first edition of his "*Dæmonologie*"; the controversialists of the Reformation period, as well as many less-known writers whose productions are now most rare.

Cooper's fifth auction consisted of the libraries of the Rev. Stephen Watkins and Dr. Thomas Sherley, M.D., "atque alterius cujusdam Hominis docti dudum decessi, etc." (which is meant for Mr. Richard Chiswell, Bookseller). This took place on June 2nd, 1679, at the "Golden Lion over against the Queen's Head Tavern in Paternoster Row." The sale, not being a very important one; Cooper does not take the trouble to make any introductory remarks about it, but contents himself with saying that the condition of the books was generally fair and a very great number "Curiously Bound." The bindings not being described, we cannot ascertain whether or not there were any special specimens of the binder's art amongst them. The books in this catalogue are of special interest only to scholars, and of the ordinary character then forming the libraries of the learned. They are mostly foreign, and the few English ones which occur in an appendix are of no particular interest.

Cooper's sixth sale took place on March 21st, 1680-1 at his own house at the "Pelican," in Little Britain. It was the library

of the reverend and learned Dr. Samuel Brooke, Fellow of Catherine's Hall. It is a small library only, the catalogue containing 42 pages, comprising 1006 numbers consisting of the usual Theological and "Philological" books of the period. They appear to have sold, generally, for remarkably small sums, such prices as 4*d.*, 3*d.*, 2*d.*, 6*d.*, continually recurring, and several even falling to the lowest sum a book could possibly reach—viz., one penny. But there is a copy of the Great Councils of Labbé and Cossart, 18 vols. folio, which reached £18, and also a copy of Chrysostom's Works by Duce which realised £8 3*s.* Among the Tracts occur Raleigh's *Discovery of Guiana* and seventeen others, which sold for 2*s.*, and a bundle containing such rarities as *A Discovery of the Coast of America*, *The Virginia Company*, *Travels from Virginia to Carolina* to which no dates are given, for 4*s.*

On June 6th, 1681, Cooper commenced his seventh auction with a library "Viricujusdam Literati." There is no indication of ownership given on the title, but in Cooper's List of Auctions in the middle of Rea's Catalogue he states that the books belonged to P. de Cardonell, who wrote some congratulatory poems to King Charles II. on his restoration, of which the present writer has seen the copy presented to the King by the author, which had several additional poems in his autograph. The



sale was held at Cooper's shop at the "sign of the Pelican" in Little Britain. Cooper in his preface to this catalogue signifies his intention of being up betimes, as he says he will commence selling so early as eight o'clock in the morning "if there be but twenty Gentlemen present." He also expresses the wish that "the Gentlemen will be pleased to come at the hour appointed," and artfully insinuates that by not attending punctually some have lost bargains they would otherwise have secured: "many," says he, "have confessed they have lost the opportunity of buying for themselves and their friends by coming or sending too late, and would afterwards have given double what they were sold for if they could have had them."

Amongst the books in this catalogue, which are mostly of the usual learned character, occurs the fine first Aristotle of Aldus, and there are many of the writers on the occult sciences. But the most remarkable entries are another book of Caxton described as "*Will. Caxton, his Translation and paraphrase upon Cato's 'Book of Manners,'* Westm. 1483," and three manuscripts on vellum with illuminations described as follows: (1) *Tractatus Antiquus Lingua Gallica Scriptus Carmine de Virtutibus et Vitiis æneis figuris depictis, Pergamena*, in fol.; (2) *Le Livre de la Chace qui fist le Conte de Foix avec figures, en membrane et fort bien relié et embossé d'airain*; (3) *Collectio*

*variorum Scriptorum de Re Medica, Latine simul et Anglice bene Pergamena scripta circa A.D. 1280 in 2 vols., et pertinebant ad D. Doctorem Jer. Prugean diebus suis ut manus ejus testat.* It would be interesting to trace these three fine MSS. to their present destination. Captain John Smith's *General History of Virginia* (1624) also appears here. There is also the *Æstivalis* part of a Sarum Breviary, printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1509, and the very rare York Missal printed at Rouen for Jo. Gachet, Mercator, in Paris in 1530. Amongst the English books occur the first quarto of Ben. Jonson's *Sejanus* (1605), Harding's *Chronicle in Verse* (1543), Edmund Waller's *Lyrick Poems* (1645), George Gardiner's *Description of the New World Called America* (1651), and Thomas Martin's *Treatise to prove the Marriage of Priests and Professed Persons Unlawful* (1554). This catalogue is also interesting in giving us some idea of the number of lots the auctioneers of the period sold in a day. Cooper says he hopes to sell the whole of this catalogue in three days. It comprises 36 pages, and has an average of 47 numbers on a page. This gives us a total of 1,692 lots, giving the number of 564 disposed of in a day; and as he sold for about ten hours, namely from 8 in the morning until 8 in the evening with two hours' interval between 12 and 2, it gives an average of 56 lots an hour. Our

modern auctioneers now sell much quicker, and think nothing of disposing of 80, and in some instances more lots of ordinary books in an hour.

Cooper's next book-auction consisted of the medical library of Dr. Nathan Paget, M.D. "*cui adjiciuntur quam plurimi alii Libri Theologici, Philosophici, etc.*" The sale took place at the auctioneer's place of business at the sign of the "Pelican," in Little Britain, October 24th, 1681. The catalogue contains 52 pages, comprising about 2,600 lots, representing some 7,000 or 8,000 volumes. The most interesting feature about the collection is the very large number of books coming under the heading of the "Occult Sciences," the kind of empirical literature which has in these days of Theosophical Societies bounded into a position of considerable prominence. Here we find the early writers on such abstruse subjects as Astrology, the Philosopher's Stone, the Elixir of Life, Ghosts, Apparitions, Witchcraft, Possession by Demons, Exorcisms, and other speculations on the unknowable, which are always so fascinating to immortal man; the writings of Cardan, Paracelsus, H. Cornelius Agrippa, Roger Bacon, Robert Fludd, Van Helmont, Jacob Behmen, Wm. Lilly, Raymund Lully, J. B. Porta, Basil Valentine, J. R. Glauber and many less-known and anonymous writers dealing with similar subjects. Amongst the English books

are the first and second Prayer-books of Edward VI., the first Prayer-book of Elizabeth; two copies of the very first edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*; *A Further Account of the Progress of the Gospel among the Indians in New England*, 1660; John Cotton's *Conference at Boston with the Elders of New England*, 1646; John Josselyn's *New England's Rarities*, 1672; *The Heart of New England rent at the Blasphemy of the Quakers*, etc. Cooper proposes to sell the contents of this catalogue in four days' time, and hopes his stipulated number of gentlemen (20) will be in attendance at eight o'clock in the morning.

The library of Walter Rea, Gentleman, sold at the "Pelican" in Little Britain, June 19th, 1682. A catalogue of 50 pages, containing 2732 Nos., representing some 8000 volumes, the whole of which was the property of the gentleman whose name appears on the title. This catalogue is most interesting and valuable, as it contains the first list of the Book-Auctions which had taken place up to the date of Rea's Sale. On the reverse of page 29, and at the end of the Foreign Division, Cooper prints the following notice: "To supply the Vacancy of this page, and to gratifie the curious whose genius may lead them to make perfect their Collection, I have caused to be printed the names of those persons whose Libraries have been sold by Auction, and the Series of the time when."

He then gives the following list of the first thirty Sales which had been held from the 31st October, 1676, to the date of Rea's Sale, June 19th, 1682. We give here his list *verbatim et literatim*:—

1. D. L. Seaman, Oct. 31, 1676.
2. M. Th. Kidner, Feb. 6, 1676-7.
3. M. Wil. Greenhill, Feb. 18, 1677-8.
4. D. Tho. Manton, Mar. 25, 1678.
5. D. Benj. Worsley, May 13, 1678.
6. D. Jo. Godolphin, {  
M. Ow. Philips, { Nov. 11, 1678.
7. D. Gisb. Voetius, Nov. 25 1678.
8. Lord Brook, {  
D. Gab. Sangar, { Dec. 2, 1678.
9. M. Moses Pit, {  
e Teatro Oxon. { Feb. 24 1678-9.
10. M. St. Watkins, }  
D. Tho. Shirley, } June 2,  
Append. M. Rich. Chiswel, } 1679.
11. Sir Edw. Bish, Nov. 15, 1679.
12. M. Jon. Edwin Bibl., {  
cum append. M. Dan., { Mar. 29, 1680.
13. Sir Ken. Digby, Apr. 19, 1680.
14. M. St. Charnock, Oct. 4, 1680.
15. D. Th. Watson, Oct. 8, 1680.
16. M. Abell Roper Bibl., Nov. 22, 1680.
17. D. H. Stubb, }  
D. Dillingham, }  
D. Th. Vincent, } Nov. 29, 1680.  
D. Canton, }  
M. Jo. Dunton, }
18. Ed. Palmer, Esq., Feb. 14, 1680-1.
19. D. Th. Jessop, {  
D. Castell, { Feb. 21, 1680-1.
20. M. Sam. Brook, March 21, 1680-1.

21. M. Geo. Lawson, }  
 M. Geo. Fawler, } May 20, 1681.  
 M. Ow. Stockton, }  
 M. Th. Brooks, }
22. Pet. Cardonell, June 6, 1681.
23. M. Nic. Lloyd, July 4, 1681.
24. D. H. Paget, Oct. 24, 1681.
25. M. R. Button, }  
 M. Tho. Owen, } Nov. 7, 1681.  
 M. Wil. Hoel, }
26. Chr. Wilkinson, }  
 Tho. Dring Bibl. } Dec. 5, 1681.
27. D. Wil. Outram, }  
 D. Th. Gataker, } Dec. 12, 1681.
28. Robert Croke, Esq., Feb. 23, 1681-2.
29. Mr. Rich. Smith, May 15, 1682.
30. Walt. Rea, Esq., June 19, 1682.

Cöoper does not give the names of the auctioneers who sold these libraries, but we know that he divided the honour chiefly with that enterprising bookseller Edward Millington; and the last sale of his, and the last catalogue on which his name appears as auctioneer, is that of the third portion of the very large stock of Richard Davis, the great Oxford Bookseller, which he sold in Oxford in June 1688, having sold the first portion of the same in conjunction with Millington in April 1686. Rea's catalogue is an indication of the wider range of literature the formers of libraries of that period were beginning to take. Instead of being a collection of professional books only, we find here works in all classes of literature; and

the more general character of this library is evinced by the absence of the usual technical divisions, Libri Theologici, Philologici, Juridici, Patristici, etc., so common in the previous ones. This may be due to the fact that Walter Rea was a private gentleman, and not a professional. We have here "Libri Græci, Latini, Italici, Gallici," etc., and "English Books in folio, quarto and octavo" only. The catalogue records a Caxton's Translation of Virgil's *Eneads*, 1490, and contains a copy of the *Nuremburg Chronicle* of 1493, famous for its fine woodcuts by the Master of Albert Dürer. It mentions a copy of the *Orlando Furioso* of Venice, 1506, ten years before the first edition was printed, which is probably a misprint for the right date. It has a copy of the *Navigaciones primæ in Americam Columbi, Vespucci, Cortesii, etc.*, date 1616. In the English portion we find such things as Dugdale's Works, Purchas's *Pilgrims*, Thomas Taylor the Water Poet's Works, first folio, 1630; *The North-West Fox*, 1635, Harcourt's *Voyage to Guiana*, 1626; *Publication of Guiana's Plantation*, 1632; and Richard Jobson's *Golden Trade*, 1623; (bracketed in one lot!); Ben Jonson's *Sejanus*, first edition, 1605, and a good sprinkling of poems, plays, and Roman Catholic Literature.

Cooper next sold the library of John Humphry, late of Rowell in the County of Northampton "cum aliis *Eruditorum*

*Virorum Libris*”; with French and Italian Books, and “many Curious Manuscripts on Vellam” (*sic*). This sale took place on December 4th, 1682, in the house of Jonathan Miles, otherwise Jonathan’s Coffee-House in Exchange Alley, Cornhill, over against the Royal Exchange. These books were on view a week before the sale, from 8 o’clock a.m. till 12 o’clock, and from 2 o’clock p.m. until 6 o’clock. This is an extensive catalogue containing 61 pp., making 3039, lots representing about 10,000 volumes. It is divided into Theology, Philology, French, Italian and Spanish, Miscellaneous Latin, English Divinity, English Miscellaneous, Roman Catholick Books, Libri Omissi, volumes of Tracts, and Libri Manuscripti. The last is the most interesting portion. It comprises seventy manuscripts, amongst which are several very fine ones, as far as we can judge from the meagre descriptions. There are two Sarum Missals, large folio volumes on vellum with illuminations; a Vulgate Bible, two codexes of Boccaccio’s *Princely Houses*, translated by Lydgate and another; a most interesting English Bible, probably Wycliffe’s Translation, described as follows: “Bible English, very large, and written on curious Vellum, the translation very old, so as it is observed in the Revelations to be *Knarwe* Child instead of Man Child”; a “Missa de Sancta Barbara et cum Catalogo Abbatissarum de Berking,



cum Visitatione . Episcopi Lond. ad eundem Monasterium de Berkyng nono Sept. anno 1507"; Walter Enden, *Calendariam*, a. 1387, usque ad annum 1463; Lindewood's *Constitutions*, written on vellum, and two or three old primers written on the same material. Altogether a most interesting lot of MSS, some of which may still be concealed in old public and private libraries. Besides these the catalogue contains several fine and rare printed Sarum Missals (one on vellum), including the very early Cologne one of 1505; three copies (!!!) of the Sarum Manual issued in London in Queen Mary's reign, 1554; Sarum Breviaries of early date; and Caxton is again represented by his *Chronicle*, printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1515, and his *Vite Patrum*, by the same printer in 1495. Of Americana there is a set of De Bry, Purchas, Hubbard's *New England*, Josselyn's *Voyages*, 1674, and others.

On March 24th, 1683-4, Cooper included in one catalogue the libraries of three professional gentlemen, viz., Dr. Richard Chace, Bachelor of Theology, and of Christ. Bathurst and George Tonstall, Doctors in Medicine. In this catalogue he thinks fit to recur again to his former habit of giving a prefatory notice, which he had for some time discontinued. "It is not customary with me," he says, "to make long harangues to set off the goodness of our Books (I have no

reason to question the Judgements of the Buyers), but yet I thought it not impertinent at this time to acquaint the Reader, that here is a very good Collection of Chymicall as well as Medicinall, and likewise of Philological as well as Theologicall Books, both in Latin and English, which I make no doubt will sufficiently recommend themselves upon Sight, unto which I refer the Reader."

The sale was held at Cooper's house at "The Pelican" in Little Britain, and the conditions of the sale are the same as usual. The catalogue occupies only 48 pages, contains 2109 lots (of which only about 600 are English), and is classified under Theology, Medicine and Philology only. It contains several books printed in the fifteenth century, which do not occur in the previous catalogues, though none of the earliest specimens of printing. But it records the very rare small Roman Missal printed by Moravus of Naples in 1486, a copy of which was in Earl Spencer's Library (now in the Rylands Library, Manchester); the Sarum Missal in folio, Paris (Hopylius), 1519; Bp. Fisher's *Confutation of Luther, with the Privilege of Henry VIII.*, 1523. Amongst the Divinity we find *The Godly Primer in English, or The Service Book in King Henry VIII.'s days*, 1535; King Edward VI.'s *Injunctions and Book of Homilies to both Clergy and Laity*, 1547; *The Primer, with the Epistles and Gospels and the form of New Bedis*,

1537; John Skelton's (printed Shelton), Laureate, *Orator Regius, his Poetical Fancies and Satyrs*, 1512; Myles Coverdale, *The Old Faith since the World's Beginning*, 1541; Thos. Becon's *Potation, or Drinking for the Holy Time of Lent*, 1541; and his *Pathway unto Prayer*, 1542; Archbp. Hermann of Cologne's *Of a Christian Reformation*, 1548; Coverdale's *Confutation of Standish*, 1540; Gower's *Confessio Amantis*, 1554. But the most notable entry occurs under "English Philologie" in folio, where we find Wm. Caxton's *Chronicle of the Kings of Britain and of England*, 1497, and (bracketed together) Walter Hilton's *Scale of Perfection*, 1494; Will. Caxton's *Chronicle of the British and English Kings* (imperfect), and *The Pilgrimage of Perfection*, second edition, with *An Exposition upon the Ave Maria, Creed and Rosary*, 1530. It is unfortunate that we have no record of the prices at which these were sold, but judging from those already noted, they could probably be reckoned in shillings.

Cooper sold on December 1st, 1684, a collection of Theological, Juridical, Philological and Medical books from the library of Dr. Benj. Broeckhuysen and others, most of which had evidently been imported from beyond seas for sale in England. It is a catalogue of little interest, containing 89 pages, comprising 2632 numbers, representing some 8,000 volumes. Cooper himself does

not get enthusiastic over this catalogue, but contents himself with remarking in the Preface that "Besides the Books specified in the title, here is a good Collection of English Books both in Divinity and other humane learning worth the perusal." The sale took place at Cooper's house at "The Pelican" in Little Britain.

There is now apparently a lull of a considerable period in Cooper's work as a book-auctioneer. It may be that there are two or three catalogues of his with which I am not acquainted, but there is an interval of exactly one year between the sale of Broeckhuysen's library, on December 1st, 1684, and the one I am about to describe, which began on December 1st, 1685. It is a catalogue of books of Theology, Philology, Mathematics, etc., of Dr. Stokes and others, and the sale took place at Cooper's house at "The Pelican" in Little Britain. The auctioneer simply remarks in his preface that: "Besides the Books specified in the title, here is a very good collection of English Books, both ancient and modern, in Divinity, History, and other Philological Learning worth the Perusal." The catalogue contains 66 pages, comprising 2882 lots, of which 1136 are English. The foreign books are chiefly of the usual character then recurring in sales, with a number of Astronomical and Astrological works. Amongst the Philology occurs another copy of the famous *Nurem-*

burg Chronicle of Hartmann Schedel, with the fine woodcuts of Pleydenwurff and Wohlgemuth of 1493. Amongst the "Theologici etc., Misti in quarto" we find *A Manual of Prayers, or the Primer in Latin and English set forth by the Bishop of Rochester (John Fisher) at the Command of Thomas Lord Cromwell, Vicegerent to Henry VIII., 1539; News from the North, or the Conference between Sim. Certain and Pierce Plowman; John Northbrook's Treatise against Idleness, Plays, Interludes, Dicings, Dancing, etc.; A Diamond most precious, instructing all Masters and Servants how to lead their lives; Sir D. Lindsay's Dialogue of Monarchy, etc., all in one lot, with the date of 1581; and the following extremely rare pieces, also in one lot, with the date 1597 attached: The Countess of Pembroke's Yvychurch, and Emanuel a Pastoral, by Abr. Fraunce; The Second Part of Hero and Leander, their further fortunes, by H. Petowe; The History of Heaven, Astronomical Pictures by Chr. Middleton; Vicissitudo Rerum, the World's Chimes Changes, by John Norden; A Fig for Fortune, by A. Capley; A Fig for Momus, by Th. Lodge; Plain Percivall the Peacemaker of England, by Joh. Dullingham; Orlando Inamorato, by the Earl of Scandiam, Englished by R. T.; The Two Tales of Ariosto in dispraise and disgrace both of men and women; Hymns of Astrea in Acrostick-wise; Cloris despised Shepheard's passionate*

*Complaint*, by W. Smith; *The Poor Knight's Palace of Private Pleasure*, and *Britain's Bowre of Delights*, being pleasant Pastorals and Sonnets, altogether a most remarkable collection of Elizabethan pieces, some of which are probably unique. Amongst the Divinity in octavo occur Wm. Tyndale's *Treatise of Christian Obedience to Christian Rulers* and his *Parable of the Wicked Mammon*, 1549. In the Philology in quarto is Robert Greene's *Euphues his censure to Philautus*, 1587; and in the pamphlets the following Americana in one lot: *The Progress of the Gospel in New England amongst the Indians*; *New England's First Fruits*; *News from New England*; *News from New England called Plain Dealing*; *The Present State of New England in respect to the Indian War*; and *A further Progress of the Gospel among the Indians in New England*. It is a pity we have no priced catalogue of this sale, but it is not likely that the sums realised differed materially from those already quoted for works of a similar character in the earlier catalogues.

We now come to the largest collection of books offered for sale by auction in the seventeenth century. It is the immense stock of Richard Davis, the well-known and largest bookseller and publisher of that period, not only in Oxford, but in the whole of England. There were three different sales held, the first two close upon each other, the third

after an interval of about a year and a half. These auctions are interesting as being the first held in an English University City, as is shown more fully elsewhere. For a number of years Davis had been collecting books chiefly from abroad for sale to the heads and scholars of Oxford, who patronised him liberally. But the vast increase of his stock, and perhaps the pressure of creditors, compelled him to endeavour to decrease the former and lessen his liabilities at the same time. Accordingly he calls in the aid of William Cooper and Edward Millington, and so introduces for the first time into the University City the method of selling books by auction. The first sale took place on April 19th, 1686. The title is as follows: "*Catalogus | variorum | in quavis | Lingua et facultate | insignium | tam antiquorum quam recentium | Librorum | Richardi Davis Bibliopolaë | quorum Auctio (in gratiam et commodum Eru | ditorum) Oxoniæ habenda est e regione | Ecclesiæ D. Michaelis Aprilis 19, 1686 | per Guii. Cooper Edw. Millingtonum Bibliop. Lond.*". The catalogues are ready to be distributed gratis at the "Pelican," Little Britain, at the "Queen's Arms" in Pall Mall, at "the Acorn" in St. Paul's Churchyard, at the "Black Boy" in Fleet Street, and at the "Three Pigeons" against the Royal Exchange, at the "Post-House" in Russel Street, Covent Garden, and at Mr. Davis's house in Oxon, and at the

Coffee-houses in Cambridge. Davis's Preface to the Reader is interesting and characteristic. "This Catalogue of Books will be exposed to sale for the benefit of the Gentlemen of the University of Oxford; and as I must own their favours formerly conferred on me, so at this time especially publickly pay my acknowledgements to the worthy heads of that famous and celebrated Body of Learning, who have been pleased favourably to permit, and I hope will further, and promote the Sale thereof by Auction, a Way so generally approved of in the City of London, and elsewhere sufficiently encouraged. It consists of all the variety of my books that I have at several times, with great expence and no less care procured, which to characterise would be endless. The Theological, Philological, Philosophical, Mathematical Parts, etc., might be modestly recommended for the many Scarce and Useful books that are contained in them, but I leave all persons to judge for themselves and conclude with this promise, that it shall be managed with all fairness, and (if possible) to a general Satisfaction, and though I am extremely Sensible, that let my friends be as kind as they please, I must be a considerable looser in the disposal, yet the single consideration that my books will be dispersed amongst you, and are sold for your advantage, perfectly expiates the sense of it, and makes me



cheerfully subscribe myself as I really am, your humble servant Richard Davis."

The sale commenced on a Monday "at Mr. Newman's House over against St. Michael's Church." It began at eight o'clock in the morning and continued until eleven, and from one in the afternoon until five. The conditions of sale are as usual, but "all gentlemen buyers are requested to give in their names and the Colleges or Halls they belong to, to the end that every person respectively may have Justice done him in the buying and also in the delivery of the Books." The books are classified as follows: "Libri Theologici, Theologici Omissi, Orientales, Philologici, Hist., Geogr., etc. Philosophi et Mathematici, Medici, Juridici, Hispanici, Gallici, Italici, etc. English Divinity and History, etc., Physick, Romances, Poems, Novells, etc., and Common Law of England." The catalogue consists of 208 pages, small quarto as usual. It comprises the extraordinary number of 10,168 lots, which, on the basis of our usual reckoning, would represent about 30,000 volumes. And this, as we shall show elsewhere, only a third part of the stock amassed by this indefatigable and enterprising literary caterer of the seventeenth century! The classes are represented in the following proportions: Foreign Theology, 2162 lots; Oriental, 189; Foreign Miscellaneous, 1732; Foreign Philosophy and Mathematics, 721; Foreign

Medical, 1032; English Physic, 300; English and Foreign Jurisprudence, 399; French, Italian and Spanish books, 582; English Miscellanies, 2964; and Romances, etc., 87. If we allow the auctioneers to sell seven hundred lots a day, this sale would extend over fifteen days, and is the largest enterprise in the way of a book auction undertaken up to that period. The character of the books in this catalogue is sufficiently shown in the classification. There are none older than the sixteenth century, and many were editions then only recently published. We notice books as late as 1684, and many are described as *optimæ editiones*. They are of the usual authors used by the learned men and students of the period, and the few lots of light literature at the end adequately denote the general literary taste of the period. Included amongst the "English Medical" are a number of works on alchemy, astrology, and the other empirical sciences, which were, as we all know, much read in those days. The English books are nearly all of writers of the same century as the auction, very few of the sixteenth century appearing, and those of minor interest; and the same may be said of the books in foreign European languages. In this catalogue the auctioneers begin to give some few bibliographical details. Thus we find *optimæ editiones* (as above remarked), with "Copper Cuts" and "Large Paper" applied to the edition of

*Foxe's Monuments* of 1684 (the "copper," however, is wrong, as they are *woodcuts*). Some books are described "*cum figuris*," and in two or three instances as having "gilt backs," and the *Cambridge Translation of Eusebius*, 1683, is "the newest and best translation."

Under "English Miscellanies in folio" we notice the fourth folio Shakespeare, entered as *Shakespear's (W.) Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies*, 1685; Purchas's *Pilgrims*, 5 vols.; The Earl of Sterline's *Poems and Plays*, 1637. Amongst the quartos of the same division occurs that rare book of Ferdinand Gorges, *America Painted to the Life*, 1659; *The Mirrour for Magistrates*, 1587; *History of New England*, 1628 to 1652; *Primer in Henry VIIIth's Time*, 1536; and in the octavos *King Henry the Eighth's Mass-Book*, 1541, and Josselyn's *Two Voyages to New England*, 1674. The 87 lots of light literature under the heading of "Romances, Poems, and Novels," include Scarron's Novels, *The Arcadian Princess*, *Daphnis and Chloe*, *The French Rogue*, *the Count of Gabalis*, *Lazarillo de Tormes*; Milton's Poems, 1645; the poems of Beaumont, Chamberlain, Thomas Carew, Drayton's *Baron's Wars*, Flatman, Sir R. Howard, Corbet, Randolph, and some contemporary Books of Drollery.

The second portion of Richard Davis's stock was sold by Cooper and Millington on October 4th, 1686, at the same place and

time as the first. In his preface Davis says, "This is the Second Time I have published a Catalogue for the benefit of this University. It was for your Sakes that I at first accumulated these Books, and it is my great desire that they should be dispersed amongst you; nor shall I willingly expose any of them elsewhere, so long as I find your favourable acceptance. As for the Books therein contained, I need not recommend them, for the great variety, as well as goodness, whether in Divinity, History, Philology, Philosophy, Mathematics, Law, Physick, etc., either in Latin or English, will sufficiently be manifest in the perusal of the Catalogue itself. This way of sale by auction is well known to you, and I hope has given, and will yet give you greater Content and Satisfaction; and your candor and kindness herein was never doubted of by him who is, and always was your humble Servant."

This catalogue contains 191 pp., and falls very little short of the first in its number of lots, as it has 8534 lots, representing some 25,000 volumes. The classes are the same, with the exception that the books figuring under the heading of "Romances," etc., in the former, are included in the "English Miscellanies" in this. The very same books recur in many instances, and the compiler in one or two instances becomes enthusiastic over some Bibles which he describes as

being in "Red Turkey extraordinary," which answers to the modern "morocco extra."

Though not in strict chronological order of Cooper's auctions, it may be as well to notice here the catalogue of the third portion of Richard Davis's vast stock. It took place in Oxford, this time in Davis's own place of business, near the church of B. Mary the Virgin, on June 25th, 1688. This is the last book-auction (so far as we know) conducted by William Cooper. Only Cooper's name appears on the title as the auctioneer. Since the sale of the second portion, a year and six months had elapsed, and Davis seems to have suffered losses in his business, to which he pathetically alludes in his preface. "The many favours I have received from you the Members of this renowned University, hath hitherto supported my hopes in the midst of my misfortunes, and through the continuance of your kindness it is that I hope to see a speedy end put to all of them. I am therefore encouraged once more to present you with another Auction out of that Stock, which was gathered chiefly for your Sakes and Service, and which hath already in part been dispersed among you (as I have reason to think), to your Satisfaction. This Way of Sale is now so well known and generally approved, that I need not here endeavour to recommend it. And tho' this present

Catalogue be not so large as the two former, yet you will find it, for its rare and Useful Books, not much inferior to either of them. But you are best able to judge for yourselves." The catalogue is composed of 149 pages, one half of which contains foreign books and the other English. All the latter are included under the one heading of "English Miscellanies," and the foreign part is classified only under Theology, "Miscellanies," and French, Italian and Dutch. The lots number 7071, and represent 25,000 volumes. The contents are of a very similar character to those of the two former catalogues, and call for no particular remarks. We are thus made acquainted with an interesting episode in the annals of literature—viz., that a University bookseller in 1686 and 1688 had amassed a stock of works, which represent in his three catalogues the enormous number of nearly 26,000 different authors in about 80,000 volumes—a number which could only be equalled by Scott and Chiswell of London, or by the Elzevirs abroad.

On February 14th, 1686-7, Cooper sold the library "Viri cujusdam Literati," at his warehouse at the "Pelican." There is no name of the "Literary Man" given, and Cooper says in his preface, "It was the desire of the proprietor (*sic*) of these Books while living, and of his Relations since his death, that his name should not be pub-

lished with his books, not that he need be ashamed of them, but of mere modesty, as will appear by the goodness of the books in the perusal of the Catalogue itself, to which we refer you." The catalogue contains only 58 pages, representing 2,619 lots, and is classified only into Divinity and Philology in English and Latin. On the last leaf is advertised, "Here will be likewise exposed to Sale a great collection of Curious Pamphlets on Several Subjects tyed up in Bundels." The contents consist chiefly of controversial literature, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, with a good sprinkling of poetry, and a few rarities such as the Ordinale of Wynkyn de Worde, 1508, a couple of illuminated MSS. which had appeared in a former catalogue, Smith's *History of Virginia*, Sarum Breviary of Paris, 1556, etc. But the chief interest in connection with this catalogue is the extended list given by Cooper on the reverse of the last page of the second sheet, of the book-auctions that had taken place up to the date of the present sale. He says at the head of the page, "To gratifie those Gentlemen, whose Curiosities may lead them to make perfect their Collection, I have caused to be printed the names of those persons whose Libraries have been sold by Auction and the Series of the time when." Cooper begins with the first, and records seventy-four sales in this list, which occupies the whole of

the page, beginning in October 1676 and ending in July 1686.

In describing the Catalogue of Walter Rea, Esq., sold by Cooper in June 1682, attention has been drawn to the list of auctions given by him, which had taken place in England up to that date, and it is copied *in extenso*. It will only be necessary here, therefore, to continue the list from that date, which we do exactly as Coopert gives it. It must be remembered that Cooper professes to give *all* the auctions, whether he himself held them or not. We begin with No. 31, No. 30 having been Rea's.

31. John Parsons, Nov. 30, 1682.
32. John Humphry, etc., Dec. 4, 1682.
33. John Arthur, etc., Feb. 12, 1682-3.
34. Sam. Wilson, Scoti, etc., April 2, 1683.
35. D. Whateley, }  
Sim. Rutland, } April 23, 1683.
36. Briani Waltoni Epi. April 30, 1683.
37. Dan. Rogers, June 21, 1683.
38. Jo. Collins, July 22, 1683.
39. Ch. Adams at Chelmsford, Nov. 16, 1683.
40. Jo. Lloyd, }  
Th. Raymond. } etc., Dec. 3, 1683.  
Ravenshaw's App. }
41. Gasp. Gunterus, March 20, 1683-4.
42. Rich. Chase. Chr. Bathurst }  
& Geo. Tonstal, M.D. } March 24, 1683-4.
43. Matth. Smallwood, May 2, 1684.
44. Joh. Owen, May 26, 1684.
45. Jer. Kendon Bibliopolæ, June 16, 1684.
46. Joh. Gellibrand, }  
Th. Simmons at Tunbridge, } Aug. 8, 1684.



47. Bibliotheca Sturbitchiana, Sept. 8, 1684.
48. Jonæ Mori Equitis, Nov. 3, 1684.
49. Tho. Lye and Th. Jennings, Nov. 17, 1684.
50. Benj. Broeckhuysen, Dec. 1, 1684.
51. Jo. Warnerii Epis. Roff. Feb. 16, 1684-5.  
Bibliotheca Hawkinsiana.  
This was not sold by Auction.
52. Rich. Lee, T.D., at Hatfield, April 28, 1685.
53. Ambr. Atfield, T.D., May 25, 1685.
54. Bibliotheca Sturbrigiensis, Sep. 8, 1685.
55. Th. Parkhurst Bibliopolæ, Oct. 19, 1685.
56. Bibl. Nobilis Cujusdam, Nov. 10, 1685.
57. Pet. Hushar, Merchant, Nov. 18, 1685.
58. Rich. Davis Bibliopol. Nov. 26, 1685.
59. Moses Pitt, Nov. 30, 1685.
60. Moses Pitt's Bibles Sh. Bibl.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , D. 10, 1685.
61. Dr. Stokes, Dec. 1, 1685.
62. Mr. R. Chiswell Bibl, Feb. 8, 1685.
63. A Catalogue of Law Books, Feb. 18, 1685.
64. A Catalogue of Civil Law Books being but half a sheet, Feb. 25, 1685-6.
65. Obad. Sedgwick at Trumpington near to Cambridge, March 29, 1686.
66. Chr. Terne, Th. Allen {  
R. Talbor, { April 12, 1686.
67. Rich. Davis, Bibl., Oxon, April 19, 1686.
68. Bibliotheca Anglicana  $\frac{1}{2}$  sh. May 5, 1686.
69. Wm. Whitwood at Trumpingt., M. 17, 1686.
70. Bibl. Bacon. Jr. Bacon  $\frac{1}{2}$  sheet, M. 19, 1686.
71. Joh. Bradford and Wm. Cooper, June 14, 1686.
72. Sir Rich. Weston, June 24, 1686,
73. Bibl. Castelliana Ed. Castelli, June 30, 1686.
74. Catalogus Lib. Medicorum, July 13, 1686.

On Monday, May 9th, 1687, Cooper began to sell Sir Wm. Coventry's library. This

is the first catalogue to which he put a title in English: "A Catalogue of Books, | of the several | Libraries | of the Honorable Sir William Coventry, | and the Honorable Mr. Henry Coventry, | some time Secretary of State | to | King Charles II. | Containing | a very good Collection of most excellent Books in Divinity, | History, Philology, Matters of State, etc., in Greek, | Latin, Italian, French, Spanish and English, | to be sold by Auction, at the late Dwelling-house of Mr. Se|cretary Coventry, | at the upper end of the Haymarket | Peccadilly, (*sic*) on Monday the ninth of May, 1687 |."

Cooper's name as *auctioneer* does not appear on the title, but as his name is the first in the imprint among those tradesmen where catalogues were to be had, it is reasonable to suppose that he was the auctioneer on this occasion. In his preface he says: "We need not here to preface any encomiums to these Libraries, the Catalogue itself will sufficiently supply that defect, but only to acquaint the gentlemen, that these Books are in very good condition as to their Binding, being most of them curiously bound and gilt back, and many of the Books of Maps in colours." "Gilt backs" was evidently a *bonne bouche* in those days, for as soon as the auctioneers began to find that a book realised more if it was well bound, the words *doris deauratis* were frequently used. The catalogue has 44 pages, with 1955 lots.

The books are only divided into languages: Latin, French, Italian, and English. It contains many good works, such as Dugdale's *Monasticon*, first edition; Rabelais' *Œuvres*, the very rare edition of Valence, 1547; Holinshed's *Chronicle*, 1587; Shakespeare's first folio (its first appearance in any auction catalogue); the *London Gazette* from 1665 to 1681; Duke of Newcastle's *Horsemanship*; Milton's *Paradise Lost*, first edition, but late title, etc. The majority of the books are of authors of the seventeenth century, very few, and those of no importance, being of the previous century.

On June 20th, 1687, Cooper sold at "The Pelican," in Little Britain, the *Bibliotheca instructissima* of Edward Wray, gentleman, of Barling, Co. Lincoln. By this catalogue we are introduced to an early and most learned and judicious collector of books. "You are here," says Cooper, to the Readers, "presented with the Library of Edw. Wray, a Gent. well known for his skill in Arts and Languages, and his singular judgment in the Choice of his Library, as well as curiosity of their binding, which being perused, will manifest him both a Gent. and a Scholar, and one that hath gathered such Curiosities in his travels, as are not frequently to be found, whether in Divinity, History, Mathematics, Architecture, Prospective, (*sic*) Roman Antiquities, etc., both in Latin, Italian and French, as well as English,

as will more manifestly appear in viewing the Catalogue itself."

The catalogue consists of 50 pages, containing 2303 lots. The books are of a rather more varied character than usual, and the majority are English. The most interesting are (as always) included under the heading of Philology, and comprise many curious and rare books, such as are now sought for by collectors, on Witchcraft, Astrology, Navigation, Sundials, Seventeenth-Century Poetry, the items including a second folio Shakespeare and the first *Paradise Lost*. They do not, however, notwithstanding the auctioneer's gush in the preface, materially differ from the usual collections of the period, being chiefly the works of authors published in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, leaving the earlier specimens of printing quite unrepresented.

Cooper's last auction (except that of the third portion of the stock of Rich. Davis the Oxford bookseller, already referred to), has also an English title, though, strange to say, it has hardly an English book in it. It is entitled "A|Catalogue|of|Variety of Books in Quires|to be sold by|Auction (some of them in numbers to booksellers only) at 'The Pelican' in Little Britain, on Monday the 9th day of January, 1686-7" at the usual hours of nine in the morning and two in the afternoon. The conditions as usual in such like cases. The catalogue has some interest as

being the first "Trade Sale" recorded. It consists of 13 pages only, and has 594 lots. The books are of the usual character studied by divines and lawyers of the period. All the Works, with only two or three exceptions, were printed in the seventeenth century, mostly between 1648 and 1684, and include the writings of such well-known authors as Amyraldus, Ames, Barrow, Bythner, Boyle, Buxtorf, Bochart, Bona, Campanella, Castell, Calvin, Casaubon, Drexelius, Daille, Erasmus, Grotius, Gataker, Gothofredus, Hottinger, Heidegger, Heinsius, Kircher, Lightfoot, Corn. a Lapide, Meursius, Noldius, Outram, Porta, Petavius, Pufendorf, Rohault, Spencer, Salmasius, Vossius, Usher, Vigerius, etc.

Cooper must have died before November 1689, as upon the title of a catalogue of books which was advertised for sale on November 6th in that year, the name of "Widow Cooper in Little Britain" is mentioned among the booksellers of whom catalogues might be had.





## CHAPTER II.

### EDWARD MILLINGTON'S BOOK-AUCTIONS, 1680-1698.

**M**ILLINGTON, the contemporary and sometimes the coadjutor of William Cooper, began to sell books by auction in 1680. Originally a bookseller with a shop in Little Britain, near Cooper's, at the Sign of the Bible, he left that line of the business and devoted himself entirely to book-auctioneering, for which pursuit he had, as John Dunton says, exceptional abilities. His first sale consisted of the stocks of two London booksellers, viz. Jonathan Edwys and D. Dan. These names do not occur on the title, but are recorded by Cooper in his list of sales given above. Millington, in his preface to this catalogue, plunges at once *in medias res*, and shows that the method of selling books by auction had in 1680 established a sure position, which time has shown to be a lasting one.

“The way and method of Selling Books

by Auction," he says, "being now so generally known, and so well approved of, that had not Custom made it necessary, it might seem needless to Preface such an undertaking. However, if any expect a reason, we answer, it's for the general benefit and gratification of the learned, not excluding the honest Profit of the Undertakers; and as we shall not use the names, so neither abuse the World by pretending them to be the Libraries of some fam'd Antiquaries, or learned men deceased, but such as they are we refer you to Judge of by the ensuing Catalogue, which we may modestly say is not the most contemptible for Quantity or Quality that hath been exposed to sale this way. The Catalogue was taken in great hast, and by several hands, which hath occasioned many, and some very material mistakes which the ingenious will (we hope) excuse, and the intelligent at their leisure correct." Millington's conditions were based on Cooper's and are those, with few modifications, then in general use and with which we have already dealt in Cooper's Catalogues. The Sale began on Monday, 29th March, 1680, "at a house" in Warwick Lane, directly opposite to Warwick Court. It commenced at 9 o'clock a.m., and 2 o'clock p.m. The Catalogue is an extensive one, occupying 137 pp., containing 4728 lots, representing some 15,000 volumes, of which more than one-half are English. The classification

adopted by Millington is very simple, being that of "Latin" and "English" only in their different sizes. A priced catalogue shows that Millington, like the other auctioneers, was in the habit of taking penny biddings. Such sums as 5*d.*, 7*d.*, 9*d.*, 11*d.*, 2*s.* 1*d.* continually occur, especially amongst the Latin duodecimos. In two instances occur even an odd  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, since there is an entry for two books *Moresimi de Metallorum Causis et de Transmutatione*, Franckf., 1593, and *Seidelii de Morbis incurabilibus*, *ib.*, bracketed together for 1*s.* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, and *Guberlethi Pathologia*, *Herb. Nass.*, 1615, for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* The highest price obtained for a Latin book in this catalogue was £6 10*s.* for a set of Calvin's Works in folio, Amst., 1671, run very close by a Dugdale's *Monasticon*, 3 vols., 1655-73, for £6 8*s.*; a *Latin Bible of Antwerp*, 1534, for £5 7*s.* 4*d.*; Suarez, *Opera*, 19 vols., £4 18*s.*; and Grotius, 4 vols., Amst., 1679, £4 5*s.*; Foxe's *Martyrs* in 3 vols., 1641, realised £3 6*s.* The contents were of the character usual to the catalogues of the period, but included a number of small Books of Drollery, now very uncommon, which then sold for very small sums.

Millington next sold a small library collected by Edward Palmer, Esq., of Kirby Street, Hatton Garden. "These choice Books," says the auctioneer in his preface, "in the ensuing Catalogue were selected for the private use and study of a worthy



gentleman of great learning and eminency, lately deceased, and being fallen into the hands of his executors, who are obliged to make the best improvement of them for the use and benefit of the deceedant, do therefore think good to expose the same to sale by way of auction, the method whereof is now so well known that there needs no preface to explain the design and practice thereof." The sale took place at "Madam Palmer's House in Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, over against the Carpenter's Yard," on Monday, February 14th, 1680-1. The catalogue consists of 8 pp. only, and contains 322 lots, being the smallest collection sold up to that date. It was formed chiefly of Greek and Latin authors, classical and theological, with a few Acts of Parliament of the century. The highest-priced book in the catalogue was the fine edition of S. John Chrysostom's Works edited by Sir Henry Savile and published in Eton in 1613, which sold for £2 19s. The catalogue is only interesting as an indication of the taste for collecting books on the part of a private gentleman of limited means in the seventeenth century.

On February 21st, 1680-1, Millington began the sale of the libraries of the most learned Doctor Thomas Jessop of Coxall in Essex, and Dr. Castle of Covent Garden. The sale took place at "the Auction House" in Warwick Lane directly opposite to Warwick

Court or Dr. Coxe's Rents. It is interesting to note that at this time two or three places were set apart for auction sales in London, which were known familiarly by the above term. The preface is as follows :—"This Catalogue contains the Books of the Libraries of Mr. Thomas Jessop, late of Great Coxall in Essex, and of Mr. Castle, sometime of Covent Garden, and are exposed this way to sale for the benefit of their Relicts, not doubting but this will be attended with the same advantages, that others have been, by the encouragement of the learned and ingenuous, considering the circumstances of the aforementioned proprietors. The Books are not for quantity, condition or quality any way contemptible, as appears by the ensuing Catalogue." The catalogue, notwithstanding Millington's encomium on the quantity, condition and quality of the books it contains, is of no special interest. It consists of the usual English and foreign theological and classical writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It has 20 pp. and 719 lots.

The next auction of Millington is much more interesting and of greater extent. It is the catalogue of the libraries of four learned men of some note in their day. They are George Lawson of Salop, George Fawler of London, Owen Stockdon of Colchester, and Thomas Brooks the celebrated London Puritan Divine. The sale

began on May 30th, 1681, at the "Auction House" in Warwick Lane. Millington's most interesting Preface reveals the practice of a most dishonest proceeding on the part of some buyers at auction sales, a practice which is not by any means unknown in our day, and at the progress of which he waxes justly indignant.

"This catalogue contains the libraries of those four worthy and learned persons mentioned in the title page, the first of which, Mr. George Lawson, was a person of such universal learning and general esteem, that the works that are already extant of him, and those that he hath left perfected under his own hand for the presse shall stop my pen, and supercede my intention of giving a larger character of him. The other three, Mr. George Fawler, Mr. Owen Stockdon and Mr. Thomas Brooks, men of real worth and goodness, well esteemed for their learning and piety, in the places where they conversed, that I question not but the well disposed, and the learned, will give us such encouragement in the sale by bidding in some measure to the value of the books so exposed, as may further incourage and keep on foot such a commendable and serviceable a way of sale, (as this of auction) to the great purposes of promoting learning and knowledge. Which when I consider I cannot but wonder, that so many persons have appeared at our Auctions, and buy with a

great freedom to the injury of others (that are truly conscientious to pay for and fetch away the books so bought); yet in most Auctions have hitherto neglected to fetch away and pay for their own; To the end therefore that they may know, we will not be damaged after so great expenses, as inevitably attends the management of an Auction; we do intend to prosecute them according to Law, if forthwith they do not send for their books, or give some reasonable satisfaction. To prevent any abuses for the future that may happen to other gentlemen who suffer by this unhandsome practice (of having Books bought out of their hands by persons that never will or perhaps never designed to fetch them away) we shall at a convenient time, for the further satisfaction of gentlemen, give an account of their names, and desire their absence if they happen to be present."

The catalogue has 64 pp., containing 4725 lots, representing some 15,000 volumes. Two-thirds of the contents are by English writers, mostly of the seventeenth century, but chiefly theological. The remainder are Greek and Latin books of a similar character, but containing no edition earlier than the year 1477 (an edition of Athanasius). There is an almost entire absence, as is usual in these early catalogues, of works printed in the fifteenth century. Millington in this catalogue essays some sort of alphabetical

arrangement. There is no separation of the four different libraries, and many of the English Books are entered without giving the date or place of printing.

The Libraries of the "learned men" D. Radulphus Button, S.T.B., late of Islington, D. Thankfull Owen, S.T.B., late of London, and the Rev. D. Wm. Howel of Sussex, were sold by auction by Millington at John Dunmore's "Auction House" in Ivy Lane, on November 7th, 1681. "This Catalogue consists," says the preface, "principally of the books of the Rev. Mr. Ralph Button (formerly Canon of Christ's Church) and of Mr. Thankfull Owen (president of St. John's College in Oxon), men so generally known for their great learning, and singular humility, that I shall not attempt a further character of them but refer you to the ensuing Catalogue of their Books, not in any way contemptible if we consider their Quantity or Quality. This Auction will begin on Munday the 7. day of November 1681 at Mr. Dunsmore's (*sic*) Auction-House in Ivy Lane next door to the Wool-Sack at the hours of eight in the morning and two in the Afternoon, where the Books may be seen for one whole week before the Sale begins at any time of the day."

It is a catalogue of 48 pp. only. It contains in all 2277 lots, representing about 7000 volumes. From a copy of this catalogue with contemporary prices we glean

some more interesting particulars concerning the value of second-hand books then coming up for dispersion. A page of Latin Theological Books consisting of 41 lots in folio produced £40 14s. 4d., amongst the separate items being Walton's *Polyglot* for £7 5s.; St. Augustine's Works, Froben's Edition, 7 vols., 1556 £4 10s.; and a set of Calvin's Works in 12 vols., Geneva, 1617, £4. A page of the same class of books in 4to, containing 50 lots, produced £12 14s. 9d., the highest price being for a Kircher's *Concordance to the Bible*, which sold for £1 7s., the lowest being *Strigelii Hypomnemata in libris Novi Testamenti*, which realised 1s. 3d. A page of the same in 8vo and lower sizes, containing 53 lots, realised £3 14s. 2d., the highest single price being 7s. 9d. for a Book described as "*Chr. Plantini Biblia Hebraica sine punctis cum Test. Græco. Corio Turcico*" (Morocco), Antwerpiae (n.d.); and the lowest 2d. for a "*Gul. Tomsoni Explanatio in Canticum Cantorum*, Lond. 1583." Of the "*Libri Miscellanei*" in folio a page of 43 lots produced £22 9s. 6d., the highest price being £1 15s. 2d. for a Strabo's *Geography* by Casaubon, Paris, 1620, and the lowest 2s. 4d. for "*Jos. Langii Polyanthea Nova, Opus celebr. Sententiarum refertum*, Francof. 1607.

For a similar class in quarto a page of 53 lots totalled £8 9s. 4d., the highest being

10s. for the Works of Marcus Aurelius, with notes by Gataker, Cant. 1652; and the lowest, 7d. for "*Aristotelis Organon Græce, Lovanii, 1523.*" Of the same class, in 8vo and smaller sizes, £3 5s. 3d. was the total of a page of 50 lots, the highest-priced book being Schrevelius's *Greek and Latin Lexicon*, by Jos. Hill, Cant., 1668, which realised 5s. 2d.; the lowest, 2d. for "*Corona Virtutum principe dignarum ex variis Philos. Contexta*, Lond., 1613." Of English Divinity, in folio, a page of 43 lots produced £17 18s. 4d., the highest separate item being £1 14s. 6d. for Foxe's *Martyrs*, 3 vols., 1631, the first vol. wanting title; the lowest, 1s., for Richard Rogers' *Seven Treatises*, 1610. Of the same in quarto, a page of 48 lots produced £5 8s. 7d., the highest price being 8s. 2d. for John Mede's Works in 4 vols., 1642, the lowest, 6d., for Bilson's *Redemption of Mankind*, 1599. Of octavos in the same class, a page of 49 lots brought a total of £2 5s., the highest-priced book being 3s. 11d. for Dr. Cave's *Primitive Christianity*, 1673; the lowest descending to the extreme depth at which a bidding might be started, selling for 1d., the book being Robert Garner's *Mysteries Unveiled*, 1646. The "English Miscellanies," in folio, put on rather a brighter aspect, since a page of 37 lots produce £20 3s. 10d., the honour of the highest price being taken by a copy of Holinshed's *Chronicle*, 1586, described as

Large Paper (which we should now much like to see), which produced £2 3s.; the lowest being James Howell's *German Dyet*, 1653, at 2s. 1d. A page of 46 quartos brought £3 15s., the highest price being 7s. 6d. for *Speeches and Passages of the Great Parliament*, 1640, and the lowest, 3d., for a "*Dutch Tutor containing Grammar Rules Dutch and English*, 1674. A page of octavos of the same class, numbering 48 lots, produced £2 13s. 1d., 5s. 8d. being paid for J. Wells's *Art of Shadows with the Logarithms*, 1638, and 2d. for Locke's *Present Practice of Musick Vindicated*, 1673.

On Monday, December 5th, 1681, Millington sold a collection of law books, the library of Henry Parker of Gray's-Inn, deceased. This is the first special sale of Law Books, and the first auction catalogue of Millington with an English title. The sale took place at the Auction-House in Ivy Lane, connected with which we find (in the previous catalogue) the name of John Dunmore, the bookseller, as proprietor. The preface to the Reader is as follows:—"After so many sales by Auction of the Libraries of Several Eminent Clergymen deceased; to the general satisfaction of the Buyers, I resolved, once more, to consult the interest as also the Conveniency of the gentlemen of the Long Robe, by exposing to Sale by way of Auction, a Choice Collection of Books of the Common and Statute Law, consisting



of the Library of Henry Parker, Esq., etc." The catalogue is a thin one, having 12 pp. only, containing 427 lots. The total sum realised for the books in this catalogue was £135 17s. 9d., giving an average for each lot at about 3s. 6d. The highest prices were produced by Keble's *Statutes*, 1681, £2 5s. 7d.; *Year Books* of Edward IV. to Henry VIII., 8 vols., 1679, £6 3s. 10d.; Du Cange's *Glossarium*, £2 12s. 6d.; Coke's *Reports*, £3 10s. 6d. The lowest price descends to 3d., and there are a large number of small books which do not reach 6d.

Millington next sold "A Choice Catalogue of the Library of John Parsons, Esq., late of the Middle Temple, Barrister, consisting Chiefly of Law and History, Ancient and Modern, which will be exposed to Sale by way of Auction on Thursday, 30th, November 1682, at the Auction House, over against the 'Black Swan' in Ave Maria Lane, near Ludgate, by Edward Millington, Bookseller." To this catalogue no preface is prefixed. It contains 20 pp., comprising 888 lots. The higher prices obtained for books in this sale show that the demand for second-hand copies of books in most branches of literature was decidedly increasing.

On February 12th, 1682-3, Millington began the sale of the library of the Rev. John Arthur, of London, and others. He announces it on the title as "Bibliotheca

Selectissima doctiss. Rev. Viri D. Jo. Arthuri Londinensis, una cum Bibliotheca eximii alterius Theologi haud ita pridem defuncti, necnon variis libris modernis in plerisque facultatibus ex diversis Europæ partibus in Angliam nuperrime advectis." The sale was held at the Auction House over against the "Black Swan" in Ave Maria Lane. The preface is as follows: "This Catalogue contains the Libraries of the Reverend Mr. Arthur, late of London, as also of another eminent divine of Hereford, deceased, together with variety of Modern Books of most subjects newly imported from several parts beyond the seas, sufficiently distinguished by their dates and titles. And as for other Books of Moment, that Collection of the famed Byzantine Historians and of our own monkish Writers, of Chronicles old and new, with the particular lives of our Kings, and of Foreign and Domestic Histories in English a great number, may be enough to intimate as well as recommend them to all intelligent and Bookish Gentlemen, and equally encourage them buying on this Ocasion, what may not again perhaps be exposed in this Auctionary Way." The catalogue, is rather an extensive one, and contains 62 pp., comprising 2600 numbers. In this sale "King Henry VIII.'s Bible 1541," produced 8s. 6d., Foxe's *Martyrs*, 2 vols., 1569, £1 13s.; and there is recorded Holinshed's *Chronicle*,

2 vols., 1586, with the following note :  
"Contains the Charter of Robert Earl of Leicester, not usually extant in this edition."

Millington's next book auction was that containing the library of the Rev. Dr. Whately of Banbury, Oxon, which he heads in large Gothic letters **Bibliotheca Whatelyana**, a practice adopted by him on several other succeeding catalogues. This sale began on the 23rd, April, 1683. It was held at Bridges' Coffee-house in Pope's Head Alley, over against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill. The catalogue contains not only Whately's Library, but also, as the Preface says, "the Physick Library of Doctor Simon Rutland, late of Brentwood, in Essex, replenished with Variety of the best and most modern books in that Faculty, which will recommend them (to all the generous Professors of it) as being the first experiment in this nature so much desired and expected." Millington altered his hour of selling for this auction, beginning in the morning at the unusually late hour of ten, and selling only to twelve, resuming in the afternoon at three and continuing until seven. The catalogue contains 80 pp., and comprises the large number of 3,115 lots, representing at least 10,000 volumes. The books are classified into "English and Foreign Theology," "Law," "Miscellaneous," and "Medical." In all these divisions they are mostly of the seventeenth century, a very few of English

Theology being of the sixteenth. Amongst the Divinity in quarto we come across another copy of John Eliot's Indian Bible, and there are a few rare American tracts, some Poems and Plays, three of Bunyan's books (but not the *Pilgrim's Progress*), some books of Drollery, Smith's *Virginia*, and Froissart of 1515. The Medical Books to which Millington draws special attention in the preface as being the first experiment in the sale of that particular class by auction, "so much desired and expected," are chiefly foreign, modern editions of the old medical writers, and the treatises of learned contemporary physicians, mixed with the more empirical writings of the alchemists and herbalists.

The next auction held by Millington was conducted jointly by himself and William Cooper. It is entitled "*Catalogus variorum Librorum Bibliothecæ instructissimæ Rev. Viri D. Dan. Rogers, quondam de Haversham, in comitatu Bucks. Una Cum Bibliotheca cujusdam Anonymi aliquisque MSS. rarissimis, plurimisque Voluminibus Tractatum Intelligentiarum Omnigenarum ad res in Anglia gestas Spectantium, ab anno 1640, ad hæc Usque tempora.*" The sale began on June 21st, 1683. It was held at Jonathan Miles's Coffee-House in Exchange Alley, Cornhill, over against the Royal Exchange. "Many parts of this Catalogue," the Preface remarks, "might be instanced, to recommend

the Books and their buying to all unprejudiced Persons—viz. the great Variety of Choice Books in Divinity, History, Philology in all volumes and of most Subjects. As also those curious volumes of Tracts, and that exact Collection of Foreign and Domestic News (from 1640-82) of all sorts that was published in the beginning and during our unhappy Civil Confusions, with all others of that Nature since our happy settlement, methodically digested and continued to these times, is enough to intimate by way of invitation to all lovers of learning and knowledge." The catalogue contains 61 pp. besides title, comprising 3067 nos. The general contents are of the same character as that of other catalogues. Many small books were sold for one penny each, and the celebrated, and now very much sought for American Bay Psalm Book of 1640 sold for 6*d.* only. There were many of the writings of the Reformation Divines of Elizabeth's time which sold for equally small sums.

Millington's next auction was "A Curious Collection of Law Books ancient and modern, consisting of the Libraries of John Collins, Esq., late of Gray's Inn deceased, and of another famed practicer of the Law, with additions of the best and latest Law Books hitherto extant; as also an appendix of a considerable number of Books of the Civil and Canon Law, to be exposed to Sale by way of Auction on Monday, the 2nd day

of July 1683, at the first house on the left hand in Flying-Horse Court in Fleet-Street, near the King's Head Tavern at Chancery Lane End." "To the Reader: This Catalogue contains the compleatest Collection of the Common and Statute Law Books, ancient and modern, that hath been hitherto published, or perhaps will ever be exposed to sale by way of auction; so that I may be presumed to say, that not one considerable book of Price, or use in the whole body of the Law is wanting. These gentlemen were curious in collecting of the ancient and scarce Books of the Law, as is obvious to everyone that shall please to peruse the ensuing names of them, especially of Books of Old Customs, Usages and Charters, there being no less than three different editions of that fam'd Book of the Customs of Normandy, two of Stebunhithe and Hackney, and of the Charter of Romney Marsh, of the Tinnors of Cornwall, with indeed all other Books that respect the Law, that were useful and in general esteem. Which is invitation Sufficient to all gentlemen of the gown, to buy upon this Occasion, what they cannot so easily meet with, or not at all find, when their Occasions require, or they are anxious of having them." This catalogue contains 18 pp. comprising 538 lots, and is, as Millington claims, the largest collection of law books offered for sale by auction up to this date.

Millington's next venture was with the "**Bibliotheca Lloydiana**" and the Historical and Philological Library of Justice Thomas Raymond, and others. This sale was held at "The Auction House" in Ave Maria Lane, on December 3rd, 1683. "This Catalogue consists of the Library of the Reverend and learned Mr. John Lloyd, sometime Minister of North-Mimmes in Hertfordshire; as also of the Historical and Philological Library of the Worshipful Sir Thomas Raymond, Knight, late one of the Justices of the King's-Bench Court; in the perusal of which it is obvious to remark what a curious collection he had made, and almost compleated, of the general Histories abroad and of our Monkish Historians at home, with a collection of the Particular Lives of the Kings of England, as also of Chronicles Old and New. I might also hint at that great variety of Dictionaries and Glossaries that present themselves in the Catalogue. All which considered, without a further preamble, do sufficiently recommend them to all Knowing and Bookish Gentlemen to buy upon this occasion what cannot be easily found, or indeed procured, when most passionately desired." The catalogue contains 86 pp., and comprises 3587 lots. There is no distinction made between the properties, so we cannot say which belonged to the parson and which to the judge. The contents are very typical of the libraries then

being sold by auction; the divisions are simply into Foreign and English Theology and Miscellanies, the latter including the class usually named Philology, under which was always included the books of general interest in contra-distinction to those strictly professional. In the Foreign Theology occur some early Salisbury *Missals* and *Horæ*, and the *Psalter according to the Use of Salisbury and York*, Paris, 1516. There is a complete set of De Bry's *Voyages to America* amongst the Miscellaneous. Marbeck's *Book of Common Prayer noted*, 1550, occurs in the English Divinity, as well as some early works of Tyndale, Frith, Barnes, and other Reformers. In the English Miscellanies we get the first edition of Fabian's *Chronicle*, "not castrated," 1509; Purchas's *Pilgrims*, the works of Ben Jonson, Chaucer, Beaumont and Fletcher; Shakespeare's *Poems*, 1640; the first edition of Ascham's *Toxophilus*, 1545; Frobisher's *Voyages*, 1578; Walton's *Compleat Angler*, 1655; a large number of rare pamphlets, and a good many of the works of the English poets of the first half of the century. Of the monkish historians, so gushingly described by Millington in his preface, there are, strange to say, only one or two.

Millington next sold the library of Dr. John Owen. He heads it "*Bibliotheca Oweniana, Catalogus Librorum . . . cum variis manuscriptis Grecis, Latinis. etc., pro-*



*pria manu Doct. Patric. Junii aliorumque conscriptis."*

The sale began on May 26th, 1684, at the "Auction House," opposite the Black Swan" in Ave-Maria Lane. "This Catalogue," the preface states, "contains the Library of the Reverend and Learned Dr. John Owen, deceased (sometime Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Christ-Church in Oxon), a person so generally known for a generous Buyer and great Collector of the best books, that 'tis needless further to intimate to the world the great opportunities he had, or his constant readiness to buy what at any time presented itself that was rare and useful. Among the vast number of Books he had perused, and was for several late years possessed of, I find, these ensuing larger volumes preserved, and esteemed by him as the choice and curious to his death, viz., his Greek and Latin Fathers, his different Editions of the Councils, his Church-Histories, and Rabbinical Authors, together with great variety of the Bibles in the Oriental languages; not to mention his almost compleat Collection of the Historians, Poets, Geographers, Philologers, and Lexicographers, in Greek, Latin, etc. All which considered together, perhaps for their number are not to be parallel'd, or upon any terms to be procured, when Gentlemen are desirous of, or have a réál occasion for the perusal of them. And lest what I have

hinted should be termed a formal Commendation, rather than a true character of the books, I leave the Catalogue to the judgment of Gentlemen, the Buyers, and invite them for one whole week before the Sale, at the usual hours, to a Critical View and thorow examination of them as to their Editions and binding." The catalogue consists of 64 pp., comprising 2834 lots. The library is, as might be supposed from the well-known high character and writings of Dr. Owen, entirely a professional one, as is sufficiently indicated in the preface, and nothing is found in it but the particular kind of literature relating to the important theological position held by the learned Doctor. There is, however, one very interesting item, whose present place of repose it would be useful to know. It is described in the catalogue as "Junii et Tremelii Scholiis (litera magna) interfoliata papyro, una cum Nov. Testam. Notis et aliquib. Manusc. Observat. R. D. Oweni, 6 vol. fol. Fra. 1515," from which we learn that Dr. Owen had interleaved a copy of Tremellius's and Junius's Scholia on the Bible, and had increased it to six volumes, and enriched it with numerous MS. notes in his own hand. A manuscript such as this, coming from the hand of one of the most learned of the seventeenth-century Puritan Divines, should be of great critical and theological value. This catalogue is remarkable for the extreme paucity of English Reforma-

tion literature, hardly a book of this kind appearing printed before the beginning of the seventeenth century.

We now come to one of the most interesting catalogues and prefaces issued by Millington. The title is in English, and purports to contain "the Libraries of two eminent persons deceased, consisting of CHOICE ENGLISH BOOKS in Divinity, History, Law, Physick, Mathematicks, Poetry, etc." The sale was held at Brydges' Coffee House, in Pope's Head Alley, opposite the Royal Exchange, on Monday, June 16th, 1684. It began at 9 and continued to 12 o'clock; was resumed at 2 and finished at 6 p.m. Millington's patriotic preface indicates the growth of productions from the English press of the period, and shows that this was the first sale of entirely English books sold by auction up to that period. "This Catalogue consists perfectly of English Books, being the Labours, and well cultivated Writings of the best English Authors, which I the rather for once essayed to expose to Sale by way of Auction, thereby to convince the World, that all learning and useful knowledge is not contained in foreign Languages. Our own Nation having been productive of Authors so Valuable, that the whole World have admired their Works, and paid a Veneration to their names; amongst others the English Theologists have been universally famed, as indeed our other

Authors—viz., Historians, Poets, Philologers, etc., have been so happy in their Writings as to have an equal esteem and reputation with the most learned persons abroad. In short, this Collection evidently manifests great variety of incomparable discourses, and excellent Tracts have been successively and lately published in our own Language of all subjects so many, and in volumes so numerous, and being generally so useful, that it's hardly possible for any one to be so well-furnished, but here he may make a considerable augmentation to his Study and accession to his Knowledge if he please." At the end of this interesting preface the auctioneer gives a Special Advertisement to a Gerard's *Herbal*:—"There is likewise to be sold Gerard's *Herbal* enlarged by Johnson, with the plants curiously and judiciously coloured, a book very rare and not easily to be parallel'd." The catalogue comprises 57 pp., containing about 2,850 lots, representing some 8,000 volumes, a mass of literature, strictly English, mostly of the productions of the same century as the sale, which speaks well for the energy of the English brain, even amidst such depressing circumstances were characteristic of that period.

We next notice a curious and interesting catalogue which although not having Millington's name as auctioneer, has a preface so characteristic, that we cannot err, knowing also his habit of periodically holding sales

in the country, in regarding him as the conductor of the sale. It is a catalogue of English books to be sold by auction at Tunbridge Wells. Of the various provincial, University and Fair book-auctions held by Millington and others we have spoken in the introduction, but we introduce this particular one here in its chronological order. The title is an abbreviation of that in the catalogue described above. "A Catalogue of the Libraries of two eminent Persons, consisting of Choice English Books in Divinity, History, Physick, Mathematics, Poëtry, etc., which will be sold by way of Auction at Tunbridge Wells, upon Friday August 8th, 1684. Catalogues shall then be given gratis. To the Reader: this Catalogue consists of the Works of our best English Authors, and it manifests what great variety of incomparable books have been published in our own Language of all Subjects and in all Volumes. This way of Auctioning having elsewhere met with a good acceptation, it is not doubted that the Gentlemen at Tunbridge will also encourage this first Essay of it amongst them. Notice shall be left at the Tea-House upon the Walks, at what Shop or Tent the Books shall be exposed to View and Sale, and the hour at which the Sale shall begin, and such other notice shall be there left as shall from time to time seem needful." At the end of the catalogue is a curious advertisement as follows: "There is newly published the long

expected Book of Father Simons entitled *Critical Enquiries into the Various Editions of the Bible printed in divers places and at various times ; together with animadversions upon a Small Treatise of Dr. Isaac Vossius concerning the Oracles of the Sibylls and an answer to the objections of the late Critica Sacra, written originally in Latin by Father Simon of the Oratory, translated into English by N. S., price bound 5s.*" Millington evidently only made this a flying experiment. The catalogue has only 6 pp., and contains 283 lots, just sufficient to sell in an afternoon. The books consist chiefly of recently published works of a cheap character.

On September 8th, 1684, Millington commenced selling a collection of English and Foreign Books at Stourbridge Fair, near Cambridge ; an experiment which was successful enough to induce him to repeat it, on the next year's fair-day at the same place. Although the second is out of the strict chronological order of early book-auctions hitherto kept, they can be bracketed together in this place, as they are very similar to each other. The title of the first is : "**Bibliotheca Sturbitchiana, sive Catalogus Variorum Librorum antiquorum et recentiorum, plurimum facultatibus insignium, quorum Auctio habebitur apud Nundinum Sturbitchianum propè Cambridg., Octavo die Septembris 1684, per Edvardum Millingtonum Bibliopolam Lond.** Catalogues are distributed gratis to all Gentle-

men, Scholars, etc., at the several Coffee-houses in Cambridg.” The preface is an exceedingly interesting one, as showing that Millington took a decidedly serious view of his avocation and of its importance in disseminating learning. “This Catalogue presents you with Variety of good and scarce Books, ancient and modern, viz. in Divinity, History, Philosophy, Philology, Physick, etc., (which without an elaborate Preface to set them off, or the stale and formal pretences of their being the Libraries of some late learned Divines or famed Antiquaries deceased, to recommend them), they will be exposed to Sale by Way of Auction in Sturbitch-fair; a Way so highly Useful to the dispersing of Learning, so experimentally beneficial to the Relicts, and Executors of Divines and Gentlemen, in the disposal of their Libraries, which hath received the general approbation of the Reverend Divines etc., of the City of London, amongst which for several Years it hath been practised to their Satisfaction. And if we consider the Essays that have been made in the Country, which have been readily entertained, and very well approved of, we cannot but promise ourselves (from that great and Celebrated Body of Learning—viz. the Famous University of Cambridg) in this our first Essay an encouragement in some measure answerable to the Nature and expensiveness of such an Undertaking, which shall be managed

with that fairness and honesty, and, if possible, to a general Content, as shall perfectly Silence, not only the ignorant but malicious decryers of so excellent a way and method of handing Learning and Knowledge to the World." The auction began on Monday at the Auction-Booth in Sturbitch Fair from 8 o'clock in the morning to 11, and from 1 o'clock in the afternoon till 5, and continued daily until all the books were sold. Millington's auction-booth at Stourbridge must have been a pretty extensive one, as he invites gentlemen to come and view them there before the hours of sale. The catalogue is rather a large one to take into the Country, having 44 pp., containing 2,200 Lots, representing some 6,000 or 7,000 volumes. The foreign books are of the ordinary theological kind current in nearly every catalogue of the period; in the English, Millington, with his usual acute eye to business, has included a number of works on Country pursuits and Sports, likely to attract the local magnates. In his next year's venture at Stourbridge he did not take down quite so many; the catalogue containing only 30 pp., comprising 1500 lots. On the title he declares the sale to be held "in gratiam celeberrimæ Cantabrigiæ Academiæ." The books began to be sold on September 8th, 1685. The preface is a short one: "This Catalogue of Books is so good in its kind, so desirable in all its parts, that it



needs not the patronage, or name of some learned person's Library to recommend it; so that I cannot reasonably doubt of its favourable reception here, amongst so many Knowing and Competent Judges of the various editions of the most useful books of all sorts; for which reason I shall forbear a particular character of the many books of Value and Scarcity that present themselves in the Theological and Philological part of the Latin Catalogue, and content myself in the general to intimate, that the English consists also of a great number of Choice Books in Divinity, Husbandry, Philosophy, Poetry, but especially History; all which considered, may render them acceptable to the Curious and intelligent." In his conditions Millington declares he must have the fourth part of the price of the book or books bought, paid at the time of sale, and the remainder within two days (if a scholar), and that gentlemen who are occasionally at the fair "do pay immediately or leave such proportion of money in part as shall be demanded by the Undertaker." In this catalogue appears a fourth folio Shakespeare.

Returning now to the strict chronological order broken by taking the two Stourbridge Fair catalogues together, we find that on November 3rd, 1684, Millington began the sale of the library of Sir Jonas Moor, described on the title as "Supervisor Generalis Instrumentorum Bellicorum Regis Angliæ"—

meaning Master of the Ordnance. The library, the title (which is in Latin) further informs us, was procured at vast expense and with great diligence from all parts of Europe. The preface is an interesting one. "This Sale consists of the Whole Library of the Worshipful Sir Jonas Moor, deceased, a person of so great Worth and General Esteem for his admirable Scheme in most parts of the Mathematics, that the issues of his Brain already published in that Science are ample testimonies of his abilities. The Mathematical part of the Library, as it was with great care and with vast expense procured, so if we consider what great variety there is in most languages in that faculty, is not (to speak modestly) easily paralleled. The Geographical and Historical part, though they cannot pretend to numbers, yet will appear to be very valuable as to their price, and very choice, as to their kind, especially as to the English part, which presents you with a considerable number towards the collection he seemed to design to make of the English History in general, and of the lives of the Kings of England in particular. Which may be enough to indicate by way of information to all Lovers of curiosities in learning." The sale was held at the "Auction-House" opposite the Black Swan in Ave Maria Lane. The catalogue consists of 41 pp., containing 1560 lots. The contents are sufficiently indicated in the preface, and we need only

add that nothing specially interesting occurs in the catalogue.

Millington's next venture introduces us to the "**Bibliotheca Warneriana**," the library of the Right Reverend Father in Christ, John Warner, late Bishop of Rochester. "This Catalogue," the Preface says, "consists principally of the Library of the Right Reverend and learned Prelate Dr. John Warner, containing so many Valuable and Scarce books in Divinity (viz. a Collection of Greek and Latin Fathers, Councils, Church Historians, ancient and modern Commentators of prime use and note) with a great variety of Choice Books in History, Philology, Mathematics, and of all other sorts of Gentile learning, that to describe them further by Way of Commendation, would be a reflection on the Judgment, and a detainment of the intelligent Reader from the pleasure and benefit that usually attends the perusal of the names and editions of so many considerable and excellent books. I leave him therefore to judge of them himself, and invite him to the sight and examination of them for one whole week before the Sale." The sale was held at the "Auction-House" in Ave Maria Lane on February 16th, 1684-5, from 9 o'clock until 12 in the morning, and from 2 o'clock until 6 in the afternoon. The catalogue consists of 52 pp., 24 pp. for the foreign and 28 pp. for the English books. There were 2452 lots, repre-

senting the respectable number of some 7000 volumes.

On May 25th, 1685, Millington began the sale of the rather extensive collections of the Rev. Dr. Ambrose Atfield, S.T.D., of London, and of Mr. John Cooth of Somersetshire. The catalogue consists of no less than 68 pp., comprising 3065 lots. It also was held at the "Auction House" in Ave Maria Lane. The character of the books is sufficiently indicated in the preface, which is as follows: "This Catalogue consists of the Libraries of two eminent and learned divines, viz., of Dr. Ambrose Atfield, late of London, and of Mr. John Cooth, formerly in Somersetshire, both which I might fairly recommend from the great number and quality of the books therein contained: viz. their Collection of the Various editions of the Bible in the Foreign Languages, of the best Fathers, Latin and Greek, and Church Historians, Councils, the Variety of Commentators, with other Theological Discourses of most subjects, not to mention the Valuable and Scarce Books that present themselves in Philology and History, etc., in Greek and Latin, all which considered, together with the English, which is equally inviting in all parts of it, accompanied with a Curious Collection of ancient and modern Choice Tracts and pamphlets, bound and in bundles, may be enough to intimate by way of preface to the studious and intelligent peruser of the ensuing Catalogue."

On Tuesday, November 10th, 1685, Millington sold a small collection of books without name of owner or the usual Preface (but belonging to an anonymous Nobleman). The books were all foreign, and the title is: "*Bibliotheca Gallica, Italica, Hispanica, continens libros (plurimis facultatibus) Selectissimos cujusdam Nobilis Angli, haud ita pridem defuncti, quorum Auctio habebitur Londini in ædibus Jo. Bridge, Vulgo dicto 'Bridge's Coffee house.'*" The catalogue is without interest, containing only 16 pp., comprising 680 lots.

Another small library, but of interest as showing the increasing taste for books outside professional circles, was sold by Millington a week after the preceding: viz., on Tuesday, November 18th, 1685. It is "the Library of Mr. Peter Hushar, Merchant of London, deceased, which," says the auctioneer in his preface, "considered as to the French Part, consists of the Writings of French Divines, Ancient and Modern, especially of their Sermons, of which there is great Variety. The English, both as to the divinity and history, are not contemptible, which without further account I leave to the Buyers to Judge of." The sale was held at Mr. Thos. Ward's House, Upholsterer, at the Boar's Head in Cornhill. The catalogue contains 23 pp., comprising 949 lots.

Millington's next sale was a most interesting one, having as a supplement what would

be called in these days a "Trade" Sale, *i.e.* a sale of recently published Bibles and Church Service Books, of which many copies remained in the hands of the printers, and of which more copies than one could be purchased. Millington did not, however, confine this sale to Booksellers or "The Trade," but encouraged clergymen and others to buy several copies of the books offered, for distribution amongst their parishioners and poorer neighbours. This was, as he says, the first attempt of this kind, but there had already been sales by auction of recently published books to "Booksellers Only." The title and preface so clearly detail the contents and the object of this Book Auction, that we copy them verbatim: "*A Catalogue containing variety of ancient and modern English Books in Divinity, History, Philology, Philosophy, Law, Physick, Mathematics, etc., together with Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayers, Singing Psalms, etc., of the best prints in all Volumes, which will be exposed to sale (by way of auction or who bids most) at Petty-Canon's Hall, in Petty-Canon's-Alley on the North Side of St. Paul's Churchyard entering into Paternoster Row on the 30th day of November, 1685. To the Reader: This Collection of English Books in all Volumes and of most Sciences will be exposed to Sale by way of Auction, with duplicates of several valuable books bound and in quires. With these printed in*

the Catalogue, are also most sorts of Bibles of the best prints, together with Testaments, Common Prayers, and Singing Psalms, Books of Homilies, 39 Articles, Canons, etc. Which proposal in this way of Sale so manifestly beneficial to the purchaser will, we hope, be very acceptable, because it hath not yet been assayed by any, and hath in its first appearance a seeming tendency to further the knowledge of ignorant people in the best things at the easiest rate, and may upon Charitable Gentlemen and Reverend Clergymen have this probable effect, that the cheapness of these so absolutely necessary books, so disposed of, may invite them to bestow some numbers among their poor neighbours or parishioners, who are not able to purchase what they are capable of reading to their benefit. In short, what might be further said on this occasion would exceed the bounds of Auctionary preface, therefore in convenient Time preceding this Sale, notice shall be given of the days of Sale for the aforesaid Bibles, Testaments, Service Books, Singing Psalms, Books of Homilies, etc. At which time or days proposals shall be made of the conditions and methods of selling them, apparently advantageous, and sufficiently beneficial to the respective buyers." This Catalogue (excluding the Bibles and Prayers, of which we shall speak presently) is composed of 52 pp., containing 2514 lots. It included the fourth folio Shakespeare,

then recently published, and it would be interesting to know whether it were one of the books of which several Copies could be obtained *in quires*, as the price realised for one copy was only 12s. 8d. But this is a matter about which no information is given. The difference between the value of a large and small paper copy of a book is to be here noted in the case of Webster's *History of Witchcraft*, the large-paper copy of which sold for 6s. 2d., and a small for 5s. 6d. The list of the Bibles, Prayers, etc., of which Millington speaks in his preface, and which formed an appendix to this catalogue, was printed on a single folio sheet on one side only. They were advertised to be sold at the end of the sale of November 30th, and the date fixed was December 10th.

This broadside is a great curiosity, and most valuable as showing the prices at which the official Church books of the period could be obtained. It will be seen that even at that period, and allowing for the difference in money value, hardly any one who could read need be without his Bible, Common Prayer, Singing Psalms, Homilies, etc.; and the encouragement thus given to the increase of reading among all classes of the people, would disseminate a general love of literature, the benefit of which would be felt throughout the nation. This broadside list is only to be found in the British Museum, and is, I think, interesting enough to be given here *in*



*extenso* :—“ A Catalogue of Several Sorts of Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayers, Singing Psalms, Book of Homilies, etc. (all printed at the Theatre in Oxford), that are to be exposed to Sale (by way of Auction or who bids most) in smaller or greater numbers, and at such moderate rates, as will be manifestly beneficial to the respective buyers, at the Auction House in Ave-Mary Lane on Wednesday, December 10th, 1685.” Then follows another announcement intimating that the books had been bought (or bought in) at the auction and removed to another place where they could be had at fixed prices. The sheet goes on to say : “ A Catalogue of a Remainder of Several Sorts of Bibles, etc. (*ut supra*), lately exposed to Sale by way of Auction, which books may be had at the Leg and Star, Cornhill, for the prizes (*sic*) following, at any time before the twentieth of this instant December, viz.—

BIBLES IN FOLIO.

	£	s.	d.
(1) Bibles for Churches, with Bp. Usher's Chronology, of the Imperial Paper . . . .	2	0	0
(2) do. of the Royal Paper . . . .	1	10	0
(3) do. of the Fine Paper . . . .	1	0	0
(4) do. of an ordinary paper . . . .	0	18	0
(5) Bibles, folio, small, with Common Prayer, Apocrypha, Singing Psalms, Chronology, Index, of fine paper . . . .	0	8	0
(6) do. of ordinary paper . . . .	0	7	6

## BIBLES IN QUARTO.

	£	s.	d.
(7) Bibles, superfine paper, Chronology, Index . . . . .	0	6	0
(8) do. of a middle paper, Chronology, Index . . . . .	0	6	0
(9) do. of an ordinary paper, Chronology, Index . . . . .	0	4	6

## BIBLES IN OCTAVO.

(10) Bibles in large octavo, with references and Chronology . . . . .	0	2	0
(11) do. in small 8vo, with references and Chronology, fine paper . . . . .	0	1	4
(12) do. of an ordinary paper . . . . .	0	1	3
(13) Bibles, small 8vo, without notes, fine paper . . . . .	0	1	4
(14) do. ordinary paper . . . . .	0	1	3

## BIBLES IN TWELVES

(15) Bibles in large twelves without Notes . . . . .	0	1	0
(16) do. small twelves without Notes . . . . .	0	1	0

## TESTAMENTS.

(17) Testaments in 4to, paper fine . . . . .	0	0	4
(18) do. in 8vo, fine . . . . .	0	0	4
(19) do. in 8vo, ordinary . . . . .	0	0	4
(20) do. in 8vo, long primer . . . . .	0	0	6
(21) do. in twelves . . . . .	0	0	6
(22) do. in 8vo, brevier . . . . .	0	0	4
(23) do. in 12's, brevier . . . . .	0	0	4

COMMON PRAYERS, FOLIO, WITH NEW ALTERATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
(24) Common Prayers for Churches of an Imperial Paper, with large letter and 39 Articles, with new alterations . . . . .	1	7	6
(25) do. of a fine paper, with 39 Articles and Canons of the Church, altered . . . . .	0	5	0
(26) do. of an ordinary paper, altered . . . . .	0	3	0
(27) do. of an ordinary paper, for Clerks, in 4to, great print, not altered . . . . .	0	0	6
(28) do. in large fine paper, altered . . . . .	0	1	0
(29) do. in paper of a more ordinary kind, altered . . . . .	0	0	10
(30) do. in 12., large letter, fine paper, altered . . . . .	0	0	6
(31) do. ordinary paper, altered . . . . .	0	0	5
(32) Book of Homilies with the 39 Articles, of large paper . . . . .	0	5	0
(33) do. ordinary paper . . . . .	0	3	3

PICTURES.

(34) Cuts for Bibles in 4to, fol. and 8vo, containing 180 Cuts . . . . .	0	6	0
(35) Cuts to bind with the Testament in 8vo, for the Use of Children . . . . .	0	0	2

“For the other threepenny Common-Prayers in twelves and twenty-fours, they have been lately sent to the Booksellers, and for Services to bind with the several sorts of

Bibles, all which are altered to the present King (James II.) and Royal family, but most of them are new throughout, and Singing Psalms, which are all well known to Booksellers, for whom this is intended. It is not thought needful to particularise the prizes (*sic*) of them: every Bible may be fitted with proper Services or Psalms, all clean and perfect, and especially the large twelves Bible, for which we have lately printed several sheets to supply others that were mildewed and rotten."

The terms of credit given to trade buyers of these Church Services are also interesting. Credit was given for purchases until April 10th, 1686, but discount was allowed of 3 per cent. to buyers who paid before January 10th, 2 per cent. on accounts paid by February 10th, and 1 per cent. to March 10th.

Millington's next sale was of a "Collection of Choice Books in Divinity, History, Philosophy, Heraldry, Horsemanship, Husbandry, with Variety of Books of Voyages, Travels, as also of Romances, Plays, Novels, etc., etc., curiously bound." This was held on Monday, February 8th, 1685-6, at Bridge's Coffee-house, in Pope's Head Alley, Cornhill. "This Catalogue," says the preface, "consists of many excellent books of the best Authors that have treated of the Subjects mentioned in the title page, and I will not question the judgment of the gentlemen the

buyers by giving a particular recommendatory Character of them. The Historical Part both foreign and domestic is the best and completest that hath hitherto been presented to the World, and if the names of many authors and their histories not hitherto knowable hath been acceptable and confessedly useful to several gentlemen, I may much more reasonably promise to myself the exposing the Books this way to Sale, will be extremely desirable, especially if they will be pleased to consider that not one half of them mentioned in the ensuing Catalogue are by reason of their Scarcity at all times to be found, or at any rate to be procured when really wanted. I might farther intimate, that some of the valuable books are of the Great Paper, and most of them as to their binding sufficiently inviting answering the present mode, and commendable modern fashion of most bookish gentlemen's Libraries being generally curiously and richly bound." It will be seen from this preface, that many buyers of books, were at this period no longer content to have their purchases in the original homely sheep or calf as the publishers issued them, but were beginning to take delight in fine bindings and large papers. Millington repeats again in his "Conditions" that the books in this catalogue are "extraordinarily qualified as to their bindings." The collection must have been a fine though limited one, as the

catalogue consists of 16 pp. only, comprising 1359 lots. There was a good collection of History, Poetry, Drollery, Plays and Romances, but Shakespeare is entirely unrepresented. The absence of a name of the owner intimates that the collection was a venture of several booksellers, specially got up to meet the increasing demand for fine copies.

Millington's next sale was on Thursday February 18th, 1685-6, "of a Variety of Books of the Statute and Common Law ancient and modern, together with History, Heraldry, Travels, Romances, Poetry, etc.," the Libraries of "two gentlemen of the Long Robe." It was held at "the Auction House in Ave Mary Lane." The catalogue has only 16 pp., comprising 745 nos., and contained some good Elizabethan poetry and plays. Millington gives only a few words of preface to this catalogue, which is of small interest.

Millington next sold the medical libraries of Drs. Christopher Terne and Thomas Allen, both members of the Royal College of Surgeons, and an Appendix of books on medicine belonging to Dr. Robert Talbor described as "*Pyretiatrici*" on the title. The sale was held at "the Auction-House in Ave Mary Lane" on Monday, April 12th, 1686. Millington's preface reveals to us that the sale by auction of special professional books of the character contained in this catalogue had not hitherto met with unqualified success.

“This Catalogue,” he says, “presents you with the Medicinal Parts of the Libraries of those two Worthy Persons mentioned in the title page, amongst which, it’s obvious to every one that is competently skilled in the editions, and hath tolerably informed himself of what’s printed in the Faculty, to remarque several valuable and scarce Books. The late Sales of Books of this nature have been so much discouraged, either through the forgetfulness of the Gentlemen of the profession as to the Time, or by Reason that the hours of Sale have interfered with their business, that I had once resolved to have disposed of them another way; but upon second thoughts this Experiment is made intentionally accommodated of the supposed leasurable time of the practicers of that Noble Science, viz. from the hours of 10 to 12 in the morning, and from 3 to 6 in the evening; and when I also reflect that they were the Books of two eminent Physicians who were generally known to be buyers of the Choicest Books, I presume to promise myself an incouragement in some measure answerable to the trouble and expence of the Undertaking.” The preface, as we see, throws a side-light on the professional hours customary to the medical men of the period for visiting their patients. The catalogue contains 24 pp., comprising 1051 lots, and consists entirely of the English and foreign works on medicine then used by the faculty.

Millington's next auction was the "**Bibliotheca Castelliana**," the library of the well-known Oriental scholar Dr. Edmund Castell, who gave so much assistance to Bp. Brian Walton in producing his magnificent Polyglott Bible, and compiled the *Lexicon Heptaglotton*, which is a necessary accompaniment of that grand work. The preface is as follows:—  
"This Catalogue presents you with the library of the Reverend and learned Dr. Edmund Castell (late Arabic Professor of the University of Cambridge), a person so generally fam'd, for his admirable skill in Oriental Languages, as having been principally concerned in the celebrated work of the *Biblia Polyglotta* as also the compiler of the *Lexicon Heptaglotton*, an undertaking designed originally for the public good; which employed the greatest part of his life, and in the completing of it he spent a considerable part of his estate. It would be easy did I design a character of this worthy man, to produce many other instances of his learning and generosity, particularly the great charge he was at in procuring, from most parts of the world, by the assistance of his friends and correspondents, those many rare and valuable Books in the Oriental part of his Library; that were subservient to the above-mentioned Lexicon. But being sensible that a larger account of them, and of their scarcity, will be edifying to very few persons, I conclude with this short description of the other parts of



the Catalogue—viz., that the Theological, Historical, Medicinal and Juridical, etc., contain many useful and inviting books to all gentlemen conversant in the aforesaid Sciences.”

The sale began on Wednesday, June 30th, 1686. It was held in Cambridge (“in Gratiam et commodum Eruditorum Academ. Cantab.”) at the House of Robert Skydings at the Sign of the Eagle and Child, over against St. Benedict’s Church from 8 to 11, and 1 till 5. It is interesting as being the first book-auction held by Millington in the famous University city. The catalogue is not an extensive one, comprising 26 pp. only, containing 1160 lots. The contents of the catalogue are nearly the same as those of other divines of the period, the Oriental Works being those of the well-known Latin-Oriental writers of the Continent, and Commentaries of the Rabbis, and no Bibles in any language.

The next auction held by Millington was a much more extensive and important one. It introduces us to a library of a foreign collector, which, it is believed, is the first imported into England for sale by auction. Neither on the title nor in the preface is any indication given of the owner, but a contemporary hand has written on the title of the writer’s copy the words, “Sarotti’s Catalogue.”

The title is “*Bibliotheca Selectissima | diversorum Librorum | viz. | Theologicorum, Philologicorum | Historicorum Mathematic. etc. | pluri-*

*misque libris Gallicis, Italicis, Hispanicis  
adornata | qui cum ingenti sumptu & summa  
curâ ex Variis | Europæ partibus fuerunt  
collecti, & in | Angliam nuper advecti.” |*

The preface is as follows: “This Library of Theological, Historical, Philological and Mathematical Books, etc., was with great care, and no less expence, collected by a person of Quality, sufficiently instructed in all sorts of learning, and well acquainted with the curious and choice books of most faculties and languages. Many of every Science that present themselves in it, might be hinted at and referred to, for the most satisfactory information of the less skilful in the affairs of learning; but it may be enough to observe, that they are considerable for their number and for their subjects unusual, and authors of good repute and prime note, whose books very rarely, if at any time, have appeared in our shops or Auction Sales; and if I may be allowed the freedom of this one single remarque, nothing more truly and effectually recommends any Collection of Books to the intelligent, when that it contains not the common and obvious, but the outercourse and more obscure Authors, which this Catalogue may really pretend to, beyond any that hath hitherto preceded it, and for this reason, as well as many others that might be produced, I presume to believe, it will be kindly received by the Studious and Critical Gentlemen of our Age.”

The sale began on Monday, April 18th, 1687. It was held "at the Sign of the Black Swan, over against the South Door of St. Paul's Church (amongst the Woolen-drapers) in St. Paul's Churchyard, continuing day by day the first five days of every week, till all the Books are sold, from nine in the morning to twelve; and from two to six in the evening." We have then given an "Index Titulorum," comprising "Theologici, Chronologici, Historici, Philologici, Libri Picturarum & MSS. Juridici, Medici & Philosophici, Mathematici, etc., Gallici, Italici, Hispanici, Anglici." The catalogue contains 87 pages, comprising no fewer than 4008 lots, which must have represented some 12,000 or 13,000 volumes. Of this number English literature is represented by 64 lots only, Spanish has 83 lots, Italian 539 lots, French 252 lots, Mathematics 501 lots, Medical and Philosophical 541 lots, Juridical 191 lots, Books of Pictures and MSS. 39 lots, Chronology, History and Philology 1226 lots, and Theology 499 lots. The general contents are on a par with the rest of the catalogues of the period; but amongst the Theological octavos we find a *Horæ ad usum Romanum*, on vellum, Venice 1520; amongst the Philology *Novus Orbis Regionum veteribus incognitarum*, 1555; *Itinerarium Portugallensium in Indiam*, 1508; and a large number of Elzevir classics. The manuscripts are mostly on scientific subjects, and of no par-

ticular importance. The French contains the 1560 edition of the *Heptameron* of Marguerite of Navarre; and the Italian, although so numerous, has not any of the literary classics, but consists chiefly of political and historical works of no particular interest or value; and the same may be said of the few lots of English books occurring in the catalogue.

Millington's next sale was the **Bibliotheca Maynardiana**. It was the library of the Rev. Dr. Maynard, of Mayfield in Sussex, sold at Tom's Coffee-house, in Pope's Head Alley, Cornhill, on June 13th, 1687. The catalogue contains 71 pages, comprising 2180 lots. It consisted of works on Philology, Theology, History, French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish books; and contains more of the Elizabethan religious writers than usual. To this catalogue Millington does not contribute his usual preface.

On July 12th, 1687, Millington began selling an anonymous collection of books, which he entitled "*Bibliotheca Latina Anglica—viz., Theologica, Philologica, Medica et Philosophica, cum variis libris gallicis et italicis refertissima cui adjicitur collectio Librorum ad Legem Communem Angliæ Spectantium.*" The auctioneer's short preface makes a virtue of necessity by ridiculing the idea that books are more valuable when they are advertised as the property of a well-known owner. The preface is also interesting from

his use of the word "*book-worm*," which is, we believe, its first application to a collection of books. "This Catalogue," says he, "consists of variety of significant Books in Divinity, Philology, Physick, Philosophy, etc., ancient and modern, Latin and English, a great many of which have very rarely, if at any time, appeared in our auctionary Essays. The whole contains Books considerable as to their price, of general esteem for their use : which short description (I persuade myself) will more effectually recommend them to the Knowing than the stale way of pretending them to be the collection of some fam'd Antiquary deceased, or the learned remains of a Superannuated Book-worm."

The sale was held at the Auction House in Ave-Mary Lane. Millington expresses a desire that the books may be viewed the week before the sale, as they were "generally well-conditioned, sufficiently inviting, both as to their Editions and binding." The catalogue contains 58 pages, comprising 2487 lots, The contents are mostly works published in the seventeenth century. There is a fourth folio Shakespeare, and a first complete edition of Ben Jonson, and many minor books of poetry, and some rare Americana in bundles as usual. The law books are very few, as not many had been published in English up to that period.

Millington's next auction was that of the *Bibliotheca Jacombiana*, the library of the

learned Divine Dr. Thomas Jacomb of London, and Domestic Chaplain to the Dowager Countess of Exeter. It is an important and most extensive library, one of the most extensive in general, and the largest of any particular divine, which had been brought to the hammer up to that time. The catalogue contains 108 pages, consisting of 4806 lots, representing over 15,000 volumes. It is a very varied collection, and reveals a broader taste and wider range of reading than we expect from an exclusive Divine of the time of Charles II. It is divided into "LIBRI THEOLOGICI," which includes Bibles, Greek and Latin Fathers, Councils, Ecclesiastical Historians, and Ancient and Modern Commentators ; "LIBRI MISCELLANEI," comprising Geography, Philology, History, Lexicography, Medicine, Philosophy, Law ; English Divinity and Miscellanies, and Volumes of Tracts bound. Millington's preface to this important catalogue is in his best vein, but he does not overestimate the value of the Library, and throws an interesting sidelight upon the daily life of a busy preacher of that time, which would not perhaps be thought worthy of notice in a serious biography. "The Reverend and learned Dr. Jacomb," he says, "was a person so generally known, and also esteemed for his constant and indefatigable preaching in this city, that I shall not presume to attempt a further character of him, since it hath been

faithfully and excellently drawn by a learned and intimate friend of his (Dr. Batts) in a sermon published upon the occasion of his death. However, with relation to the present undertaking, I may truly say, he was well instructed in the various and Choicest Editions of Books; and extremely curious to collect what was rare and useful in most sorts of learning; and no wonder will it be, if we consider the great opportunities he had, by the many years' continuance in this place, and his constant readiness to buy, what at any time, and in any way presented itself, that every part of the Library is furnished and adorned with great curiosities; and that the whole is swelled beyond the proportion of most men's of his figure and order. And since it is a debt of truth, as well as of gratitude, payable to his name and memory, it must be here acknowledged that he was one of the most gentle and generous buyers, if not the only one of his time who delighted to complete what his Study was defective in, by freely parting with his money. Hence it is that you have entire collections of the Latin and Greek Fathers of the best editions, of Ecclesiastical Writers, of Councils, of Schoolmen and casuistical Authors, of the Works of the celebrated first Reformers; of Bibles in the Oriental languages, great variety; of Commentators ancient and modern, English and Latin, almost innumerable; and if we remarque the number of his

historians, foreign and domestick, poets, geographers, philologers, lexicographers in Greek and Latin; together with the valuable and voluminous books in the Civil and Canon Law, Physick, Philosophy, etc., and the qualifications of the whole, as to their binding, being generally inviting, as they are plainly indications of the greatness of his mind, and his extraordinary learning, so they cannot but sufficiently encourage and powerfully charm the learned of the age, to the purchase and possession of them."

To this catalogue Millington formally adds a new condition, (the necessity of which, however, he had hinted at in former catalogues). It is to the effect "that all gentlemen Buyers do give in not only their Surnames, but Christian, as also their places of Abode, with the Signs they live or lodge at, to the end that every person may have justice done him in the buying, which new condition is now imposed, to prevent the inconveniences that have more or less hitherto attended the undertakers, and also the purchasers, by reason that several persons, out of Vanity and Ostentation have appeared and bought, to the damage and disappointment of the parties they outbid, and have not been so kind to their own reputation, or just to the proprietors as to pay for and fetch them away." For a somewhat similar reason, probably, Millington here first begins to make a charge of 6*d.* each for the catalogues,



“which method,” he says, “we have now taken, by the direction of the learned, for the better accommodation and more prudent distribution than formerly of the copies to them, which 6*d.* shall be allowed (if demanded) to any persons or persons, that shall buy, or cause to be bought for them to the value of ten shillings in the ensuing sale ; which being so reasonable a proposal, we question not but all gentlemen etc., will readily comply with it.”

The sale was held “at the Sign of the Black Swan, over against the south door of St. Paul’s Church (amongst the Woolen-drappers).” It commenced on Monday, October 31st, 1687, and continued every day (except Saturday) from 9 o’clock till 12 morning, and from 2 o’clock till 6 in the evening. Amongst the books of most interest we notice a Caxton’s *Legenda Aurea*, of 1484 ; Capgrave’s *Nova Legenda Anglie*, by Wynkyn de Worde, 1515 ; Boccaccio’s *De Præclaris Mulieribus*, of Lovaine, 1487 ; *Fasciculus Temporum* of Basle, 1482 ; the two Prayer-Books of Edward VI., 1549-52 ; a “Holy Bible of that curious and correct edition and fine character printed by Field, 1661, bound in Turkey leather, silver clasps” ; John Knox *On Predestination* 1560 ; *The Articles* of K. Henry VIII., 1533 ; and a large number of the rare controversial books published in the same King’s reign ; Speed’s *Chronicle*, on large paper, Morton’s *New England’s*

*Memorials*, 1669; *The Compleat Angler* of 1668; the Great Aristotle of Aldus, 1498; Thos. Hooker's *History of New England*, 1552; the *Tears of the Indians*, 1656.

On Monday, November 21st, 1687, Millington began the sale of various books from the select libraries of the Rev. Dr. W. Sill, prebendary of Westminster, and of the learned Dr. Cornelius Callon of London, gentleman. The sale was again held "at the Black Swan, over against the south door of St. Paul's Cathedral amongst the Woolendrapers." "The Books," Millington says, "will be sold for the benefit, and at the request of several learned gentlemen, by whom the Books have been viewed. It's needless for me, after their approbation, to particularize the valuable and choice books contained in the catalogue (perhaps being as many as any of its bulk can hitherto pretend to have had) and as well qualified as to their editions and binding, which being said, I promise to myself, from the experience I have had from former essays of this nature amongst you, a success, in some measure, answerable to the honest and innocent ends proposed by your humble Servant in the affairs of learning." To this catalogue Millington appends a fresh title, in English, of the English portion of Prebendary Sill's Library, which is announced for sale on Tuesday, November 29th. The foreign part consists of 23 pp., containing 1150 lots,

and the English of 12 pp, containing 600 lots. The books are of the ordinary character, but containing more English Roman Catholic Divinity than usual, produced by the activity of King James II. in the propagation of his Popish tenets.

Millington's next sale was the important and extensive one of the Library of Monsieur Massauve, Councillor of the Parliament of Montpellier, "*e Gallis in Angliam nuper advecta.*" In his more than ordinarily interesting preface to this catalogue he waxes eloquent in praise of the library, and scornfully contrasts it with a "Swelling Catalogue designed suddenly to be exposed to Sale, made bulky by duplicates of the voluminous and insipid Writings of the Casuists and Schoolmen." Of this collection (sold by an opposing auctioneer) so contemptuously spoken of, we have written elsewhere. Of the printers of the fifteenth century it is evident that Millington, in common with men of his time much more learned than himself, knew little or nothing. He speaks of the library as containing books of the most "Celebrated and learned Printers of the World, even from the Original of Printing." But the earliest printer whose name he gives is that of Aldus, and there are not more than half a dozen entries of books of the fifteenth-century printers, and those very late and of no importance. His ignorance on this matter is moreover revealed by his description of

a work by Rodericus Zamorensis entitled "*Speculum Humanæ Vitæ*," which he calls "*Liber antiquissimus à primis Typographiæ Inventoribus nitidissimis, impressus circa annum 1450.*" But we will give most of his interesting preface in his own words: "This Sale consists of the library of Monsieur Massauve: a person generally famed for his great wit, and extraordinary knowledge in most parts of polite learning, which short character, had I any reason to doubt of its Truth, the Books that he hath collected at great expence from several parts of Europe (even from the Originals of Printing) of the most celebrated and learned printers of the world, would abundantly convince me. I should not here repeat their names did I not think it grateful and acceptable to the curious—viz. Rob. Hen. Carol. P. Stephani, Ch. Plantinus, Aldus Manutius, Vascosanus, Mich. Parvus, Micæus, Gryphius, Crispinus, Colinæus, with the ancient and modern Elzevirs, etc. (of whose delicate letter and correct editions of books this ensuing Catalogue hath great variety); the viewing of which without possessing them, I fancy, is an useful and pleasing entertainment to an intelligent and bookish mind. And since I have so fair an occasion, I cannot but observe that the World is presented with more rare and unusual Books, as well as considerable, in the library of a private learned man of 1000 folios than in 3000

from the best stock of any Bookseller, an instance of which may be given in this present Collection, which without reflection hath some 100 volumes of valuable and fine printed Books not contained in the Swelling Catalogue, designed suddenly for Sale, whose chiefest if not only commendation (in the opinion of some learned Persons) is its being bulky and truly defective of those famous and pompous curiosities that the learned world expected; but I leave the gentlemen to judge and determine, as indeed they ought, for themselves, with this additional request and new proposal (that whereas complaints have been made, and that lately, of the imperfections of several old books, and many new ones, sold in Auctions) that all gentlemen etc. would be pleased to take care to examine and collate their Books before they be taken away, or cause them to be done, which if they want a fit person both skilful and faithfull, they shall be assisted with one for their purpose on the most reasonable considerations, and as this may be one way to encourage the Buyers, when they may be in some measure secure of the perfection of their Books; so I further believe and hope it may perfectly remove all other Scruples that yet remain in the minds of any as to the sincerity and fairness of the Auctionarian Undertakings." The sale began on Wednesday, February 1st, 1687-8, at the Black Swan in Saint Paul's Church-

yard. This catalogue was distributed gratis, the plan of charging 6*d.*, as in the Jacomb Catalogue, having apparently not succeeded in its object. It contains 64 pp., comprising upwards of 3000 lots. Only 8 pp. are occupied by English books, the remainder chiefly Latin, with a number of Italian, Spanish, and French. There are a few MSS., including an early *Codex* of Tacitus on vellum, and two early Latin Bibles written on the same material. There is a set of De Bry's *Voyages*, both "*grands*" and "*petits*," but nothing extraordinary otherwise.

We are next introduced by Millington to an extremely interesting English library formed by a citizen of London whose name, unfortunately, is not given. The title is in English, and is exhaustive of the character of the contents. These are Divinity, History, Philology, Poetry and Plays, Romances and Novels, Voyages and Travels, and Volumes of Bound Tracts and Sermons. The catalogue contains 45 pages, comprising 2250 lots. Of these only 100 lots are foreign, and the larger portion of the English is composed of Poetry and Plays, Romances and Novels. Included is a good number of Drollery and Jest Books. There is also a copy of the first folio Shakespeare; and it has, besides, a first edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Millington states that the "Library was collected by a person of Great Worth, and also of Publick Trust in this Great City; and was it my

province, or did I design at this time or upon this occasion fully to describe him, I might without Complement say he was generally beloved, and as deservedly esteemed by most men, especially by the Lovers of Arms, and the gentlemen skilled in the Military tacticks. The Books upon the perusal of the Catalogue will appear considerable for their number, valuable as to their price, inviting as to their use, being generally the Best that are hitherto extant of the Subjects they treat of, qualified many of them with extraordinary Binding; which short representation will, I hope, effectually recommend them to the Studious and ingenious Persons of the Age." The sale began on Monday, March 12th, 1687-8, at the "Black Swan" in St. Paul's Churchyard, at the usual hours morning and evening.

Millington's next catalogue introduces another new phase in the development of book auctions. It is entitled "A Catalogue of Choice and Valuable Books, English and Latin, etc., on Various Subjects, which will be sold by Auction at the Unicorn in Pater-Noster-Row, near the Queen's Head Tavern on Monday the 30th of April, 1688." The auctioneer does not treat us to a long preface in praise of this collection, to which no name of ownership is attached. "This Catalogue presents you with variety of the best and most approved Books in Divinity, History, Philology, Voyages and Travels, etc., in all Volumes. The *Title-pages of*

*them, and therein the designs of the Books are more largely represented for the advantage of the Buyers than hath hitherto been done.* It contains several Divisions of Scarce and considerable folios, which were designedly placed for the encouragement as well as entertainment of the gentlemen, etc., the Bidders, intermixed with several Modern French and Dutch Books, as will evidently appear to the unprejudiced perusers of the ensuing Catalogue." Accordingly the titles in this catalogue occupy twice as much space as those in the preceding ones, and are consequently twice as interesting. It contains 74 pages, comprising nearly 2000 lots. The books are mostly English and of a more interesting and varied character than usual. There occur in this catalogue another copy of the fourth folio Shakespeare, many very rare American books, including Williams's *Indian Grammar* of 1643, Books of Jests, Drollery, Scarce Poems and Plays, two copies of the exceedingly rare first *London Directory* of 1677, Treatises on Hunting and Angling, some very rare books on Music, and several Occult Works.

Millington's next sale is of the *Bibliotheca Gulstoniana*, the library of Dr. William Gulston, Bishop of Bristol, "una cum plurimis libris modernis ex variis Europæ partibus nuperrime in Angliam advectis." In the Preface Millington is sarcastic on the "Prefaces" to the auctions held by his rivals, and



so innocently satirises himself, as none of them were greater adepts in the art of suiting their prefaces to the contents of their catalogues than he. "This Catalogue," he says, "might be recommended to the learned of the Age, for the many choice and considerable books it contains in all its parts. But since those late swelling and fulsome prefaces, to empty and trifling catalogues, have nauseated the learned and intelligent readers, I shall henceforward forbear to trouble the world with any characters or descriptions, unless I am satisfied the books do truly deserve them. The Gentlemen the Buyers, by their converse and learned Conferences at Auctions, are generally both qualified to judge of the value and scarcity of most books that present themselves in our Sales; therefore I freely submit them to their perusal and impartial censure; and invite them to a sight and examination of them three days before the sale." In this catalogue Millington returns to his single-line description of each book. The sale took place at the Auction-House over against the Black Swan in Ave Maria Lane, on Monday June 11th, 1688. The catalogue contains 52 pp., representing about 2500 lots. The whole of the books in it are foreign, and of the usual learned character common to the libraries of divines of the period.

Millington's next book-auction was of the library of Dr. Edward Carter, Archdeacon of St. Albans. This sale was held at

St. Albans, in the house of the deceased divine, on Monday, August 5th, 1689. "The Books," says the auctioneer, "may be truly said to be the best and most useful for their number that hath hitherto, or perhaps will be exposed hereafter to sale by auction. The knowledge I had of this worthy person, both as to his temper, and his extraordinary love of learning, and of the best and most beautiful copies of the most valuable books, prompts me to publish this modest character of him and them; an instance of which might be given both by the prudence of his choice and generosity of his mind, in the purchase of that Edition of St. Chrysostom, Greek and Latin, published by Fronto-Ducæus, of the large paper (not probably to be parallel'd), with others of considerable price, qualified with all the requisites that may possibly prevail upon the minds of the learned and studious—viz., intrinsical worth, good editions, and extraordinary binding, which having hinted, I leave the gentile and candid perusers to judge for themselves."

The catalogue is a thin one, containing only 17 pp., comprising some 800 lots. The continual recurrence of the description "Turkey leather, gilt back" applied to the bindings shows the books to have been in unusually (for that period) fine condition. Instead of the usual lotting of the pamphlets, the auctioneer advertises at the end of this catalogue several tracts and pamphlets in

folio, quarto and octavo, ancient and modern, which will be sold in bundles, or altogether as the gentlemen etc. present shall approve of. The books are of the usual theological character, foreign and English, amongst which we notice the rare Tyndale Testament of 1538, but nothing else of much interest.

The next catalogue the writer has of books sold by auction by Millington is a very interesting one, and shows the versatility of the man and his faculty of adapting himself to the supposed needs of his public. It is entitled "*A Catalogue of Choice Books—viz., in Divinity, History, Voyages, Travels, Romances, Plays, together with Artificiall Rarities—viz., Roses etc., extremely natural, all sorts of Perfumes for Rooms brought out of Italy; Hungary Waters, Chocolata, Best Spanish Snush, Essences and all sorts of Powder for the Hair in greater and lesser quantities, will be sold by Auction (or who bids most) for the diversion of the Gentlemen and Ladies at ST. EDMOND'S-BURY FAIR on Monday, the 23rd of September, 1689.*" The preface to this strange mixture is explanatory and highly entertaining. "The reasons for this Sale are plainly two,—viz. the Diversion and gratification of the Gentry of this place, and an honest gain to myself. The Essays I have formerly made of Books, and of late of Paintings, Limnings etc. at Tunbridge Wells being readily received, and freely entertained by persons of all quality that

have honoured me with their presence, hath encouraged this Experiment here amongst so many excellent persons of worth and reading, competent judges both of the Usefulness and Value of the Books, etc. I have to expose, for which reason I forbear to characterise the Valuable and Choice Books in my Catalogue. It might be expected I should account for the selling of Perfumes, Hungary Water, Spanish Snush, Essences, Powders of all sorts for the Hair, which more particularly respect the Ladies, but the motives above assigned I hope may be satisfactory, especially when I may without presumption say they are the best in their Kind, and that the pleasing of the respective Gentlemen and Ladies the buyers is the principal intention of Your humble Servant." The catalogue consists of 6 pp. only, and has 313 lots. All the books are English, chiefly published within twenty-five years of the period of the sale. The essences, chocolata etc. do not appear in the catalogue. Millington proposes delivering purchases at this Fair, in London, Southwark, and Westminster at the rate of one shilling for every pound's worth.

On Monday, December 16th, 1689, we find the ubiquitous Millington at Norwich beginning the Sale of the Library of the deceased Mr. Oliver. This Library consisted of "Valuable Books in Divinity, Humanity, History, Philology, etc. Sold by Auction

for the benefit and entertainment of the Clergy, Gentry and Citizens living in and about the City of Norwich at Mrs. Elizabeth Oliver's House." "The Reasons for this Sale," says the preface, "are truly published on the title page, with this additional one, that it's for the benefit of Mrs. Oliver, the person interested, and as I might both largely and very justifiably commend the Catalogue for the many considerable as well as Scarce Books contained in all its parts ; but where I am afore-hand sensible that the persons to whom I am to sell them are such competent judges for themselves, it prevents any further enlargement. If therefore in all the places wherever this way by Auction hath been essayed, it hath been readily received, and kindly entertained, as manifestly tending to the improvement of learning and the advancement of knowledge ; why should I doubt of its being encouraged here, among so great a number of the learned clergy, the worthy gentry and intelligent city of Norwich ? a place anciently famed for its happy and commodious Scituation, as for the wisdom and piety and numbers of its inhabitants." The catalogue has 26 pp., containing about 1300 lots. The books are all English, chiefly of the same century, the earliest being an edition of *Tyndale's Bible* of 1549.

Millington's next auction was of the library of Dr. Cudworth, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and author of the *Intellectual*

*System of the Universe.* The sale was held "at Rolls' Coffee House in St. Paul's Church-yard on February 2nd, 1690-1." Millington here gives an indication of the gradual disuse of the custom of writing regular prefaces to auction catalogues, which was soon after the date of this sale discontinued except on special occasions. "Since prefaces to Auction Catalogues," he says, "have of late been censured more customary than instructive, and that the buyers set up for better judges of the Editions, Use, Scarcity of the books exposed to Sale, than the men of the profession, I am resolved to humour the Age, to say as they say, to let them believe as they please, to think as they list. The title informs you the Library (except the Rabbinical part, generously given away by his will) was Dr. Cudworth's, which by several learned and knowing persons hath been esteemed an excellent and valuable collection, amongst which, great variety of books not usually heard of, or very rarely met with, of the most gentile and critical sort of Learning; it's therefore reckoned a favour to the Auctioneer, an act of prudence in every gentleman to view beforehand what he hath a mind to buy." In this catalogue we meet for the first time two conditions which have remained binding (more or less modified) in all auction catalogues up to the present. The first relates to the payment by purchasers of 5s. in the pound deposit at the

time of purchase (if demanded): the second limits the sum at which a bidding might be increased. This latter condition is as follows: "That no person is to bid less than sixpence a time under a pound, and one shilling above a pound for folios, fourpence for quartos, twopence for 8vo, 12°, 24°, the first bidding left to the pleasure of the Company." The catalogue contains 46 pp., comprising some 2300 lots. The contents are Theology, Miscellaneous, Geography, Medicine, Mathematics, History. They are mostly foreign, of the learned character common to professional libraries of the period.

A break appears to have occurred in the regularity of Millington's auctions after the sale of Dr. Cudworth's Library; since the next catalogue the writer has of his, is of a sale taking place in Abingdon on May 9th, 1692. Whatever may have been Millington's or his London patrons' opinion on the utility of prefaces to his catalogues, he never omits to avail himself of writing one particularly adapted to his provincial sales, which were mostly, in all probability, little private ventures of his own. In this one before the Abingdon Catalogue he adapts himself to his proposed patrons, and is extremely flattering to the place and its inhabitants. He dedicates his catalogue "To the Worshipful the Mayor, his brethren and the inhabitants of the Town of Abingdon," and goes on to say:

“ Having in many places of this Kingdom, made sales of this nature, with satisfaction to the Buyers, and an honest gain to myself, I resolved to essay one in this place, not being solicitous as to the event be it better or worse, and shall be very well satisfied, if I can but offer matter of Diversion to the Company, minister to the advantage of others, and indifferently please the generality of my Customers, without Sinister regard to profit or advantage. This Catalogue contains the Writings of the most eminent divines of Our Nation, old and new, of whose worth and piety, whose zeal and care for the Protestant Religion, perhaps you have heard of, and remember what value and esteem many of your relations had for their persons and writings; and why should not I propound an encouragement to myself from the people of this place, when I further consider the serenity and healthfulness of the air, the cleanness of its situation, the number as well as ability of the inhabitants, the bounty of several of our Kings (*vide* the Hospital Records), who have, as antiquity informs us, been Benefactors to the place, manifesting their royal care and princely respect to their good subjects of Abingdon? But being sensible I have exceeded the bounds of a preface, I shall endeavour to manage the sale with all imaginable candour, and I hope in event a general contentment.” The sale was held in the Town Hall at Abingdon



from ten o'clock till twelve, and from two o'clock till six. One of the conditions imposed in this catalogue is that all books shall be paid for the day after the conclusion of the sale. It contains 39 pp. and 2550 lots. The books are theological, agricultural, medical, historical and poetical; and at the end is added a note to the following effect: "With most sorts of Bibles, with Common Prayer and without, also Service Books in folio and in all other volumes, with a considerable number of Greek and Latin folios, of which notice will be given to the Gentlemen of the University."

The writer's series of Millington's auction catalogues now skips to the year 1697, in which year, on October 25th, he sold the library of the learned Dr. Edward Bernard, Savile Professor of Astronomy at Oxford. The sale was held in the University City, by favour of the authorities, in a house adjoining Northgate. The preface is interesting: "Gentlemen, the sale of the library of the Reverend and learned Dr. Bernard among you, is designed to entertain and also to oblige you, because it contains numbers of books unusual in all its parts, that very rarely appear, if at any time to be found in the Booksellers' Shops, for the difficulty of procuring and the expense of getting Scarce Books, no person can be truly sensible of but he that hath made a collection for himself. His being often beyond the seas as

agent for other learned persons, and buying for himself, gave him an opportunity of purchasing what was choice and valuable, as will be evident in the perusal of this Catalogue. The *Libri Orientales* appear to me to be considerable, and his skill in all or most of those languages you find books printed in, doth sufficiently manifest and evidence his great learning. His manuscripts, Oriental, etc., left by him, amongst which I am informed are some very ancient copies not printed, are of great value, perhaps not elsewhere to be found. The *Libri impressi collati cum codicibus MSS. et doctiss. Virorum notis illustrati* are many of them curiously noted by great men, and books of general use. The whole are above 500 volumes, designed by his Relict to be sold at a moderate price altogether, and may be viewed in London, of which a catalogue is designed suddenly to be printed. Gentlemen are also informed that in a few days after this Sale is ended, they shall again be entertained, and if possible gratified, by the selling of the Library of the Reverend and learned Mr. Harding, late of Trinity College, by their humble servant E. Millington."

The catalogue of Dr. Bernard's library consists of 32 pp., comprising 1462 lots. It was, as is noted in the preface, chiefly remarkable for the number of its Oriental portion, being the largest collection of this kind of literature hitherto sold by public

auction. The library of the Rev. Dr. Michael Harding, Fellow of Trinity, to which reference is made above, was sold in the same house as that of Dr. Bernard, on November 8th, 1697. It contained 42 pp., 1748 lots. To this catalogue no preface was attached, and the books are of the ordinary theological and miscellaneous character.

The last book auction we know of held by Millington, brings us close upon the end of the century. This sale was also held in Oxford, at Bannister's House, over against St. Michael's Church, near Northgate, on January 29th, 1698. "This Catalogue consists of the entire library of the Reverend and learned Dr. William Levinz, late President of St. John's College, which by the persons concerned is ordered to be sold by auction, more especially for the benefit of this learned body. I might with a good deal of justice to his memory, commend his choice of all the books in their several faculties, and recommend the whole as a judicious and valuable collection, for as such it will appear to be to the Gentlemen that have been conversant in books, or are possessors of any considerable number of their own." It was rather a large collection, containing 3299 lots of the ordinary foreign and English books, theological and miscellaneous, with a large number of works in French and Italian.



## CHAPTER III.

### OTHER ENGLISH BOOK-AUCTIONEERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

**C**OOOPER and Millington were the chief book-auctioneers of the period of which we treat. But there were many other booksellers, who held occasional sales, either of libraries entrusted to their charge, or of stocks of their own, or collections made up by other members of the bookselling business. Some of these sold very important and interesting libraries, but none of them devoted himself to the auctioneering as a profession, as did both Cooper and Millington. I propose therefore to treat of the sales held by these less-known men, in their chronological order.

To the bookseller Zachariah Bourne belongs the honour of having held the third book-auction in England. It was the library of the Rev. William Greenhill, Pastor of Stepney Church, Middlesex. This sale was held in Bread Street in the house of Ferdinand Stable "*Coffipolae*," at the Sign

of the Turk's Head. It began on February 18th, 1677-8, at nine in the morning and two in the afternoon. In his preface the auctioneer says: "The attempts in this kind (by the Sales of Dr. Seaman's and Mr. Kidner's Libraries) having given great Content and Satisfaction to the Gentlemen who were the Buyers, and no discouragement to the Sellers, hath encouraged the making of this Tryal by exposing (to Auction or Sale) the Library of Mr. William Greenhill, in hopes of receiving such encouragement from the learned, as may prevent the stifling of this manner of Sale, the benefit (if rightly considered) being equally balanced between Buyer and Seller." The conditions are the same as in Cooper's two first sales; and the character of the library is naturally similar to those of Seaman and Kidner. The catalogue is, however, better printed, in a more readable round type, and on better paper. It is not nearly so extensive as the two former, containing only 26 pp., representing 690 lots, and is remarkable for the entire absence of the series of pamphlets so numerous in most catalogues of the time. The contents are Bibles and commentaries, the large folio editions of the works of the Fathers, English Puritan Divines, and a few secular books of no prominence.

The fifth book auction held in England was of the library of Dr. Benjamin Worsley and of two other learned men. This sale

was the joint undertaking of two booksellers, John Dunmore and Richard Chiswell. It began on May 13th, 1678, and was held at the Sign of the Hen and Chickens in Paternoster Row. This is the only auction these two booksellers held together, and the business-like conciseness of their preface is a great contrast to the glowing ones of the two chief auctioneers, Cooper and Millington. They say: "The good Approbation and acceptance that the way of Sale by Auction has met with from all lovers of books, has encouraged us to expose this Catalogue of three entire Libraries, which for the more ease and satisfaction of all Buyers, we have drawn up Alphabetically." This is, of course, the first catalogue with an alphabetical arrangement, but having separate alphabets to each class. Already doubts had arisen as to the fairness of the auctioneers taking commissions to bid for lots (a proceeding even then supposed to be open to abuse); and Dunmore and Chiswell made a special note on this matter at the end of their "conditions of sale" to the following effect: "That forasmuch as a report has been spread, that we intend to use indirect means to advance the prices, we do affirm that it is a groundless and malicious suggestion of some of our own trade, not well pleased with our undertaking, and that to avoid all manner of suspicion of such practice, we have absolutely refused all manner of commissions that have

been offered us for buying (some of them without limitation), and do declare that the company shall have nothing but candid and ingenious dealing from us." The catalogue is a very extensive one, consisting of 181 pp., comprising upwards of 5000 lots. It is divided into Theology, Miscellaneous, Medicine, Mathematics, English, volumes of Tracts and Pamphlets. In the Theological portion the Walton Polyglot with Castell's Lexicon produced £10 10s.; the Le Gay Polyglot, £9; the Antwerp Polyglot, £8 5s.; the *Critici Sacri*, 9 vols. fol., London, 1660, £12 5s. (now worth as many shillings only); the first Welsh Translation of the Bible, 1588, 13s.: Sir H. Savile's Edition of John Chrysostom £4 17s.; the first Hungarian Bible, 1608, 10s. 6d.; a Salisbury Breviary, 2 volumes 4to, Paris 1556, 11s.; *Byzantine Historians*, 19 vols. fol. Paris (1644) £22; Dugdale's *Monasticon*, first edition, £7; Grynæus, *Novus orbis Regionum*, 1555, 6s. 6d.; Hakluyt's *Voyages*, 1594, 2 vols. fol., £1 18s.; Purchas's *Pilgrimage*, 5 vols. fol., 1626, £3 6s.; Shakespeare folios, second edition, 1632, 16s.; third edition, 1663, 8s. 6d.; *The American Physician*, 1672, 1s. 5d. Amongst the volumes of Tracts in 4to, we find Hakluyt's *Discovery of Florida*, 1609, the *New Southern Discovery of a fifth part of the World*, 1617; *Newes of Sir Walter Raleigh and Discovery of Guiana*, and two others, selling for 5s. 4d. A volume

of pamphlets on "Trade," comprising twenty-four items, included such rarities as Dunton's *Description of New York*, 1670; Wood's *New England's Prospect*, 1639; *New England's Plantation*, n.d.; Jobson's *Golden Trade*, n.d.; *The Royal Adventurers trading into Africa*, 1667; and sold for 15s. 8d.; many others of a similar character selling for similar sums. This catalogue is most interesting for the number of rare and curious (non-theological) pamphlets of the seventeenth century it records, many of which have not been noticed in any bibliographies, but which are now most valuable. And, although it is so extensive, the books it contains are of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries only: no specimens of the productions of the first printers of any nation appear in it. The total amount realised for the vast collection appears to have been between £600 and £700, which, reckoning the value of money at the period at the usual rate of three times its present value, represents the respectable sum of about £1800 or £2000, giving an average of about 7 or 8 shillings a lot.

The seventh book-auction held in England was a venture of Moses Pitt, a bookseller and publisher at one time in a large way of business, famous for the issue of the large folio English Atlas in four volumes, over which he unfortunately lost so much money that, eventually, owing to that and other



misfortunes, he was landed in the Debtors' Prison in the Fleet, and it is believed, died there. It is described on the title as "the Library of a learned and worthy Englishman deceased, together with other books in all Sciences and Languages, purchased from the Library of the learned Gisbert Voet, and others imported from various parts of Europe." The sale was held at the White Hart, in St. Bartholomew's Close, on November 25th, 1678. Pitt's preface is as follows: "After several experiments of late of the Sale of Books by Auction, and the great satisfaction as well as benefit that the Buyers in general have received in this way, I have resolved to gratify the learned, by exposing to sale the Library of a worthy and learned person deceased, with a considerable number of other Choice Books in most Sciences, some of which have been bought out of the best Libraries abroad (particularly out of the famous and learned Gisbert Voetius's) and others, that for several years last past at great expense, and out of the most eminent seats of learning beyond the seas have been imported, which I hope will be invitation sufficient to the curious to embrace this occasion of buying, what hath not hitherto, and perhaps may not again be exposed in this way to sale. I design to observe all the Rules and Laws of Auction already printed, and shall in the close verbatim repeat them, only with this alteration in the

fourth Rule : that whereas a month is allowed after the Sale for the payment of the money by the persons that live and constantly abide in Town, it is by me desired, that all other persons, who are strangers and their residence in the City uncertain, do pay their money at the time of Buying, or otherwise nominate some of their friends, and their habitation, who shall certainly fetch and pay for the books within the time limited. And this is the rather desired, that all suspicions may be removed of any strangers appearing there to bid and enhance the prices to others, without ever intending to send for what they so buy themselves. And as this may be one way to satisfie the Scrupulous as to the sincerity of this undertaking ; so I further promise that I shall not use any indirect way to advance or promote the sale by commission or friends, but shall content myself with this belief ; that the intelligent and ingenious will contribute by their bidding fair and reasonable prices, to make the encouragement in some measure answerable to so expensive an undertaking." Pitt carried on business at The Angel in St. Paul's Churchyard, and afterwards removed to Oxford, where he amassed a considerable stock of second-hand books, and was well known as a publisher of Bibles, Prayers and Singing Psalms. Falling into misfortunes, a portion of his stock was sold by auction in that city in January 1678-9, and the re-

mainder in November and December 1685 by Edward Millington, to which sales we have already alluded. This present Auction does not appear to have proved very successful, as it is the only one ever undertaken by Pitt (except his trade sale referred to below). He only sold four days in the week, beginning at nine in the morning and two in the afternoon. The Catalogue is a very extensive one, containing no less than 226 pp., consisting of upwards of 9000 lots, which must have represented somewhere about 30,000 volumes—an immense number when one remembers that they are the productions of the presses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries only, and probably comprised the greater portion of Pitt's stock. The classification is simple: viz., English and Foreign Theology, History, Philosophy, Mathematics, Medicine, Italian, French, Spanish, and volumes of Tracts. Of this number about 6000 lots are Foreign and the remainder English. The Latin books are of the Fathers, Bibles, Reformers, classics, controversialists, schoolmen, scientific, etc. Amongst the Spanish books we have the first edition of the second part of *Don Quixote*, Madrid, 1608; and in the French the first edition of Corneille's *Cid*. In the English occur "*Bocaius of the Fall of Princes* (very ancient)," probably Caxton's; and Caxton's *Chronicle*, by Wynkyn de Worde, 1510. The writer's catalogue of this sale is partly priced, but hardly any

difference occurs in the sums realised for the principal books sold in these early auctions, so there is no need here to repeat them.

Nathaniel Ranew, bookseller at the sign of the King's Arms in St. Paul's Churchyard, conducted the eighth book-auction held in England. It contains, as we shall see, the first collection of books made by an English Peer ever sold by auction. The title describes the contents as books from the library *Nobilis cujusdam Angli, qui ante paucos annos in humanis esse desiit.* Cooper's list of auctions already mentioned gives us the name of this "certain nobleman." It is Brooke, Lord Warwick. To this collection was added books of that "excellent theologian" Dr. Gabriel Sangar, and a selection of another theologian, "*magni, dum vixit, nominis.*" The sale began on Monday, December 2nd, 1678, "at the sign of the Harrow, over against the College of Physicians, in Warwick-Lane." By this time, as will be seen by Ranew's short preface, the sale of books by auction in London had become well-known and established. "The vending and disposal of Books this Auctionary Way, though heretofore a stranger, yet of late hath so frequently obtained in the City of London, that the known method thereof may supersede any large or tedious Preface; onely in brief the candid Reader is desired to take notice that the Books mentioned in the

ensuing Catalogue are no collection made by any private hand for gain (which hath been imputed to some Auctions as a Reflection), but were really belonging to their proprietors deceased, mentioned in the title-page, and by the directions of their executors exposed to sale." The catalogue contains 98 pp., comprising about 4000 lots. Ranew gives an "Index Caputum," which includes a reference to subjects, sizes, and pages. It is divided under six heads: viz., "Libri Theologici, Latini, etc.;" "Libri Miscellanei Latini, etc.;" "Divinity English, Miscellanie (*sic*) English, French, and Spanish Books, etc.;" and "Bundles of Tracts, Sermons, etc." In this catalogue occur a few late fifteenth-century books, such as the *Ortus Sanitatis*, 1491, sold for 2s.; *Chronicum Chronicorum*, 1493, 7s.; St. Augustine's *Opus Quæstionum*, 1497, 2s. 2d. In the Latin Miscellanies is the rare *Narration of Virginia*, by Hariot, with De Bry's plates, 1590, sold for 6s. 6d. In the English Miscellanies occur Sir T. More's Works, 1557, 14s. 6d.; Gage's *Survey of the West Indies*, 1648, 4s.; Chapman's *Homer*, n.d., 2s. 8d.; Beaumont and Fletcher, 1647, £1 6s. 6d.; Parkinson's *Herball*, £2 12s.; Gerarde's *Herbal*, 1636, £2 16s.; Purchas his *Pilgrims*, 5 vols., 1625-6, £3 14s.; Hakluyt's *Voyages*, 1599, 8s. 2d.; Higden's *Polychronicon* (wants title), 14s. 4d.; Castell's *Discourse on America*, 1644, 1s. 8d. Amongst the French books

occur the *Heptameron*, 1559; *Les facetieuses Nuits de Straparole*, 1560; *Odes de Ronsard*, 1578; but none of these are priced in the catalogue. The pamphlets are of the usual character, with many now very rare and valuable, and averaged then about 6*d.* each.

The ninth book auction introduces us also to the first trade sale held in England. Trade sales are sales by publishers to booksellers of copies of editions of standard books, the copyright of which belongs to the vendor. In the present case Moses Pitt had purchased several remaining copies of books which had been for several years past printed at the Sheldonian Theatre. He now proposes to distribute some of these amongst the booksellers by way of auction. His preface is important, as introducing a custom in the bookselling trade, afterwards, and up to our own time frequently resorted to. "To all Booksellers" is the heading, and he goes on: "Having of late, as most of you know, purchased the Books that for several years have been printed at the Theatre in Oxford, and being willing, and sincerely desirous that you, as well as myself, might receive a benefit by the undertaking, I now to you soley expose to sale some of every sort, with the additions of some numbers of others, printed at my own Charge, and others, of which I had some few Copies by me upon the Terms and Conditions following: (i) The Books mentioned in the following Catalogue shall be exposed to Sale by two,

four, or six, not less than two of one and the same Book at a time, nor more than six, unless any person desires it, and the whole company consents to it; and this the rather is here inserted, that no one shall be discouraged, by reason of Great Numbers exposed at a time. (ii) That the money for the Books so bought is to be paid in the manner following. He that buys under the sum of five pounds, pays his ready money at the delivery of the books—viz. within One Month after the Sale is ended. He that buys betwixt five pounds and ten pounds, hath three months from the day the Auction is ended. He that buys betwixt ten pounds and twenty pounds hath two three months. And he that buys betwixt twenty pounds and thirty pounds, hath allowed him three three months. He that buys betwixt thirty pounds and forty pounds hath four three months. And he that buys betwixt forty pounds and fifty pounds hath five three months. And he that buys betwixt fifty pounds and sixty pounds is allowed six three months. And he that exceeds any of these sums hath only the allowance of six three months, the sum so obliged to pay, being to be paid at the 'Angel' in St. Paul's Churchyard at even and equal payments, and Security to be given for its true discharge, if required of the party so buying, according to the true intent of these proposals." Thus we see from this quaint preface of Pitt that extended credit

on large purchases is by no means a modern invention, but was an ordinary business custom of the seventeenth century.

The sale took place in Petty-Canon's Hall, at the north side of St. Paul's Churchyard, in St. Paul's Alley, on April 24th, 1678-9, at nine in the morning and two in the afternoon. The books sold date from 1607 to the date of the sale, 1678. They were, of course, not all, but chiefly, the publications of the Sheldonian Press. Others are the productions of Continental Presses of the period, and some of the London Presses. The Catalogue only comprises 6 pages, and contained only 174 separate works. These comprise Writings of Spelman, Dr. Hammond, Dr. John Fell, Dr. Wm. Charleton, Dr. E. Pockocke, John Webster on *Witchcraft*, Plot's *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, Dr. Jo. Lightfoot, Joshua Bonham, Wm. Durham, Archbishop Sancroft, Tillotson, Temple's *Irish Rebellion*, and other English Books, and the works of some Continental *savants*. We know nothing of the result of this speculation of Moses Pitt, but it is the only trade sale of the period of which any account has reached us.

The library of Sir Edward Bysshe, Clarencieux King of Arms, was sold by auction beginning on November 15th, 1679, in the House of John Dunmore bookseller, at the sign of the Woolsack in Ivy Lane. Either Dunmore or Benjamin Tooke (also a bookseller at the Ship in St. Paul's



Churchyard) was the auctioneer, but which is not stated. The auction was held, as we see, in Dunmore's house, and the money was to be paid either there or at Tooke's. The preface is short and to the point. "You have here exposed to sale by way of auction, the so much fam'd library of that very learned Gentleman and Great Antiquary Sir Edward Byshe, Clarendieux King of Arms, wherein are so many not only excellent, but very scarce books in almost all kinds of learning, which were never yet in any Auction, and these all so curiously bound and richly gilt, that the Buyer cannot do himself and us a greater right than to take a view of them at the place where they are to be sold." At the end of the Conditions is the following notice: "The Reader is desired to take notice that no Books will be exposed to sale in this Auction but the proper Books of Sir Edward Byshe's Library." This is the eleventh book-auction held in England. The catalogue has 70 pp., containing nearly 3000 lots. It is classified under Theology, Philology, Heraldry, Genealogy, History, Medicine, French, Italian, Spanish, volumes of tracts, and English. In the English portion we find the genealogical works of Dugdale, Ashmole, Sandford, Miles, Morgan, Yorke, Guillim, Brooke, Vincent, Segar, Selden and others. But the most important Book is Wynkyn de Worde's edition of *Dame Juliana Berners' Ancient Treatise of Hawking, Hunt-*

*ing, and Heraldry* of 1496. Amongst the Foreign is a large number of important heraldic books, and many of them are described as being on large paper. There is also a number of Elzevir classics and many learned Latin works.

The next catalogue to which we shall introduce the reader, is that of the important library of Sir Kenelm Digby. It is the thirteenth book-auction held in England. No name of auctioneer is given, but it was probably conducted by Benjamin Tooke, the Bookseller of the Ship in St. Paul's Churchyard, to whom, and to H. Brome at the Gun in the same thoroughfare, payment for purchases was to be made. The preface is a very short one, signifying merely that "This Catalogue consists principally of the Library of the Right Honourable George late Earl of Bristol, a great part of which were the curiosities collected by the learned Sir Kenelm Digby. Together with the library of another learned person." The sale began on Monday, April 19th, 1680, at "the Golden Lyon, over against the Queen's Head Tavern in Paternoster Row." The condition of the books is stated to be "generally fair, and a great number curiously bound." The catalogue is an extensive one, containing 135 pp., comprising about 5400 lots. They are divided into sections, which include Latin, Theology, Philology, Medicine, Mathematics, French, Spanish, Italian, English,

Pamphlets, volumes of Tracts bound, and Manuscripts. Books from this library are continually recurring in modern sales, mostly bound in morocco and having the Digby arms and monogram "K. V. D.," the V. standing for the initial of his wife's name, Venetia, to which we have drawn attention in the Introduction. As the writer possesses, fortunately, a contemporary priced copy of this most important and interesting library and as the sums for which the books were sold are thoroughly representative of the worth of second-hand literature during the period referred to, it may be useful to give more details of prices than have hitherto been deemed necessary. *S. Augustini Opera*, 5 vols. fol., Basil, Froben, 1569, £4 10s; *S. Hieronymi Opera Erasmi*, 5 vols. fol., Bas., 1516, £3 0s. 6d.; *Gregorii Magni Opera*, Romæ, fol., 1588, £2 12s.; *Ven. Bedæ Opera*, 4 vols. fol., Col. Agr., 1612, £2 12s.; *Gregorii Nysseni Opera*, 3 vols. fol., Paris, 1638, £2 7s.; *Biblia cum glossis N. de Lyra*, Basil, 1408, (*sic pro* 1498), £1 3s.; *Baronii Card. Annales, cum Supplementis Spondani, Saliani et Tornielli*, 17 vols. fol., £10 16s. 6d.; *Critici Sacri*, 10 vols., described as "in corio Turcico lineis rubricis et foliis deauratis," 10 vols., Lond., 1660, £18; *Justini Martyris Opera*, "charta regia" (royal or large paper), Paris, 1636, £2 3s. 6d.; *Geo. Cassandri Opera*, fol., Paris, 1616, £1 13s. 6d.; *Lucae Brugen-*

*sis Comment. in IV. Evangelia*, 3 vols. fol., Antw., 1606, £1 10s.; *Phil. Melanthonis Opera Theologica*, 4 vols. fol., Witeb., 1580, £1 11s. 6d.; *Vita et processus S. Thom. Cantuariensis Martyris super libertate Ecclesiastica*, Paris, 1495, £1 2s. 4d.; *Card. R. Poli de Concilio et Reformatio Angliæ*, Romæ, 1562, 3s. 4d.; *Processionale ad Usus Ecclesiæ Sarisburiensis*, Paris, 1530, 4s. 6d.; *Atlas major sive Cosmographia Blaviana*, "pulcherrime compacta, foliis deauratis, accuratissime coloratus," 11 vols. fol., Amst., 1665, £36 5s.; *Camden's Britannia*, in French, by Gul. Blaeu, 2 vols. fol., Amst., 1662, £3 3s.; *Ogilby's Virgil*, fol., 1658, £1 1s.; *Cardani Opera Omnia* (charta regia), 10 vols., Lugd., 1663, £8 10s.; *Diogenes Laertius* (charta regia), Lond., 1664, £2 10s.; *Plutarchus Gr. et Lat.* (charta regia), 2 vols., Paris, 1624, £5 1s.; *Lucianus Bourdelotii*, Paris, 1615, £2 4s.; *Eustathius in Homerum Gr.* (corio turcico et foliis deauratis), 4 vols. fol., Romæ, 1542, £7; *Æschylus Stanleii*, Lond., 1664, £1; *Suidas Lex. Gr., Emilii Porti*, 2 vols., Col. Allob., 1619, £1 17s. 6d.; *Chronicon Chronicorum*, 1493, £1; *Lilii Gyraldi Opera*, Basil, 1580, £1 16s.; *Famiani Stradæ de Bell. Belgica*, 2 vols., Romæ, 1640, £2 10s.; *Rerum Germanicorum Scriptores M. Freheri*, 3 vols., Hanov., 1600-11, £1 15s.; *Rerum Bohemiarum Scriptores Freheri*, Hanov., 1602, £1 9s. 6d.; *Thuani Historiæ*, 4 vols., Paris, £4 3s.; *Hectoris*

*Boethii Scotum Historia*, Paris, Badius s.d., £1 7s.; *Camdeni Annales*, 2 vols., 1615-27, 14s.; *Eadmeri Cant. Monach. Historia Novorum, cum notis Seldeni*, Lond., 1623, 11s.; *H. Spelmanni Glossarium*, Lond., 1664, £1 18s.; *Spelmanni Concilia*, 2 vols., Lond., 1639-64, £2 7s.; *Antonini Archiep. Florent. Chronicorum Opus*, 3 vols., Lugd., 1586, £2 1s.; *Novus Orbis Regionum ac Insularum Veteris incognitarum*, Paris, 1532, 7s.; *Stuckii Antiquitatum Convivalium*, 1597, £1 16s.; *Fr. Petrarchæ Opera*, Basil, 1581, £1 3s. 6d.; *G. de Columna Hist. Trojana*, lit. goth., n.d., 1s. 2d.; *Catullus, etc.*, Paris, 1604, large paper, £1 10s.; *Dugdale's Monasticon*, first edition, 1655-73, £6 6s.; *Stephani Thesaurus, Gr. Ling.*, large paper, 4 vols., 1572, £3 12s.; *Ath. Kircheri Œdipus Ægyptiacus*, Romæ, 1652, £2 10s.; *Ejusdem Mundus Subterraneus*, Amst., 1670, £2 6s.; *Corpus Juris Civilis*, 5 vols., Antw., Plantin, 1575, £1 15s.; *Tho. Cooper's Thesaurus Linguae*, Lond., 1573, 17s. 6d.; *And. Philopatri Responsio ad Elizabethæ Edictum*, Romæ, 1593, 3s. 8d.; *Speculum Orient. Occidentalisque Indiæ Navigationum*, Lugd., Bat. 1619, 4s. 2d.; *Itinerarii Terræ Sanctæ descriptio, etc.*, per Bart. Saligniaco, described as "lit. goth.," but no date given, 10d.; *Ant. Recchi Historia Plantarum, etc., Mexicanorum*, Rom. 1651, £2 2s. 6d.; *Guil. Piso de Indiæ utriusque re Naturali et Medica*, Amst., 1658, £1; *Hipp. Salviani de Aquatiliū*

*Animalium Historia*, Romæ, 1554, £3 8s.; *Le Méthode de dresser les Chévaux*, par le Marquis de Newcastle, Anvers, 1658, £1 12s. 6d.; Ph. de l'Orme *Nouvelles Inventions de bien Bastir*, Paris, 1578, 3s. 6d.; *La Navigation de Jacques V. Roy. d'Escosse autour son Royaume*, 1583, 2s. 6d.; *Le Chevalier sans Reproche*, par Jean Bouchet, 1527, 4d.; La Fontaine, *Amours de Cupidon et de Psyche*, 1669, 3s. 10d.; Œuvres de P. et Th. Corneille, 6 vols., Paris, 1664, £1 3s. 6d.; *Les Touches et les Bigarrures du Seigneur des Accords*, 1588-91, 1s. 2d.; six first editions of plays by Molière, 4s. 1d.; *L'Heptameron de la Royne de Navarre*, 1574, 1s. 8d.; Mariana, *Historia General de España*, 2 vols. fol., Madrid 1650, £1 14s.; Garcilasso de la Vega, *Historia del Peru* 1609-17, £1 12s.; Herrera, *Indias Occidentales*, 4 vols., 1601, £4 14s.; Don Quixote, 1608, and another, 1s. 4d.; *Navigazioni di G. B. Ramusio*, Venet. 1563, 16s. 6d.; Zarlino, *Istitutioni e Dimostrazioni Harmoniche*, Venet. 1573, 6s. 8d.; Ashmole's *Order of the Garter*, large paper, 1672, £2 os. 6d.; Beaumont and Fletcher, 1647, 13s. 6d.; Foxe's *Martyrs*, 1641, £3 1s.; Chaucer, 1597, 12s. 8d.; Cranmer's *Answer to Bishop Gardiner on the Eucharist*, 1551, 4s. 6d.; Dugdale's *Baronage*, 1675, £1 10s.; Digby *On Bodies and Souls*, large paper, Paris, 1644, 16s. 6d.; ditto, small paper 6s.; Sir W. Davenant's *Works of Poetry*, 1673,

17s. 6d.; Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*, 1554, 3s. 6d.; Fabian's *Chronicle*, 1559, 7s. 4d.; Hakluyt's *Navigations*, 1599, £1 4s. 6d.; Holinshed's *Chronicle*, 1577, 8s. 6d.; Ben Jonson's Works, 2 vols., 1616-40, 17s. 6d.; Linschoten's *Voyages to the Indies*, n.d., 14s. 2d.; Sir Thomas More's Works, 1557, £1 2s.; Parkinson's *Theatre of Plants*, 1640, £2 10s. 6d.; Purchas his *Pilgrims*, 5 vols., 1625, £3 5s. 6d.; *Voyages of Mendez Pinto*, 1663, 5s. 6d.; Shakespeare's Plays, fol., 1632, 14s.; Roger Ascham's *Toxophilus*, 1545, 1s. 4d.; and his *Schoolmaster*, 1570, 1s.; Doway Bible, 3 vols. 1633, £1 5s.; Guevara's *Dial of Princes* by North, 1582, 1s. 4d.; Frampton's *Joyful News from the West Indies*, 1596, 1s. 6d.; Sir D. Lindsay's Poems, 1581, 6d.; Milton's *Paradise Lost*, 1668, 2s. 1d.; *North-West Fox*, 1635, 2s. 10d.; *Pilgrimage of Perfection*, 1531, 1s. 9d.; Pierce Plowman's *Vision*, 1550, 1s. 7d.; Fletcher's *Purple Island*, 1633, 10d.; *Report of the Kingdom of Congo*, 1597, 1s. 2d.; Schouten's *Voyage*, 1619, 2s.; Philip Sidney's *Shepherd's Calendar* (with MS. on the same subject in Latine), 1597, 3s. 2d.; Francis Beaumont's Poems, 1653, 2s.; *Compleat Angler and Experienced Angler*, 1661-2, 2s. 2d.; Butler's *Hudibras*, Pts. 1-2, 1663-4, 6s. 2d.; *Legend of Charles, Cardinal of Lorraine*, 1577, 1s.; *Coffee-House Jest*, 1677, 9d.

A few prices of the more important articles

included in the pamphlets may be interesting. A lot in 4to, including John Heywood's *Epigrams upon Proverbs*, *The School of Slovenry*, *Poetical Recreations* of Mr. Alexander Craige, a Scotchman, Ben Jonson's *Execration against Vulcan*, Collection of poems in memory of Ben Jonson, *Legend of Captain Jones*, *Hero and Leander*, by Marlowe and Chapman, and others, in all 21 pieces, 6s. 2d. Although no dates are affixed to these in the catalogue, it is easy to recognise that they are all first editions. A lot including Shakespeare's *Rape of Lucretia*, and Hesiod's *Georgics* by Chapman, in all 22 pieces, 3s.; "Twelve Plays written by Glapthorne, Dekker, Beaumont, Fletcher, Middleton, Shirley, etc., 2s. 6d.; Fourteen Comedies and Tragedies written by Fletcher, Killigrew, Shakespeare, Sampson, Nabbes, etc., 3s. 10d., Twelve Plays written by Shakespeare, Shirley, Heywood, Chapman, etc., 3s.; Twelve Comedies and Tragedies by Shakespeare, Shirley, May, Heywood, etc., 2s., and so on. To none of these are titles or dates given. Rare American Tracts are sprinkled through the volumes of pamphlets, and average about 4d. each.

At the end of this most interesting catalogue are 69 lots of manuscripts, chiefly Historical and Astrological, and made for the Earl of Bristol. The following are the most important: *Genealogiæ Variæ diversorum Regum et Familiarum illustrium ab Adam*,



2 vols. fol., 8s. ; R. Glover, Somerset King of Arms, *de Origine, antiquitate et differentiis Armorum*, 9s. ; another with the arms emblazoned, 16s. 8d. ; *Treatise of the Immortality of Man's Soul* (very ancient), in Old English, folio, 1s. 3d. ; *Mirroure of Ancient Stories, being a Treatise of Strange Examples* (in Old English and written upon vellum), folio, 10s. 6d. ; *Monarchia di Dante, tradotta da M. Ficino*, fol., 5s. 6d. ; *Trattato d'Alchymia d'Oratio da Sangallo*, £2 6s. 6d. ; *English and Italian Nativities*, 2s 11d. ; Sir Kenelm Digby's *Translation of Virgil's Eclogues into French, etc., when he was a youth*, 8vo, 10d. ; *A Treatise in English touching the Casting out of Devils*, 8vo, 1s. 2d. The total amount realised by this sale was the respectable one of £901 13s. 3d. ; which would represent at the present time, according to Professor Masson's calculation of the value of money at that period, about £2700. This sale of the Digby Collection is No 13 on Cooper's extended list.

The fourteenth book auction, according to Cooper's list, was that of the library of Dr. Stephen Charnock, the well-known City Puritan Divine, and author of the *Discourses on Providence*, etc. "This Catalogue of Books consists of the Library of the late Reverend and learned Mr. Stephen Charnock, sometime Fellow of New College in Oxford and Proctor of the University, a Person so well-known for his constant and

indefatigable study, and so much famed for his accurate preaching in this City, that I shall not presume to attempt a further character of him, since those excellent Discourses of his 'Of Providence,' etc., that are now with all speed preparing for Publick View, will sufficiently inform the World of his other great abilities and perpetuate his name to Posterity. However, with relation to the present undertaking, I think it not amiss to observe, that he was well skilled in the Editions of Books, and curious to collect whatever was esteemed Choice and Useful in its kind, which appears by the ensuing Catalogue (and will, we doubt not) be invitation sufficient to all Lovers of Books and learning, to buy upon this Occasion those they want, (that now are, but may not again) be exposed to sale this Auctionary Way."

The sale was held "at the sign of the Lamb, an Upholsterer's House, directly opposite to the Atlas in Cornhill" on Monday October 4th, 1680. The catalogue is a thin one, of 30 pp. only, comprising some 1200 lots. There is no name either of the auctioneer or of bookseller, the title simply announcing that catalogues could be had at "The Lamb," as above, and at the "Three Legs in the Poultry, a Bookseller's Shop." The contents are chiefly Latin and English Theology, Philology, with some few Medical Works, and some Elzevirs. There is nothing of special interest about this collection.

The highest price realized for a book in Charnock's sale was £10 11s., for the *Critici Sacri*, in 9 vols. folio; the lowest 4d., for Bp. Jos. Hall's *Occasional Essays*, 12mo, 1646. The total sum realised was £366 5s. 1d. On the reverse of the title of Dr. Charnock's catalogue is advertised the sale of the library of Mr. Thomas Watson, late master of Charter-House School. From Cooper's list we learn that this took place at the sign of the Lamb on October 8th, 1680. Cooper makes it the fifteenth sale on his list. Of this sale the writer has not seen a catalogue, so that no particulars of it can be given.

We are next introduced to a catalogue of books which is an example of a habit of which nearly all the auctioneers of the time complained in their prefaces (but nearly all of whom were guilty in their turn of the same trick)—viz., that of advertising a collection as belonging to "eminent or learned persons deceased," when they were really the whole or the weedings of booksellers' stocks—a practice not unknown even in our own day. It is interesting as being one of the first book-auction catalogues with an English title, which reads as follows:—"A Catalogue of two Choice and Considerable Libraries of Books, Latin and English, of two Eminent and learned men deceased; are to be exposed to Sale by way of Auction, at Mr. Bridge's Coffee-House in Pope's Head Alley opposite to the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, on

Monday the 22nd day of this instant November, 1680." This was really the stock of Abell Roper, a bookseller, as we learn from Cooper's list, which he makes the sixteenth sale of books by auction in England. The preface says: "You have here exposed to Sale by Auction two choice and considerable Libraries of Latin and English Books, of which latter you have great variety in all volumes, and of most Subjects, which we out of respect to the studious and learned about this place (from the first intention of the Undertaking) did design to gratifie, not doubting of that incouragement from the Ingenious and Knowing, as will in some measure at present, and for the future incourage so commendable, as well as expensive an Undertaking." The catalogue contains 72 pp. comprising 2880 lots. Pages 1 to 19 are occupied with the Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish books, the remainder being all English. There is no name of auctioneer, but payments were to be made "to Samuel Crouch, Bookseller, at the entrance of Pope's-head Alley, or to Christopher Wilkinson, Bookseller, at the Black Boy in Fleet Street." The foreign books are all of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and are not remarkable. Amongst the English we find North's *Dial of Princes*, 1568; Hakluyt's *Voyages*, 1599; Smith's *Virginia*, 1632; S. Daniel's *Poems*, 1609; Frampton's *Joyfull Newes out of the New-*

*found World*, 1596; *The Golden Fleece*, 1626; Higgins' *Mirroure for Majistrates*, 1610; a number of small 4to Plays by Shakespeare, Shirley, Massinger, Heywood and others; John Bunyan's *Sighs from Hell*, 1675; a number of the writings of the seventeenth century Poets; *The Compleat Angler*, 4th Edition, 1668; and generally a larger number of volumes of the lighter literature of the age.

The seventeenth book-auction in England, according to Cooper's list, consisted of the libraries of five persons. They were: Mr. Henry Stubbs, late of London; Dr. Dillingham, of Oundle in Northamptonshire; Mr. Thomas Vincent, of London; Mr. Cawton, of Westminster; and John Dunton the Bookseller. The first four names, the auctioneer remarks in his preface, "are Names preserved in the breast of all that value real Goodness and unfeigned Piety. In these Libraries," he continues, "the buyer will find great variety of the best and most practical Books in Divinity both English and Latin, as also of other Learning, especially the English Part, which as it is the Largest so the Choicest Collection of Books that hath hitherto or perhaps may again be exposed to Sale by Auction." This sale began on Monday, November 29th, 1680. It was held "at a House in Warwick Lane, directly opposite to Warwick Court, or Dr. Coxe's Rents." The auctioneer was Thomas

Parkhurst the bookseller, whose business was "at the Sign of the Bible and Three Crowns in Cheapside, near Mercers' Chapell," and catalogues could also be obtained at the Bible on London Bridge, and at the Bible in Little Britain. The auctioneer sold on the first four days of the week only, at nine o'clock in the morning and two in the afternoon. For this sale, also, Parkhurst accepts commissions from persons unable to attend the sale personally. The catalogue is one of the most extensive of the time, containing no less than 246 pp., comprising 9840 lots. Of these 96 pp. are occupied by the Foreign Division, and the remainder by the English. Allowing the auctioneer to sell 800 lots a day, this sale would occupy twelve days. Even in a large collection such as this we find no considerable number of the productions of the fifteenth-century presses, foreign and English alike being of the sixteenth and seventeenth. This is probably the first catalogue in which the term "**black letter**" is used to indicate the primitive type. No book occupies more than a single line of description, enabling the printers to get an average of 45 Nos. on each page. In a large number of titles the dates have not been carried out, so we get an *Antiphonale ad Usus Sarum*, described as "old," but no date is given. It sold for 6s. 6d. The first edition of Erasmus's *Paraphrase* (in Latin) on the *New Testament*, Froben, 1516,

sold for 3s. 1d. A series of 28 first editions of Wolfgang Musculus, the German Reformer's Works, sold for £3 3s. 10d. Of Peter Martyr's Works, 26 first editions sold for £2 6s. 10d.; Calvin, 9 vols., Amst., 1671, £5 15s. 6d.; Stephani *Thesaurus Græcæ*, 4 vols., 1572, £3 5s.; *Corpus Byzantinæ Historiæ*, 13 vols., Paris, 1648, £13 3s. Besides works on theological controversy, there are a large number of learned Hebrew and Oriental works, and the then current editions of the classics. Amongst the English books we find a second folio Shakespeare selling for 16s.; The "Jenny Geddes" Common Prayer, Edin., 1637, 1s. 1d.; Drayton's *Polyolbion*, 6s. 8d.; Heywood's *Hierarchy of the Angels*, 3s. 10d.; Holinshed's *Chronicles*, 1577, £1 os. 6d.; Killigrew's *Comedies*, 1664, 6s.; Hubbard's *Present State of New England*, 3 copies!!!, 1s. 2d., 1s. 7d., 1s. 8d. The total sum realised by this sale was about £1660.

John Dunmore, bookseller next door to the Woolsack in Ivy Lane, sold the library of the Rev. Nicolas Lloyd, Rector of St. Mary's, Stoke Newington. This is the twenty-third book-auction on Cooper's list. The sale began on July 4th, 1681, in Dunmore's House. This catalogue has no preface, contains 55 pp., and, being printed in larger type than usual, averages only 20 lots on a page. It is remarkable only for containing a copy of Caxton's *Dives and Pauper*, 1493,

though the printer's name is not given ; and Ranulph Higden's *Polycronicon* by John of Trevisa, to which no date is affixed, but which may also be Caxton's Edition. There is also "*The Ordinary of Chrystians or Crysten Men*, with cuts," to which no date is affixed, and a number of the writings of the mystical Jacob Behmen. At the end of the catalogue occur 18 manuscripts, which are said to be the remaining part which belonged to Sir Edw. Byshe's library. These are chiefly heraldic, but there is an ancient codex on vellum of Virgil's *Georgics*.

The library of Brian Walton, Bishop of Chester, and editor of the celebrated Polyglott Bible published in 1656, was sold by Samuel Carr, bookseller, at the King's Head in St. Paul's Churchyard. The sale began on Monday, April 30th, 1683. It is the thirty-sixth book-auction, according to Cooper's list. "This so much famed Library," the auctioneer informs us, contained "very many, not only excellent, but scarce Books in most Languages ; as also a large collection of Manuscripts most of which are in the Eastern Languages." The catalogue has 46 pp., comprising 1840 lots. The Latin books comprise Bibles, Councils, Fathers, Church Historians, Commentaries, Scholastic writings and Oriental works. There are 53 MSS., chiefly Arabic, Persian, Syriac and Hebrew, including fragments of early texts of the Pentateuch. In



the English section occur a large number of the *News-Letters* or *Mercuries* of the Civil War and Commonwealth times.

On Friday, November 16th, 1683, we are introduced to another provincial book auction. It was the library of the reverend and learned Mr. Charles Adams, late minister of Great Baddow, near Chelmsford, Essex, "to be exposed," as the title says, "to Sale by way of Auction, or *Outcry*, or who bids most." This sale took place "by the appointment and for the benefit of Mrs. Adams." Catalogues were given at the Black Boy Inn (where the auction was held) or at Mr. Hart's Coffee-house Chelmsford, or at the Vicarages of Chelmsford and Great Baddow. This sale is recorded by Cooper in his list as the thirty-ninth. "The Books in this Catalogue," says the preface, "if we respect either their number or quality, are not in any way contemptible or inconsiderable. They are exposed to sale by way of Auction, a way that hath been encouraged and approved by the learned and intelligent persons in the City, as having a peculiar tendency to promote learning and disperse knowledge, which considered, it's reasonably expected that all gentlemen and others, but especially the clergy, will incourage an essay of this nature in the country, that is manifestly accompanied with such great advantage to their relicts, etc., in disposing of their studies." The catalogue is only a thin one, of 13 pp., comprising 581

lots, and is only interesting as showing the kind of library country clergymen of limited means gathered together at that period, and from the fact of the auction being held in a provincial town.

On May 2nd, 1684, was sold the library of Rev. Dr. Matthew Smallwood, Dean of Lichfield, lately deceased. The sale was held, strange to say, at Gresham College in Bishopsgate Street. No name of auctioneer is given, nor is there any preface; but it was probably conducted by Chr. Wilkinson, the bookseller of the Black Boy in Fleet Street, of whom catalogues could be had. The catalogue contained 20 leaves, comprising 2057 lots, and is divided into Theology, Philology, English and Miscellanies. It is noted by Cooper as the forty-third book-auction held in England.

The forty-ninth book auction in Cooper's list consisted of the libraries of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Lye, late of Clapham, near London, deceased, and of Mr. Thomas Jennings of London. "Mr. Thomas Lye," says the writer of the preface, "I might represent to the World as having been an example of Singular Piety, accompanied with a great integrity of mind, and indefatigable industry to do good, sufficiently manifested to all that had any knowledge of him. Mr. Thomas Jennings was an ingenious Citizen who by constant reading and writing after the Best Divines, arrived to a large and

unusual knowledge in most points of Divinity. This English Library here exposed is both for number and quality, considerable; his knowledge in Books made him capable of distinguishing and choosing the best, and his extraordinary passion and love to them prompted him to buy whatever was valuable that came within his ability to purchase." "This is all," the writer continues, "that, without further preamble, I think necessary to say, except to apologise for the imperfect descriptions that are made of many excellent books, the many palpable and visible errors of the Catalogue occasioned by the hasty printing and necessary absence of a proper person to correct them." The sale was held at Bridge's Coffee-house, Pope's Head Alley, Cornhill. It began on Monday, November 17th, 1684. No name of the auctioneer is given, but it was probably conducted by Wilkinson, the Bookseller of the Black Boy in Fleet Street. That erratic book-selling genius John Dunton seems to have had a share in the business, for his name and address, "The Black Raven in the Poutry over against the Stocks-market," appears on the title, as one of whom catalogues might be had. A curious business-advertisement on the back of the title runs in the name of William Miller, bookseller at the Gilded Acorn in St. Paul's Churchyard. "All gentlemen, etc. may be furnished with most sorts of Acts of Parliament, as also

the King's, and Chancellor's and Speaker's Speeches, with other Speeches, Declarations, Proclamations, Commissions, Orders, Ordinances, Remonstrances, Votes of Parliament, Letters, Articles of War and Peace, Of Religion, viz., Visitations Articles etc., with Books of Divinity, viz., of Church Government, Sermons on most Occasions, with Variety of School Books, History, Husbandry, Arts and Sciences, Poetry, Plays, Collections of Gazettes, and all sorts of other News." The Catalogue has two divisions, foreign and English; the first division occupies 28 pp., and the second 48 pp. It contains the considerable number of 3662 lots. The contents are of the ordinary description, and call for no special notice.

The sale of the library of the reverend and learned Dr. Richard Lee of King's-Hatfield, Herts, deceased, introduces us to another country book-auction, which Cooper places fifty-second on his list. It was held at the Parsonage House at Hatfield on Tuesday, April 28th, 1685, "by the appointment and for the benefit of Mrs. Eliza Lee." Catalogues were distributed "at the Coffee-Houses in St. Albans, Hertford, Ware, Barnet and Hatfield." The catalogue contained "Various Editions of the Bible in the Oriental Languages, several of the best Latin and Greek Fathers, Commentators ancient and modern, Latin and English etc., of the most general use and greatest esteem in their time and in

all volumes." The preface declares that This method of Auction, so long practised, and still continued in great reputation with the Reverend and Learned Clergy of London, hath encouraged and laid the foundation of this attempt in Hertford, not without some probable prospect, that the worthy and intelligent Clergy thereof, will heartily countenance and readily promote so commendable an Essay apparently tending to the improvement of learning in general, and so experimentally serviceable and really beneficial to the relicts and executors of Divines and gentlemen in the disposal of their Libraries." The catalogue contains 28 pages, comprising 1192 lots. Commissions were taken and "managed" by persons attending the auction. Besides the lots printed there is a note as to more books not printed in the catalogue to be sold at the end of the sale.

The fifty-fifth book-auction in England introduces us to another of those misleading catalogue-titles, to which most of the book-seller-auctioneers of the period lent themselves at one period or other, though ever ready to protest against the trick in their prefaces to catalogues of genuine libraries. We refer to the practice of selling the "dead heads" of their own stocks under the disguise of selections from the libraries of learned persons recently deceased. It is entitled "*Catalogus Librorum Variorum ex Biblio-*

*thecis Selectissimis doctissimorum Virorum nuperrime defunctorum.*" This catalogue really consists of a portion of the stock of Thomas Parkhurst, a bookseller at the Black Boy in Fleet Street. It is so stated in honest Cooper's list, where it figures as No. 55 of the English book auctions. However, the Preface does not hesitate to declare that "this Sale consists of the Libraries of two learned men deceased, of whom much might be said as to their Skill and Knowledge of the best Books," however, observing that "it's not the great Names, or mighty vogue that the Proprietors have had in the World, but the scarcity and usefulness of the books that are exposed, that do really recommend them to the gentlemen that buy. I leave all persons to judge as they please, to censure or approve as they think fit, not doubting but all that are unprejudiced will agree with me in this modest character of the ensuing catalogue—viz., that in most parts of it there are many choice and considerable Books in Divinity, History, Philology, Physick etc., in Greek and Latin, accompanied with a large collection of English Books in all volumes."

The sale began on Monday, May 19th, 1685. It was held at Bridges' Coffee-house in Pope's Head Alley, Cornhill. No name of auctioneer is given, but it was probably managed by Chr. Wilkinson, who seems to have been in partnership with Parkhurst, since

he distributes catalogues at the same house in which the latter carried on his business. The contents are considerable in quantity, the catalogue containing 88 pages, comprising 4130 lots. A peculiarity of this Catalogue is that after page 36, neither place of printing nor date are appended to the books. In Condition 5 we are again notified of the fact that "inconveniences have ensued by the forgetfulness of some and the design of others, in leaving several parcels of books on the hands of the undertakers to their prejudice, and to the abuse of others that they have out of vanity or humour outbid." So the condition imposes the necessity of "every person not known to some of the company, giving his name and place of abode or earnest in part of the books by him bought, to the end that the auction may be managed with honesty and justice to all."

This catalogue is remarkable for the large number of Latin medical, and English Roman Catholic books printed abroad, which it contains. The English portion has also some interesting books, such as the "Great Bible" of 1541, the Tyndale of 1549, a Chaucer of 1532, the *Dives and Pauper* of Wynkyn de Worde of 1496, Gower's Works, 1532. There are some of Bunyan's books, including the *Holy War*, but no sign of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, nor as far as we can trace had any copy of this latter work appeared

up to this date in an auction. It has, also a number of the productions of the poets and dramatists of the period, and is of a much more varied character generally.

“On Thursday the 26th of this instant November, 1685, at the Auction-House in Ave Mary Lane, over against the Black Swan, will be exposed to Sale to Booksellers, part of the Stock of Mr. Richard Davis, Bookseller, of Oxford, by way of Auction.” This is a trade sale to booksellers only of surplus copies of books published or purchased by Davis. The catalogue has 2 pp. folio only, containing forty-seven different works. It is noticed in Cooper’s list as the fifty-third auction. Discount was allowed, on purchases for cash, 3% ; two months, 2% ; three months, 1%, after which none. Of the three sales of Davis’s huge stock-in-trade we have spoken elsewhere.

On Monday, August 30th, 1686, was sold a library of an eminent physician lately deceased. It is described as “*Bibliotheca Medica et Mathematica Anglo-Latina, cujusdam Med. Doct. Clariss. nuperrime defuncti, cum plurimis Libris e regionibus Vicinis tum Modernis tum Antiquis refertissima.*” “This auction,” says the preface, “contains the Library of an eminent physician lately deceased, improved with great variety of the Works of the most modern and celebrated Writers in Physick, Chymistry, and Chirurgery, many of which, as they are really scarce and



valuable, having not hitherto been exposed to Sale this way; if therefore the Curiosity and Usefulness of the Books will not court the Custom, and recommend them to the Choice of the ingenious of that noble profession, I despair of using any other motives that will in probability be effectual."

The Sale was held "at the Auction-House in Ave-Mary Lane, over against the Black Swan." No name of auctioneer is given, but the sale was probably conducted by Christopher Wilkinson of the Black Boy in Fleet Street. The catalogue has only 24 pages, containing 1109 lots. Nearly all the books are either original productions or new editions of the century. The catalogue was distributed in the two University cities.

We now come to the most important, as well as one of the most extensive private libraries sold by auction in the seventeenth century. It is entitled "*Bibliotheca Anglesiana, sive Catalogus Variorum Librorum in quavis Linguâ et facultate insignium, quod cum ingenti sumptu et summa diligentia sibi procuravit Honoratis. Arthur Comes d'Anglesey Privati olim Sigilli Custos et Carolo Secundo à Secretarioribus Conciliis.*" The catalogue seems to have been compiled and the preface written, and probably the sale undertaken, by Thomas Philipps, who describes himself on the title as "*Generosum olim œconomum prædicto Comite.*" The preface is extremely interesting, and worthy of

being transcribed in full. "This Catalogue presents you with the so much famed and celebrated Library of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Earl of Anglesey, late Lord Privy-Seal deceased. And although I am abundantly sensible that it's needless to recommend it; however, it may not be improper, and perhaps not unacceptable to the Ingenious, to have a passant (*sic*) account of this so much desired Collection of Books. The Noble Lord for above thirty years passed, was generally known to be extremely curious in collecting whatever occasionally was offered to him, or he upon his enquiry met with, that was rare and choice in all sorts of learning, and in whatsoever language. His great inclination this way, occasioned his spending a great part of his time, that he could possibly spare from the Weighty and Public Affairs he was interested in, to settle and maintain a correspondence with all sorts of learned men abroad; by which way a great accession was made to his Library, they frequently presenting, and at his request procuring very great curiosities in several faculties. Neither was he content to buy Single Books and lesser parcels, but purchased many Libraries for the sake of some choice and valuable books that he was not before furnished with; hence arose the great number of his Books, and those duplicates of many considerable ones, as appears in the ensuing Catalogue. It would be too great

a trespass on the reader's patience, and exceed the limits of an auction preface to remarque the whole. The Divinity part contains variety of Bibles, Fathers, Church-History, and the Works of the most eminent first Reformers, etc. The Historical comprehends Historians of all ages and nations ; and of our own and the neighbouring Nations, scarce anything that hitherto is extant of them wanting. I might also observe that the Geographici, Philologici, Lexicographici, and those other Books of Pomp and State, describing particular famous Houses, with the Collection of Coins, might deservedly challenge the intelligent reader's Observance. The Physick, Philosophy, Mathematics, Civil, Canon, and Common Law are not contemptible, not to mention the Books of moment in the French, Italian, Spanish ; and that vast Collection of Pamphlets of all sorts, containing all the remarkable ones relating to Government, etc. The whole Library being really considerable for number as well as scarcity, that many Persons of Honour, etc. (though possessed of very great Libraries of their own) had frequent recourse to this for the perusal of many out of the ordinary road of learning, not elsewhere to be found. Thus much was thought fit to be communicated to the world, by one who had the honour for many years to be employed in his Lordship's Service."

The catalogue is divided into two parts, foreign and English, of which the former occupies 98 pp. and the latter 77 pp.; comprising the extremely large number of 7000 lots, representing probably upwards of 30,000 volumes. It is classified into "Theologici, Geographici et Historici, Philologici, Literatores, etc.," "Medici, Philosophici, Mathematici, Juridici, Canon and Civil, Common and Statute Law," "Gallici, Italici, Hispanici, Belgici et Germanici," English Divinity, English Miscellanies, viz., History, Philology, etc.; "Bound volumes of Tracts, etc.;" "Bundles of Sticht Tracts, etc.;" "Manuscripts, and Collectio Picturarum."

The sale began on Monday, October 25th, 1686. It was held "at the Sign of the Black Swan over against the South Door of St. Paul's Church (amongst the Woolen-Drapers) in St. Paul's Churchyard, the first five days of each week from nine o'clock to twelve, and from two to six." The catalogues were charged 6*d.* each, which method the auctioneer (like one of his predecessors) says is "taken by direction of the learned, for the better accommodation, and more prudent distribution than formerly of Copies to them." This sum was to be allowed (if demanded) to any one buying books up to the value of ten shillings. The contents of the library were on the whole of a similar character to the smaller collections of the

period, to which we have already drawn attention. Even this extensive library is remarkable for the absence of any considerable number of the productions of the fifteenth-century presses, the few occurring having evidently been obtained more for the contents than for any typographical interest. Indeed, it was not until the succeeding century that interest was drawn to the History of Printing. We have here *Ockham on the Sentences*, Lugd. 1495; Rob. Holkot on the same, 1497; *Fasciculus Temporum* of 1482; Rob. Whittington's *Grammar*, printed by Wynkyn de Worde (to which no date is attached), and that is all!! There is not any edition of Shakespeare or Milton; but a large number of rare early voyages and the old Chronicles. Two singular entries are: "Eleven Auction Catalogues of Books—viz., Seaman, Manton, Kidner, Worsley, Digby, Button and Owen, Godolphin and Philipp, Sangar, Edwin, Paget, and N. Lloyd"; "Twelve Auction Catalogues of Books—viz., Smith, Stubb, etc., by Parkhurst, Outram, Digby, Charnock, Watson, Rogers, Manton, Seaman, with three others"; showing that Lord Anglesey was a diligent buyer at the various sales of the period. Amongst the Manuscripts, of which there are 33 lots, occur "*Apocalypsis Jesu Christi, Lingua Germanica, cum figuris, pulchre in Carta conscripta*"; "*Biblia Sacra Latina S. Hieronymi, pulcherrime scripta in mem-*

branis"; "*Valores omnium Possessionum tam Spiritualium quam temporalium in Comitatu Devoniensi*, pulcherrime in membranis conscripta"; "*Geoffrey Chaucer, the Ancient English Poet, his Workes*, most curiously written upon vellum, and the great letters gilded, with flourishes in gold and colours"; "*An Ancient Chronicle of England*, in Old English, fairly writ upon vellum." On the whole it must have been a famous sale, to which the writer is unfortunately unable to affix any prices. It is made more memorable, too, from the discovery of the Earl's note in his copy of the *Eikon Basilike*, attributing the work to Bishop Gauden.

Our next catalogue introduces us to the library of another Minister of Charles II., in the person of the Honourable Henry Coventry, sometime his Secretary of State, which included also the library of Sir William Coventry. The title to this catalogue is in English: "*A Catalogue of Books, of the several Libraries of the Honourable Sir William Coventry, and the Honourable Mr. Henry Coventry, sometime Secretary of State to King Charles II., containing a very good collection of most excellent Books in Divinity, History, Philology, Matters of State, etc., in Greek, Latin, Italian, French, Spanish and English*, to be sold by Auction at the late dwelling-house of Mr. Secretary Coventry at the upper end of the Haymarket, Peccadilly (*sic*), on Monday, May

9th, 1687." The auctioneer's name is not attached, but most likely William Cooper had the management of the sale, as his name appears first on the title amongst those booksellers from whom catalogues might be had. The preface is very short: "We need not here to preface any Encomiums to these Libraries: the Catalogue itself will sufficiently supply that defect, but only to acquaint the gentlemen, that these Books are in very good condition as to their Binding, being most of them curiously bound and gilt backs, and many of the Books of Maps in Colours." The catalogue is not a fourth as large as that of the Earl of Anglesey, comprising only 44 pp., containing about 2000 lots. The catalogue is most remarkable for having the first entry of the first folio Shakespeare ever sold by auction. It includes also a long series of the Elzevir Classics; but all the books are of the general character of the writings of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

On Monday, November 21st, 1687, Benjamin Walford and Thomas Bentley, booksellers, began the sale of an important and extensive collection of books, which included what the auctioneers call the "main part" of the library of William Cecil, Lord Burghley. As Cecil died in 1598, it is of course easy to eliminate those books which he could not himself have purchased, and a full half of the catalogue is occupied

by works published after his death. The preface says that many of the MSS. which appear in the catalogue contained Cecil's manuscript remarks on them; the compiler has not, unfortunately, thought proper to particularise them. The title is: "*Bibliotheca Illustris. ; sive Catalogus Variorum Librorum in quavis Linguâ et facultate insignium, Ornatissimæ Bibliothecæ Viri cujusdam prænobilis ac honoratissimi olim defuncti, libris rarissimis tam typis excusis quàm Manuscriptis refertissimæ.*"

The preface says: "If the Catalogue, here presented, were only of Common Books, and such as were easie to be had, it would not have been very necessary to have prefaced anything to the Reader; But since it appears in the World with two circumstances, which no Auction in England (perhaps) ever had before; nor is it probable that the like should frequently happen again, it would seem an oversight if we should neglect to advertise the Reader of them. The first is that it comprises the main part of the Library of that famous Secretary William Cecil, Lord Burleigh; which considered must put it out of doubt that these Books are excellent of their kind and well-chosen. The second is, that it contains a greater number of Rare Manuscripts, than ever yet were offered together in this way, many of which are rendered the more valuable by being remark'd upon by the hand of the said great



Man." The sale was held at the sign of the Bear in Ave Maria Lane. The catalogue contains 94 pp., representing some 3800 lots. The books consist of foreign and English Theology, Medical, Mathematical and Historical Works, sixteenth-century editions of the Classics, a large number of French, Italian and Spanish books. The English books are nearly all of the seventeenth century, and too late to have formed part of Cecil's own library; but amongst them we find *The Flower of the Commandments*, by Wynkyn de Worde, 1510; *The Golden Legend*, in English, by the same, 1512; *The Life of Christ and of the Virgin Mary*, 1512; *The Harber of Battails, or the Faites and Armes of Chivalry*, by William Caxton, 1490. The second edition of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, 1497, and *Le Miroir de la Rédemption*, Paris, 1483, together with the Caxton mentioned above, are the only representatives of fifteenth-century presses. The most important part of the catalogue is the manuscripts, of which there are 249 in Latin, French, and English, all of which may well have formed part of Cecil's own library. Although we are told in the preface that many of these were annotated by the great Secretary himself, no particulars, unfortunately, are given as to which they were; and there are no prices to the writer's copy of this catalogue. The following are the most important of the

manuscripts, which it would be interesting to trace to their present destination, where still in existence. The very meagre description of them in the catalogue is much to be regretted. "*Biblia Sacra, MS. antiquissima cum Epistola Sti. Pauli ad Laodicenses, folio magno in pergamena*"; "*Polychronicon Vetus, MS. per Radulphum Higden, nunquam Latino impressum, folio magno in pergamena*"; "*Chronicon Britanniae, per Galfridum Monumetensem, in pergamena*"; "*Bartholomæus Anglus de Proprietatibus Rerum, in pergamena*"; "*Ven. Bedæ de Gestis Anglorum, in pergamena*"; "*Quatuor Evangelia, MS. antiquum in pergamena*"; "*Wilhelmus Malmesburiensis de Gestis Regum Angliæ, in pergamena*"; "*Gyraldi Cambrensis Historia Hiberniæ, in pergamena*"; "*Roger de Hovenden, Historia Anglorum post Bedam*"; "*Biblia Sacra cum interpretationibus Nominum Hebræorum, etc., in pergamena*"; "*Horæ Diurnæ B. M. Virginis ad usum Sarum, in pergamena*"; "*Papirii Statii Thebaides, exemplar vetustissimum, in pergamena*"; "*Giraldus Cambrensis Historia, in pergamena*"; "*Constitutiones provinciales Angliæ, in pergamena*"; "*Itinerarium Joannis de Mandeville ex territorio Sti. Albani proto-martyris Anglorum, in pergamena*"; Gower (Joannis), "*Chronicon Angliæ quod dicitur Vox Clamantis de insurrectione rusticorum contra Nobiles Latino Carmine descriptum, in pergamena*";

“*Henrici VII. Receptio Maximiliani et Caroli ejus filii*, in pergamena” ; “*An Old Chronicle of England*, in English, in pergamena.” “*Psalterium Græcum*, MS. antiquissimum, in pergamena” ; “*L’Histoire du Roy Arthur*, avec des figures dorées, folio grand, in pergamena” ; “*Le Chronique de Jean Froissart des Guerres de France et d’Angleterre*, folio grand, avec des belles figures en parchemin” ; “*Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*, en françois, avec figures en parchemin” ; “*L’Exile du Comte d’Artois, et comme il a perdue sa Cause en Parlement l’année 1336*, avec figures, en parchemin” ; “*L’Histoire de la Vie de St. Edward le Confesseur*, poème françois, avec des figures anciennes, en parchemin” ; “*A Book of Chronicles clyped Brute, being a history of the Kings of England from Brute to K. Henry V.*, upon vellum” ; “*Wiclif’s Book of Postils or Sermons*, in Old English upon vellum” ; “*A Psalter in Old English, very fairly written upon vellum*” ; “*The History of England in Old English Verse*, upon vellum” ; “*The Epistles and Gospels according to the Church of Sarum in Old English*” ; “*The Lady Anne Cecil’s French Grammar in English and French*” ; “*A Poem in Old English, fairly written upon vellum*” ; “*The Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles and the Apocalypse*, by Wicklif upon vellum” ; “*An Ancient Treatise of the Anatomy of Humane Bodies*, fairly written and gilded upon vellum.” Besides

these are many Codices of the other monkish chroniclers, some interesting original political MSS., a number of fine Heraldic Visitations, Armorials, Pedigrees, etc. In the "*Libri Omissi*" at the end occurs a fourth folio Shakespeare.

Our next catalogue introduces us to the sale of the stock of Robert Scott, who is styled on the title "*Bibliopola Regii Londinensis.*" Robert Scott was to the London literary men and collectors of that period what his contemporary Richard Davis was in Oxford, and Mr. Quaritch is in our own day. He was one of the largest buyers of libraries from the Continent, and largely patronised by the nobility, clergy and literary men of his time. The most interesting preface prefixed to the catalogue shows how indefatigable he was in his business, and how wide his knowledge of books. "This Catalogue contains the celebrated Collection of Books which hath been made at several times with great expense from most parts of the learned world by the person mentioned on the Title-page; and though I might without the censure of formality and personal flattery, represent him to the world as the only person of his time for his extraordinary knowledge in Books, as also for his most unparalleled industry to procure and buy up the choicest of all kinds, yet his sufficient manifestations to the Nobility and Gentry in his Trade and Business prevent any further

character. It would be a pleasing task to glance at the Variety and great Choice of the valuable and voluminous, as well as Scarce and Curious Books that are couch't under the various heads of this incomparable Catalogue, which considered together, cannot be equalled in most of the Shops of Europe. In Short, the Whole is referred to the perusal and censure of the intelligent Gentlemen, the buyers, with this further remark that it cannot be reasonably supposed that there will appear a Person in their time of so great Ambition and indefatigable Diligence to Oblige the Lovers of learning." The sale began on Monday, February 13th, 1687-8 at the sign of the Bear in Ave Maria Lane, and continued for seven hours on each of the first five days of each week. The catalogue extends to no less than 176 pp., comprising 7040 lots, which would represent some 25,000 volumes, an enormous quantity for a bookseller of that period to amass for the purpose of retailing. The contents are classified into Latin Theology, Ecclesiastical and Ritualistic Books of the Roman-Catholic Church, Juridical, Miscellaneous, Medical and Philosophical, Mathematical, French, Italian, and Spanish, English Theology and Miscellanies, Books of Prints, and Manuscripts. It is remarkable that by far the greater number of books in this catalogue are productions of the same century in which the auction was held, those printed before

the year 1600 being represented by not more than 1 per cent. of the whole; and there is also an entire absence of the fifteenth-century productions. It is also worthy of note that the foreign books occupy the first 162 pp., leaving only the last 16 pp. for the English portion. Benjamin Walford was the auctioneer at this sale.

Two curious single-day catalogues were issued on March 12th and 13th, 1688. They consist of only 4 pp. each, the first containing 166 lots and the second 199 lots only. They have no titles, but the following heading commences the first page of the March 12th sale: "A Catalogue of valuable Books, all in folio, with some Curious and Fair Manuscripts, will be sold by Auction on Monday the 12th of March next, between two and three in the afternoon, at the Golden Anchor, an upholsterer's amongst the Woolen-Drapers in St. Paul's Church-Yard." Then follow three conditions. The books are English and foreign, all (except two) of the seventeenth century, of the usual theological and historical character. The "Curious and Fair" manuscripts are ten, "with some not mentioned," most of which are very interesting and would produce large prices if sold now. There is (1) a peculiar and important entry of "Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by Will. Caxton 1480 in the 20 year of the Reign of K. E. the 4." This work was only in recent years printed

for the Roxburghe Club; the MS. being in the Pepysian Library at Cambridge. (2) "*The Troy Buke*, translated by the Monk of Bury (Lydgate); (3) *Genealogia Domini nostri Jesu Christi cum Observationibus ad totius Historiæ Sacræ intelligentiam utilissimis*, in Rotulis Membranaceis pulcherrimæ descripta"; (4) "*Genealogia Magnæ Britannæ Regum ad Henricum Sextum deducta*, Rotulis Membranaceis Summa cum cura (adjunctis Observationibus Selectissimis) depicta; a Tergo habetur Genealogia nobilissima Perceiorum Familiæ"; (5) *Bulla Johannis Papæ contra Michaellem de' Cesena Ordinis fr. Minorum Ministrum Generalem Avinione data*"; (6) *Officium B. Mariæ Virg.*, pulchris characteribus cum literis majusculis deauratis, et imaginibus initialibus insertis, in membranis descriptum"; (7) "Aliud antiquus cum imaginibus quamplurimis pulchre depictis"; (8) "Aliud etiam cum imaginibus litterisque initialibus pulchre depictis." The heading of the second catalogue is: "This Catalogue will be sold by Auction the 13th of March next (no year) between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. Conditions as usual. The Books to be paid for and fetcht away within three days after the Sale." No place of selling is given, but as it appears to have been appended to the previous catalogue, it was probably held at the same place in St. Paul's Churchyard. The books are of the same

character as in the former catalogue, and all after the seventeenth century.

On Monday, April 2nd, 1688, was commenced the sale of the library of the reverend and learned Mr. Robert Wallis, late Rector of Elsborough in the county of Bucks, consisting of variety of scarce and valuable books in most sorts of learning. The sale was held at The Unicorn in Paternoster Row, against the Queen's Head Tavern. There is no name of the auctioneer and no preface. The catalogue has 28 pages, with about 1400 lots. The books are nearly all English and Latin Theology, of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Amongst them is the following MS., which should be of interest: "*Liber Monachorum Beatæ Mariæ Virginis de Thani*, manuscriptus pulcherrime super pergamenum."

On April 24th, 1688, Benjamin Walford held a sale of Latin, French, and English books, "to be sold in Numbers to the Booksellers of London and Westminster." The sale was held at the Bear in Ave Mary Lane, near Ludgate Street. It has no preface or conditions, and dates are only appended to the foreign books. The catalogue has 28 pages, containing 1312 lots, all productions of the seventeenth century.

On Monday, April 30th, 1688, was sold a collection of "Latin, French, and English books, consisting of Divinity, Physick, Travels, Romances, Volumes of Tracts, etc.,



at Wellington Coffee-House on the Backside of the Royal Exchange, between the Crown and Ship Taverns in Threadneedle Street." This is an ordinary catalogue of 40 pages, containing 2000 lots. In this catalogue appears for the first time the rare first edition of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, 1621, 4s. 6d. There is also Wood's *New England's Prospect*, 1629, 3s. 6d.; Castell's *Discovery of America*, 1644, 2s. 6d.; *History of the Bucaniers of America*, 1684, 3s. 4d.; and *Relation of the Plantation of New England*, 1623, 2s. 6d. There is also a remarkable volume containing eleven of the plays of Shakespeare, some of which, at least, must have been the original 4tos, for 12s. A first entry also appears of an early though not the first edition of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (1680).

The next catalogue in the writer's possession is of "Valuable and Scarce Books, most English, consisting of Divinity, Physick, History, Law, Travels, Romances, etc., which will be sold by Auction on Monday the 17th Day of September, 1688; at the Three Half-Moons in St. Paul's Church-Yard among the Woollen-Drapers." This sale was held between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. The catalogue contains 14 pp., numbering 720 lots. All the books in it are the production of the same century in which they were sold by auction.

We now come to one of the most cele-

brated collections of books and MSS. and engravings sold by auction in the seventeenth century. It was regarded by the contemporaries of the noble owner as the richest and most extensive of any library brought together by a nobleman of the period. It is that of Richard Maitland, fourth Earl (afterwards Duke) of Lauderdale, whose translation of Virgil was praised by Dryden. The title is as follows: "*Catalogus Librorum instructissimæ Bibliothecæ nobilis cujusdam Scoto-Britanni, in quavis Lingua et facultate insignium; quibus adjicitur, figurarum Manu-delineaturum, necnon Tabularum ære incisarum per celeberrimos Artis Chalcographicis Magistros Collectio refertissima.*" The preface is very interesting, and gives us a curious reason of the Earl for disposing of his collections in this manner. We transcribe it in full. "After so many considerable Essays of this Nature, it were in vain to offer the present Catalogue to the ingenious of this Age, did it not appear extremely valuable in all its faculties, and in the most polite sort of learning exceed any that has gone before it; the main part thereof consisting of the Library of a Person of Quality, who in his Travels beyond Seas made himself very well acquainted with the most eminent Authors of all Sciences, and was curious in collecting both the best editions and the fairest copies, which, considered with their binding, do far excel any books that have

hitherto been exposed to publick Sale. I shall not here endeavour to characterize the several parts of this incomparable Catalogue, but leave the whole to the Censure of the Candid and Judicious Perusers, with this assurance, that there will not again appear together such an intire Collection of the most considerable Historians of all Ages and Nations, both ancient and modern. The latter part of the Catalogue contains a most admirable Collection of Drawings both of History and Architecture, curiously designed in colours by the most eminent masters of Europe, with several thousands of Italian and other prints ancient and modern, being of the best proofs carefully preserved and well conditioned, all which were collected at vast expense and great care by the Same Person of Quality. Who being willing to give the same pleasure and satisfaction to the Lovers of such curiosities as he hath had in the enjoyment of this excellent collection, is resolved to expose them to publick Sale by way of Auction, in the same manner and under the same conditions that Sir Peter Lely's were formerly sold." The sale took place at the sign of the Bear in Ave Maria Lane, beginning on Tuesday, October 30th, 1688, the auctioneer being Benjamin Walford the bookseller. The catalogue should consist of 156 pages, pp. 149 to 156 being occupied with the prints and drawings. The writer's copy of the cata-

logue wants these last pages, which perhaps were not issued. It is curious to find that in another catalogue of the library of a certain learned Knight sold by Walford on October 28th in the next year (1689) these engravings and drawings are again mentioned. Walford says in his Preface: "That nothing might be wanting to compleat this incomparable Catalogue (this auctioneer's Catalogues were always *incomparable*), I have joyned the remaining part of my Lord Maitland's Curious Prints and Drawings proposed to have been sold in our last Auction, but for several reasons adjourned to this present opportunity." The writer's copy of this catalogue also wants the leaves containing the prints; and it is doubtful whether, after all, the collection was ever brought to the hammer. The printed books in the 1688 catalogue number 6370 lots, representing some 20,000 volumes, the large majority of which are foreign. The classification is into Latin Theology, Roman Catholic Literature, Juridical, Miscellanies, Medical, Mathematical, French, Italian and Spanish books, English Divinity, and Miscellanies, and Manuscripts. In this vast and imposing collection of books, mostly gathered together on the Continent, the productions of the fifteenth century presses are represented by four books only, the earliest of which was the *Ecclesiastical History* of Ruffinus printed at Mantua in 1479. It is

very evident, from all the auction catalogues of the seventeenth century, that the time of the early printers was "not yet." The English books are mostly of the seventeenth century; but we have a Bible of 1540, Erasmus's New Testament of 1549, King Henry VIII's. *Necessary Doctrine*, 1553, Turner's (Dodonæus) *Herbal*: Coln 1568, Fabricius' *Chronicle*, 1542, and a very few other late sixteenth-century productions.

But the chief interest of this catalogue centres in the manuscripts, of which there are descriptions of five English, six Latin, six French, seven Italian, and three Persian. The most remarkable of these are: "*The Works of Sir Geoffry Chaucer*, curiously writ upon vellum and gilded, very ancient"; and "*P. Terentii Afri Comædiæ Sex, pulcherrimæ Scriptæ in pergamena cum Cottalis MSS.*"

In the writer's copy of this catalogue occurs another list of 107 MSS., printed upon 4 pp. 8vo, but whether sold by auction with the rest he is unable to discover. The list is headed: "Bibliotheca Manuscripta Lauderdaliana, sive Catalogus Librorum Manuscriptorum in quo reperiuntur Varii Authores Historiæ Anglicanæ et Scotiæ, et alii variis linguis facultatibusque insig. nondum impressi a Bibliotheca Ducis Lauderdaliæ." From this list we select those which appear of most interest. "*Wickleef's Sermon upon the Evangelists, Epistles and Psalms*, on vellum, in very old English; *Homilies on the Gospels*,

in Old English, upon vellum ; *Biblia Sacra S. Hieronymi* in pergamena, 1312 ; " *Chronicle of Scotland*, ancient MS. upon paper, large folio " ; " *Chronicle of Scotland*, written upon paper by Tho. Forman (Fordun) in Scotch " ; " Hector Boethius his *History of Scotland*, in Scotch, upon paper " ; " *Ancient Laws of Scotland*, upon paper " ; " Several Poems written by R. Maitland and others " ; *Legends of the Saints*, in Old English verse, on vellum ; " *History or Chronicle of England* in Old English Verse from W. the Conqueror unto the latter end of King Henry the 8. upon paper ; Lib. IV. *Evangelistarum*, in pergamena, An 1016 ante Conquest. hujus Angliæ, cum imaginibus Evangelistis ; " *Officium B. Virginis Mariæ*, pulcherrime conscriptum in pergamena cum characteribus magnis deauratis, et imaginibus curiosis depictis " ; " *Liturgia Latinè*, pulcherrime in pergamena conscripta cum figuris curiosis depictis " ; " *Livre de Chace*, que fist le Conte de Foix, finely written on vellum " ; " A MS. of *Old English Poetry*, containing 'The Complaint of God,' 'the Mirrour of Mankind,' 'the Seal of Mercy,' 'the 9 Lessons dirige that is eclipsed Petty,' and several other treatises on vellum." These manuscripts, or some of them, would probably be now found dispersed in various libraries.

Of the later catalogue of Walford, of which mention is made above, and on the

title of which Lord Maitland's prints are advertised, little more need be said except that no name of owner is given either on the title or in the preface. It has 130 pp., numbering over 5000 lots, the contents being of the same kind as in the previous one. It contains in the English Part *The Tavernier Bible* of 1535, *Edward VI. Common Prayer*, 1549, some Books of Coverdale, Cranmer, Bonner, Gardiner, Higden's *Polychronicon*, a second folio Shakespeare, the Works of Ben Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher; the first edition of Florio's *Montaigne*, and a large number of American and other pamphlets.

On Monday, January 21st, 1688-9, was sold "at the Three Half-Moons amongst the Linen Drapers in St. Paul's Churchyard." a collection of English and Latin Books of Divinity, History, Physick, Law, Travels, volumes of Tracts, etc. This is an anonymous catalogue of 20 pp., with an "Appendix" of 8 pp., to be sold at the same place on Monday the 28th inst. The whole contains 1400 lots, of the usual miscellaneous character.

On Wednesday, May 8th, 1689, John Bullord, the London bookseller of St. Paul's Churchyard, began the sale of a "Bibliotheca Selectissima Generosi Angliæ nuper defuncti." The sale was held at Sam's Coffee-House in Ave Maria Lane, beginning at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. This catalogue has two

Appendices of English books to be sold on Friday, May 24th, at the same place and time. It contains some old English books, since become exceedingly rare, and of great price. We have fortunately some contemporary prices in this catalogue, which it will be interesting to note. Sir Thomas More's Latin Works, 1566, 4s. 11d.; Holinshed's *Chronicles*, 1587, £1 16s. 0d.; Hall's *Chronicle*, 1550, 10s. 2d.; Dugdale's *Monasticon*, £3 10s. 9d.; William Salesbury's *Introduction to the British Tongue*, 1567, 1s.; *Defence of Peace* printed by Robert in 1535; and *Treatise of the Donation of Constantine to Pope Sylvester*, printed by T. Godfray, n. d., 3s. 10d.: *The Ordinary of Christian Men*, printed by Wynken de Worde, 1506, 4s.; Bonner's *Profitable and Necessary Doctrine*, 1540, 3s. 2d.; *Homilies*, 1540, 2s. 6d.; *Determinations of the University of Italy and France that it is so unlawful for a man to marry his Brother's Wife that the Pope cannot dispense therewith*, n. d., 2s. 6d.; Bishop of Winchester's *Declaration in answer to George Joye*, 1546, 11d.; Bale's *Acts of the English Votaries*, 1550, 11d.; several treatises by John Knox and others 2s.; *The Primer in English for the Use of Salisbury*, 1558 1s. These prices clearly indicate the low estimation in which English books of the previous century were held at that period.

Between the date of the above catalogue



and December of the same year were held at least seven book auctions; but these were all evidently of the surplus stock of the booksellers, and are of no particular interest; but we may note that in a catalogue of December 2nd, 1689, was included a collection of *News-Letters* from 1638 to 1660, formed by Sir Bulstrode Whitelock, in 32 volumes 4to.

On Monday, February 3rd, 1689-90, John Bullord sold books which included some from the libraries of pensioner Fagel and Stephen Le Moyne the learned critic, many of the latter being profusely annotated by Le Moyne himself. The catalogue consists chiefly of editions of the Greek and Latin classics by the Elzevirs, Aldi, Stephanus and other Continental printers. It has only 28 pp., comprising only about 1100 lots. The auction was held at Sam's Coffee-House in Ave Maria Lane.

A lapse of nearly a year now occurs between the last auction catalogue and the next one in possession of the writer. This latter consists of a catalogue of a general collection of books from the libraries of two learned Theologians and a Physician deceased. The auctioneer was John Bullord, and the sale was held at Tom's Coffee-House, on Ludgate Hill, on Monday, December 8th, 1690. The auctioneer in his preface deprecates "fulsome recommendations of poor Catalogues exposed to sale," and goes on to say that these latter

“have in a great measure defeated the honest design of those few that are fair and just. For the reader having been frequently imposed upon by such specious promise of Rareties and Curiosities, grows jealous of such vain representations and expects nothing the more in the Catalogue, for anything he finds in the advertisement to the Reader.” Besides the ordinary books, this catalogue contains the famous collection of tracts and pamphlets formed by the well-known secretary of state, John Rushworth. The Catalogue is only printed to page 68, and there is an advertisement on the back of the title to the effect that “the remaining part of this Catalogue from p. 68 near printed will be suddenly distributed—viz. the Libri Omissi, the English and Manuscripts.” This portion is not in the possession of the writer. Amongst other rarities occurring in this catalogue are the first edition of the first part of *Don Quixote*, Lisbon, 1605; the New Testament in Basque printed at La Rochelle in 1571; the Indian Bible of John Elict, Cambridge, 1685; Catechismi Edwardi Sexti, anno 1552.

The next catalogue we have introduces us to the sale of the stock of an unfortunate bookseller, who falling into difficulties had to dispose of it for the Benefit of his creditors. All the business connected with the sale is stated in the interesting preface. “I shall not,” says Benjamin Walford, the auctioneer, “entertain you with long Harangue in praise

of Auctions, nor of the excellency of the Books contained in the following Catalogue; they will both sufficiently recommend themselves to the promoters and lovers of learning; but to prevent any Scruple that may arise concerning the property or right of the Books now exposed to Sale. I thought fit to advertise you, that by an amicable Composition between Mr. Adiel Mill and his Creditors, all the Right that ever the said Mill had in this Affair or Stock of Books, is now wholly devolved upon Sir William Turner, Kt, and Alderman of the City of London, Mr. William Carbonell Merchant, and Mr. Robert Scott Bookseller, assignees of the Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded against the said Mill; and this Sale is now made and held by the Direction and Appointment of the said Assignees, for the benefit of all the Creditors of the said Adiel Mill." The sale took place on February 9th, 1690-1, at the Bear in Ave-Maria Lane. The title introduces us to an established *French Bookseller*, who carried on business in the Strand, whose name was "Mons. Calloüe." The catalogue has 75 pp., comprising over 3000 lots, a respectable number, though showing that Mill was not to be compared with the larger booksellers such as Scott, Davis, and Pitt. The books are of the same general character as appear in most other catalogues of the period, consisting chiefly of what were at that time modern books, that is, books of the latter

part of the sixteenth and those of the seventeenth centuries up to the date of the catalogue.

We have now a hiatus in the series of catalogues, though several libraries were probably disposed of during the year 1691, as appear from advertisements of sales in the *London Gazette* of that date. Our next record is of a sale which took place on March 15th, 1692. It is Part 4 of the stock of Littlebury the bookseller. Of the three former parts of this stock we have unfortunately no record, but a fifth part of the same stock was sold on November 29th of the same year. The sales were held at Tom's Coffee-House near Ludgate, and the auctioneer was John Bullord, the bookseller. The fourth part consisted of foreign books, chiefly of the Greek and Latin writers; the fifth of "a Miscellaneous Collection of Books in diverse Languages and Sciences, whereof many were lately brought over from Italy." "The Books," says the auctioneer, "were in so good condition as does not often occur, both in respect to the paper and the binding of them." The two parts have only 1140 Nos. between them, and have no special interest attaching to them.

On Wednesday, November 9th, 1692, a sale of books was held at Oxford "in *Gratiam et commodum Celeberrimæ Academiæ Oxoniensis*," at "the Auction-House" near the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The

books are described on the title as "*Libri in Omne facultate insignium.*" The sale was held from 1 o'clock until 5 in the afternoon, and the auctioneer was probably John Howell the Oxford bookseller. The catalogue contained 2482 lots, and an appendix to it was sold at the same place on the 28th of the same month, which comprised 116 lots only. It was probably a bookseller's speculation, as no name of ownership is indicated. In the catalogue a Latin Bible of 1497 is described as being printed "in *litera primitiva,*" and it contained "A Choice MS. of the See of Worcester from its foundation to 1486."

On April 18th, 1692, Nathaniel Rolls began the sale of a "*Bibliotheca Ornatissima* ; or a Catalogue of excellent books as well Greek, Latin, etc., as English in all faculties, as also of divers extraordinary and Choice Manuscripts." Rolls' Preface to this Catalogue (which has no name of ownership), is deprecatory. He adopts the negative style in praising this collection, which was usual to the auctioneers of the period when the venture was a trade one, such as this. "Although," he says, "it has been customary to usher in undertakings of this nature with insignificant and tedious Communications which served only to tire the reader's Patience and stagger his belief, and may perhaps be expected now upon a Collection which may justly challenge the precedency of what has lately been presented to the World, yet being

resolved to proceed in quite contrary methods to what has been formerly used, and to manage the whole with that Candour and Sincerity as shall leave no room for exception. I shall not make use of that advantage which this Collection would afford me, only desire the ingenious and learned to be their own judges, not doubting that upon an impartial view they will find curiosities sufficient not only to invite them but to exert a generosity that may further encourage your Humble Servant N. Rolls." The catalogue contains 68 pages of books, comprising 3062 Nos., and 4 pages of MSS. of an ordinary character. The sale was held "at Wills' (late Rolls'), Coffee House over against the North Door of St. Paul's in St. Paul's Churchyard."

A curious anonymous catalogue was issued in 1692. It has no title, consisted of 4 leaves only, with a heading on the first page "*A Catalogue of Books in English, Latin, Greek, etc., in all volumes which will be Sold——*" (Here is left a blank space for place of sale and date), "where attendance will be given for about 10 days. There will be also sold other Valuable Books not herein mentioned." It is an alphabetical catalogue of authors printed in double columns, and contains about 300 lots not numbered. It was probably a bookseller's private venture.

On May 5th, 1696, John Howell, the Oxford bookseller, held a sale in the University city of a collection of books which included

the library of the Rev. George Ashwell, formerly fellow of Wadham College, "whose desire it was," says the auctioneer, "that it might meet with this method of Sale." The sale was held at the "Auction House" in Ship Lane by St. Michael's Church, from one in the afternoon until five. The catalogue contained 2917 lots of ordinary modern books of the period, including a Purchas's *Pilgrims* on large paper and some books of drollery.

On February 18th, 1698, was sold in London "the Mathematical and Physical parts of the famous Library of Sir Charles Scarborough, Kt., M.D., consisting of a Compleat Collection of Mathematical Books in all Languages, all curiously bound." Christopher Bateman was the auctioneer, and the sale was held at his warehouse at the Bible and Crown in Middle Row, Holborn. The catalogue contained 1097 lots, and included also some old Law Books, and a few works of the Early English Reformers.

On Wednesday, March 1st, 1698-9, John Bullord began the sale of the "Bibliotheca Andertoniana" in the city of Oxford. It was held at Bannister's House near Northgate. The catalogue contained 1322 lots, chiefly Theological and Miscellaneous, English and Foreign. On the title is the advertisement of the sale of Oxlad's stock, mentioned below.

On Wednesday, March 15th, 1698-9, we are again introduced to an Oxford auction,

namely of the stock of Oxlad the Oxford bookseller, advertised in Anderton's sale catalogue. It was held at Bannister's House near Northgate, and the auctioneer was Benj. Shirley, the London bookseller. The Catalogue contained Theology, Philology, History, Geography and Miscellaneous English and Foreign, and English Physick. It contained 2304 lots.

Again in Oxford in 1699-1700, on March 11th, was sold the library of the Rev. Robert Whitehall, Vice-Principal of New College. The sale was held in Mrs. Weaver's Dancing School, and the auctioneer was Benj. Shirley. The catalogue has 40 pages and 1707 lots. The contents are Theology and Miscellaneous English and Foreign, of the ordinary kind.

We now come to the last catalogue which has any connection with the period of which we write. It is that of the library of the Rev. Wm. Hopkins, præbendary of Worcester Cathedral. The sale was held in Oxford at the School of Dancing near Northgate. It is of interest only as containing more specimens of the presses of the Elzevirs and Stephans than usual. The catalogue comprised 2047 lots. The auctioneer was John Bullord, and the sale commenced on February 10th, 1700-1.







## CHAPTER IV.

DR. BERNARD'S LIBRARY, 1686.

**D**R. BERNARD'S library deserves separate treatment, both from its extent and representative character, and from the fact that in it we are introduced to a considerable number of the productions of Caxton and the other early English printers, indicating the growth of interest in the first productions of the English press.

It was one of the most extensive and perhaps the most interesting of the private libraries sold by auction in the seventeenth century. Dr. Francis Bernard was Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Strange to say, no reference is made by Oldys in his *Notes on Libraries*, edited by Mr. Thoms, to this remarkable man and indefatigable collector, though his library was equal both in quantity and quality to Richard Smith's, whose library was sold in 1682. Bernard's library has, however, formed matter for eulogy by Dr. Dibdin, and some notice

of it will be found in Clarke's *Repertorium*, as well as in Richard Gough's meagre list of seventeenth-century book-auctions.

The preface to the original catalogue gives interesting details of Dr. Bernard, and also throws a side-light on the characteristics of an enthusiastic book-collector of the period. We transcribe this extremely valuable preface in full.

“The Character of the Person whose Collection this was is so well known that there is no occasion to say much of him, nor to any man of Judgment that inspects the Catalogue of the Collection itself. Something, however, it becomes me to say of both, and this I think may with truth and modesty enough be said, that as few men knew Books, and that part of learning which is called ‘*Historia Literaria*’ better than himself, for there never yet appeared in England so choice and valuable a Catalogue to be thus disposed of as this before us, more especially of that sort of Books, which are out of the Common Course, which a man may make the business of his life to collect, and at last not be able to accomplish. A considerable part of them being so little known even to many of the learned buyers, that we have reason to apprehend this misfortune to attend the Sale, that there will not be competitors enough to raise them up to their just and real value. Certain it is this Library contains not a few

which never appeared in any auction here before ; nor indeed, as I have heard him say, for aught he knew, and he knew as well as any man living, in any printed Catalogue in the world. I could wish, for the benefit of the Sale, and for the instruction of those who know them not, that I were myself able to name them. But because there may, perhaps, be some who are not well acquainted with his character, and not much better with books, may wonder to see so many here that may seem scarcely worth preserving, let them take this for an excuse, that in all vast collections there will be always too many of this kind ; but let them beware that they do not despise all those which they do not know, and some too which they may fancy they do ; for let them know, that it was very seldom he bought any book without some particular reason. For if any man did, he certainly knew what we call the secret history of Learning so well, that if there were but one single passage in an Author, for which it was to be valued, it never escaped him. So that if he had but taken the trouble upon himself of setting down in the vacant leaf of many of the Books the reasons which he had to buy them, what they contained that was remarkable or worth knowing, and which was to be met with in no other author (on which sort of learning he was knowing to a miracle), it had become not only a very great advantage to the Sale,

but a singular piece of service to the future possessors, and perhaps to learning in general ; and this Omission, some of his particular friends were complaining of to him but very few days before his death, himself concurring in the complaint, but lamenting too, that it was now too late.

“ We must confess that being a person who collected his Books for use, and not for ostentation or ornament, he seemed no more solicitous about their dress than his own ; and therefore you’ll find that a gilt Back or a large Margin was very seldom any inducement to him to buy. It was sufficient that he had the Book. Though considering he was so unhappy as to want Heirs capable of making that use of them he had done, and that therefore they were to be dispersed after this manner, I have heard him condemn his own negligence in that particular, observing that the garniture of a Book was as apt to recommend it to a great part of our modern Collectors, (whose learning goes not beyond the Edition, the Title page, and the printer’s Name) as the intrinsic Value could. But that he himself was not a mere Nomenclator, and versed only in title pages, but had made that just and laudable use of his Books, which would become all those that set up for Collectors, I appeal to the Letterati of his acquaintance who conversed most frequently with him ; how full, how ready and how exact he was in answering any Question

that was proposed to him relating to learned men or their writings, making no Secret of anything that he knew, or anything that he had; being naturally one of the most communicative men living both of his Knowledge and of his Books. True it is, that having formerly suffered not a little by the easiness of his Temper, he grew towards the declension of his days a little more reserved and tenacious of the latter, especially towards a Sort of Men, whose fidelity in restoring, or officiousness in lending, he thought he had reason to suspect. Certain I am that if he had assumed that humour, which was mistaken for moroseness, earlier, we had not miss'd so many valuable Books, whose names only now remain in the Manuscript Catalogue; though it must at the same time be acknowledged that he had an infelicity of a worse nature, which contributed not a little to the incompleatness of the Catalogue as 'tis now presented. But although there are not all the Books which ought by right to have been here; yet this I affirm, that there is not any Book added, of which he was not possessed at the time of his Death. As for the Books of his own faculty, tho' it be not an entire Collection (for who could, or rather, who would, have one in Physick?) yet it may be said, that it is infinitely the best and the largest that ever yet appeared in these Islands; and from hence the Gentlemen of his own Profession

(I mean the learned part of them who are still of opinion that Books and reading may be of some use to them in the Art of Healing) may be supplied with almost everything necessary or useful in it. And give me leave to say this of him upon my own knowledge, that he never grudged his money in procuring, nor his time and labour in perusing, any Book which he thought could be any ways instructive to him; and having the felicity of a memory always faithful, always officious, which never forsook him, though attacked by frequent and severe sickness, and by the worst of diseases, old age, his desire of knowledge attended him to the last, and he pursued his Studies with equal vigour and application to the very extremity of his life.

“It may here be expected that some Apology should be made for the Errors and Imperfections of the Catalogue, but the reasons that occasioned them, not being to be given without some violation of Good Nature or Good Manners, we must only in general beg the learned and judicious Reader’s excuse, and by way of Compensation, assure him, that all imaginable Care shall be taken in the Sale, that nothing shall be offered him unbecoming a Gentleman and a Scholar.”

Dr. Bernard was therefore, as we see from this preface, possessed of all the characteristics which attend the enthusiastic and learned

book-lover in all ages and nations under the sun, combining a voracious appetite for collecting, with an immense desire for increase of knowledge. The picture of him, with his extraordinary memory "always faithful, always officious, which never forsook him," and in his extreme old age still desiring and acquiring knowledge, "pursuing his studies with equal vigour and application to the very extremity of life," would serve well for the "grand old man" of our time, one of the greatest of Englishmen, Mr. Gladstone.

The title of the catalogue describes the library as being "a large collection of the best Theological, Historical, Philological, Medicinal and Mathematical Authors in the Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Dutch and English Tongues." It is a thick post octavo, the first issued in this form, containing 450 pages, with an average of 30 lots to each page, representing the extraordinary number of 13,950 lots!!! —a library of some 50,000 volumes. This is a remarkable testimony to the vigour of the intellectual calibre of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as well as to the spread of varied learning, and the activity of the presses of the period. Out of the 450 pages, however, only 74 contain English books. Foreign Theology occupies 31 pp., Foreign Law 9 pp., Mathematics 26 pp., Medicine 125 pp., Philology, 151 pp., Italian, Spanish, and French, 34 pp. Considering the extent

of the catalogue, the small number of the productions of the fifteenth-century presses is remarkable. The writer's copy of this very interesting catalogue is fortunately priced by a contemporary hand, and we are therefore able to give authentic information as to the prices of second-hand books at that time. We begin, then, with what few specimens of the fifteenth-century presses appear in the catalogue, excluding the Caxtons until we come to the English portion.

Bracketed together appear first a *Fasciculus Temporum*, 1488, and *Lombardica Legenda Aurea*, 1486, which realised 2s. 6d. Then we come to the *Repertorium Morale* of *Berchorius*, 1499, 2s.; *Lactantius*, Venet. 1493, 3s. 10d.; *Acta Constantiensis Concilii*, 1499, 6d.; *Biblia Sacra Vulgata*, Venet. 1483, 2s. 6d.; *Interpretatio Hebraicorum Nominum Bibliæ*, Paris, 1473, 4d.; *Decreta cum Glossis*, Venet. 1477, 1s. 6d.; *Arrestum Parliamenti Tholosani in Casu Matrimoniali*, Paris, 1488, 4d.; *Modus legendi Abbreviaturas in utroque Jure*, 1493, and two others, 2s.; *Arati Phenomena*, Venet., Aldus, 1499, and four others, 16s. 6d.; *Eschuydi Astrologiæ. summa Anglicana*, 1489, 9s. 6d.; *Hermetis Centiloquium*, Venet. 1496, 5s.; *Isidori Hisp. Liber Etymologiarum*, Venet. 1483, and *Albohazen Haly de Judiciis Astro- rum*, *ib.*, 1485, 1s. 6d.; *Jo. Regiomontani Ephemerides Augustæ*, 1488, 1s.; *G. Bonati Tractatus Astronomiæ*, August. 1491 (no



bid); *Abdelazii de Judiciis Astrorum*, 1491, 1s. 8d.; *Abrahami Judæi de Nativitatibus*, Venet. 1485, and two others, 6d.; *Avicenna de Partibus*, 4 vols., Lugd. 1499, 8s. 6d.; *Chr. Barzizii Praxis Medicinæ*, Max Papiæ, 1494 (no bid); *Crescentius de Agricultura*, Lovan. 1473, 1s. 10d.; *G. Placentinus de Saliceto*, Venet. 1490, 1s. 2d.; *Arculani Practica*, Venet. 1497, 1s.; *Petrus de la Certata*, Chirurgia, Venet. 1492, 1s. 6d.; *Abumeron Avenzoar*, Venet. 1480, and two others, 14s. 6d.; *Alberti Magni de Animalibus*, Venet. 1495, and *Aristotelis de Natura Animalium*, *ib.* 1498, 1s. 8d.; *Almansoris Liber*, Ferrara, 1493, and *Lumen Apothecariorum*, Venet. 1496, 2s. 8d.; *P. de Crescentiis, Opus Ruralium*, Lovan. 1474, 1s. 6d.; *Vincentii (Berchorii), Opus Naturale*, Colon. 1494, 1s.; *Celsus*, Venet. 1497, and *Aulus Gellius, ib.*, 1496, £1 9s. 6d.; *Dioscorides*, Venet., Aldus, 1494; *Nicander, Theriaca, ib.*, 1499, and *Procli Sphæra, ib.*, £1 7s. 6d.; *Magnini Regimen Sanitatis*, Lovan., 1482, 1s.; *Ant. Zeni de Natura Humana*, Venet. 1498, 2s. 2d.; *B. de Gordonio, Liliium Medicinæ*, Venet. 1496, and *Ægidius de Cognoscendis Urinis, ib.*, 1494, 1s. 1d.; *Thomaso Bovio Melampigo contra C. Geli*, Venet. 1485, 6d.; *Mundini Anatomia*, Papill. 1478, 2s. 2d.; *Vales de Tharanta, Practica*, Lugd. 1490, 7d.; *Suidas, Lexicon Græcè*, Mediol. 1498, £1 0s. 6d.; *Homeri Opera a B. Nerlio*, 2 vols., Florent. 1488, £1 12s.;

*Juvenal*, Venet. 1494, and *Seneca* of the same date, £1 1s.; *Guarinus Veronensis, Vocabularius brevilogus*, Basil. 1482, 1s.; *Alb. de Eyb, Summa Oratorum*, etc., Rom. 1475, 10s. 6d.; *Tortelli Commentarium Grammaticorum Opus*, Vicent. 1479, 17s. 6d.; *Maii de Priscorum proprietate Verborum*, 1490, 19s. 6d.; *Dionysii Novarienses Comment. Linguae Latinæ*, 1488, £1 0s. 6d.; *Macrobius. Brixiaë*, 1485, and *Nonnus Marcellus*, Venet. 1498, £1 2s. 6d.; *Aristophanes*, Venet., Aldus, 1498, 13s.; *Juvenal, Tibullus, Catullus* and *Propertius*, Venet. 1488, £1 10s.; *Bartholomæus Anglicus De Proprietate Rerum*, August. 1491, 4s.; Another edition, Colon. 1481, 5s.; *Jacobi Magni Sophologium*, Paris, 1475, 1s. 6d.; *Vincentii (Berchorii) Speculum Historiale*, Colon. 1494, 3s. 8d.; *Politiani Opera*, Venet. Aldus, 1498, 17s.; *Theodori (Gazæ) Introductivæ Grammatices et de Mensibus Apollonii de Constructione*, and *Herodiani de Numeris, Græcè*, Venet. 1495, £1 0s. 6d.; *Brydenbach, Itinerarium Terræ Sanctæ*, first edition, Mogunt. 1486, 4s.; *Boetius de Consolatione*, 1498, 2s. 7d.; *Diogenes Laertius*, Venet. 1475, and two others, 16s.; *Papinus Statius*, Romæ, 1475, and another, £1 1s.; *Anselmi Opera*, Norimb. 1491, and two others, 1s. 6d.; *Terentius, Tarvisii*, 1477, £1 11s.; *Josephus Latinè*, Venet. 1481, 1s. 6d.; *Justinus*, Romæ, 1472, and another, 1s. 10d.; *Cicero ad Atticum*, Romæ, 1470, 3s. 3d.; *Chronicon*

*Nurembergense*, 1493, 7s. ; *Horatius*, 1498, 10s ; *Alexander Grammaticus* and *Æsop*, Venet. 1482, 6s. ; *Dialogus Creaturarum Moralizatus*, Goudæ, 1480, 3s. 6d. ; *Calderinus in Juvenalem*, Lugd. 1495, 1s. 5d. ; *Æneas Sylvius Epistolæ*, Lugd. 1497, 1s. 6d. ; *Ciceronis Officiorum libri*, Mogunt. 1466, £1 13s. ; *Æsopus Moralizatus*, Davent. 1496 ; and three others, 3s. 6d. ; *Sabellicus. Orationes*, Venet. 1490, 1s. 2d. ; *Tractatus de Lamiris et Pithonicis mulieribus*, Const. 1489, 1s. ; *Dialogus Creaturarum*, Antw. 1491, 1s. ; *Jo. Regiomontanus de Calendario*, 1476, 1s. 6d. ; *Vita et Processus Sancti Th. Becket, super Libertate Ecclesiastica*, Paris, 1495, 4s. 8d. ; *Alani Doctrinale*, Davent. 1492, and *Nigri Ars Epistolandi*, *ib.*, 1493, 6d. ; *Lombardica Historia*, 1488, 1s. 2d. ; *Ficinus de triplici Vita*, 1488, 1s. 10d. ; *Le Romant des Chevaliers de la Table Ronde*, par Gaultier, 2 vols., Rouen, 1488, 17s. ; *Plinio, Historia Naturale*, Venez. 1481, 5s. 2d. ; These are all the books printed before 1500 occurring in this catalogue.

But the chief interest connected with this vast collection of books of course centres in the number of Caxton's productions which are contained in it. One or two stray specimens of his press, which somehow wandered into previous catalogues, have already been noted, the largest number occurring in Sir K. Digby's sale. But in this library we are able to record no less than twenty-two

works of his, of which we here give the titles and prices realised: (1) *Bartholomæus (Glanville) De Proprietate Rerum*, in English, 1471, £1 2s.; (2) *Thensignements and Teachings of the Knight of the Tower*, 1483, 5s. 4d.; (3) *Cathon*, 1483, 3s.; (4) *Jason and the Golden Fleece*, n.d., 3s. 6d., (5) *Recueil of the Histories of Troy* (W. de Worde), 1502, 3s.; (6) *Golden Legend* (imperfect), n.d., 2s. 2d.; (7) *Chronicle of England*, n.d., 4s.; (8) *Doctrinal of Patience*, 1489; and (9) *Chastising of God's Children*, n.d., the two together, 5s.; (10) *Book of Chesse Moralized*, n.d., 1s. 6d.; (11) *History of Godfrey of Bulloigne*, 1481, 4s.; (12) *History of Troy*, 1500, 3s.; (13) *Sayings of the Philosophers*, n.d., 5s. 4d.; (14) *Hilton's Scale of Perfection*, 1494, 1s. 6d.; (15) *Chastising of God's Children*, 1494, 1s. 10d.; (16) *Higden's Polychronicon*, n.d., 4s.; (17) *Cicero of Old Age*, n.d., 4s. 2d.; (18) *The Golden Legend*, n.d., 8s.; (19) *History of Troy*, 1471, 3s.; (20) *Malorie's King Arthur*, 1485, 2s. 10d.; (21) *Lydgate's Troy Book* (imperfect), n.d., 1s. 8d.; (22) *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales* (imperfect), 1487, 4s. 2d.

The number of books and pamphlets relating to America, and relations of early voyages in this catalogue is also very remarkable, of which the following are worthy of note:—Smith's *History of New England, Virginia, etc.*, 1624, 4s. 2d.; Hakluyt's *Voyages*, 2 vols., 1598, 19s.; *Laws of the Massachusetts*

*Colony*, 1672, 13s. 6d.; Thomas Morton's *History of New England*, 1615, 8d.; *A Description of New France*, 1609, 10d.; *Orders and Constitutions for the Summer Islands* ("the still-vexed Bermoothes"), 1622, 1s. 6d.; Wood's *New England's Prospect*, 1635, and three others, 5s. 8d.; Pets' *New England's First Fruits*, 1643; Sheppard's *Clear Sunshine of the Gospel in New England*, 1648; Ward's *Sun-rising of the Gospel in New England*, 1647; Winslow's *Glorious Progress of the Gospel in New England*, 1649; Whitfield's *Light Appearing and Further Progress in New England*, 1651-2; *History of New England*, 1654; Lechford's *News from New England*, 1642; the nine rare works in one lot, 5s. 2d.; Cortez's *Conquest of the West Indies*, 1596; and Lopez' *Conquest of the East Indies*, 1582; the two together, 1s. 11d.; Hubbard's *Present State of New England*, 1677, 1s.; Whitbourne's *Discoverie of Newfoundland*, 1623; Wood's *New England's Prospect*; F. de Quiros' *Terra Australis*, 1617; Schouten's *Voyage*, 1619; Smith's *Voyages and Discoveries in Virginia*, 1624; *Proceedings of the English Colony in Virginia*, 1606 to 1612; the six together, 4s. 2d.; Pigafetta's *Report on Congo*, 1597, 6d.; *Model of the Government of East New Jersey*, 1685, 1s. 8d.

Of English literature before 1600 the catalogue contains a fair sprinkling; but it is evident, from the extremely small sums realised for the various books, that they

were regarded at that period more as curiosities than, as at present, gems of English genius. We have already noted the low prices obtained for Caxtons, and proceed now to give prices of some of the most notable productions of other English presses. These prices exhibit a remarkable contrast between the position our sixteenth-century writers held in the literary world at that period and what they do in the present century. "*Life of Christ*, in an old black-letter, Winken de Word," n.d., 7s. 10d.; Holinshed's *Chronicles*, 1587, £1 10s. 6d.; Gower's *De Confessione Amantis*, 1554, 2s. 6d.; Batman on *Bartholomew de Proprietatis*, 1582, 1s. 6d.; Barclay's *Ship of Fools*, 1570, 1s. 10d.; Grafton's *Chronicle*, 1589, 6s. 10d.; Fabian's *Chronicle*, 1533, 4s. 10d.; *General and Rare Memorials pertaining to Navigation*, 1577, 7s. 4d.; Apuleius' *Golden Ass*, 1566, 4d.; Twyne's *Physick against Fortune*, 1579, 8d.; Matt. Sutcliffe's *Laws of Arms*, 1593, 4d.; Lavater, *Of Ghosts and Spirits Walking by Night*, 1596, 10d.; France's *Lover's Logick*, 1588, 4d.; Rich. Mulcaster *On the English Tongue*, 1582; *Proclamation of the States General for Spanish Goods to be Prize*, 1599; *Exhortation to Resist the King of Castile*, 1598; John Dee's *Monas Hieroglyphica*, 1568; Prince of Orange's *Apology against the King of Spain's Edict*, 1581; Richard of Bury's *Philobiblon*, 1599: the six works together, 2s. 10d.; *Gentlemen's Academy in Hawking, Hunting,*

*and Armory*, 1595, 1s. ; *Hardyng's Chronicle*, 1545, 3s. 6d. ; *Lydgate's Book in Honour and Praise of the Virgin Mary*, 1531, 1s. 7d. ; *King James, his Poetical Exercises at Vacant Hours*, Edin. 1591, 5d. ; *Second Book of the Battles fought in our Age*, 1587 ; and *Las Casas' Cruelties of the Spaniards in the Indies*, 1583, 1s. ; *Art of English Poesie* (Puttenham's), 1589, 10d. ; *Clark's Tryal of Bastardie*, 1534, 1s. 6d. ; *Powell's History of Wales*, 1584, 1s. 5d. ; *The Ship of Fools in this World*, printed by Wynkyn de Worde, 1517, 1s. ; *Hitchcock's New Yeares Gift for England*, 1580, 4d. ; *The Kalendar of the New Legend of England*, etc., 1517, 2s. 11d. ; *Tusser's Husbandry*, 1590, 4d. ; *Rainold's Overthrow of Stage Plays*, 1599, 4d. ; *Frobisher's Voyages to Carthage*, 1578, 2s. ; *Bishop Fisher On the Penitential Psalms*, Wynkyn de Worde, 1509, 4d. ; *King James Essays of an Apprentice in the Divine Art of Poetry*, Edin., 1585, 4d. ; *Ascham's Toxophilus*, 1589, and six others, 6d. ; *Robinson's Order of the Round Table*, 1583, 4d. ; *Blande's Bait for Mœmus*, 1589, 6d. ; *Painter's Second Tome of the Palace of Pleasure*, 1567, 4d. ; *Stubbes' Anatomie of Abuses*, 1585, 8d. ; *Cox On Magical Sciences*, 1560 ; *Letter concerning a Maid within the City of Chester with a Horrible Kind of Torture and Sickness*, 1564 ; *Examination of J. Walsh concerning Witchcraft and Sorcery*, 1566 ; *Disclosing of a late counterfeited Possession by the Devil in two*

*Maidens within the City of London*, n.d. ; *Dialogue of Witches in foretime, named Lot-tellers*, 1575 ; *Terrible and Strange Wonder that hapned in the Church of Bungay*, 1577 ; *Detection of Three Witches*, 1579 ; *Apprehension of Certain Witches*, 1582 ; *Life and Death of one Stubbe Peeter, a Sorcerer*, 1590 ; and Jo. Darrell's *Apology proving the Possession of W. Summers*, 1599 : the ten exceedingly rare pieces together, 4s. 6d. ; *Poems with the Tragedy of Cleopatra*, 1594 ; *Venus and Adonis* (Shakespeare's), 1596 ; *Diana* (of H. Constable), 1596 ; *Cynthia, with Sonnets*, 1595 ; Griffin's *Fidessa*, 1596 ; *Diella, with the Love of Don Diego and Ginevra*, 1596 ; *The Poem of Poems*, 1596 ; and *The Tragedy of Sir Rich. Greenvile*, 1596 : the eight works in one lot, 1s. 5d. ; John Knox's *Appellation and Letter to the Regent*, Geneva, 1588, 4d. ; Queen Margaret of Navarre's *Godly Meditation of the Christian Soul*, 1548 ; *Supplication to King Henry VIII.*, 1544 ; Norton and Sackville's *Tragedy of Gorboduc*, 1565 ; and four others in one lot, 2s. ; Henry VIIIth's *Necessary Doctrine*, 1553 ; and three others, 3s. ; Tye's *Translation of the Acts*, 1553, 6d. ; Shakespeare's *Poems*, 1640, 1s. ; and so on.

The great bulk of the foreign books, being of a professional character, are not of sufficient interest to modern book-lovers to necessitate detailed mention ; and we need only say that the total sum realised for this vast collection was in round numbers £5000



—a sum which upon Prof. Masson's computation of the value of money at that period would now represent the substantial amount of £15,000. The highest sum realised for one book in this sale was £10 for a Bp. Walton's Polyglot Bible, and the lowest—the sum which most frequently occurs in the catalogue—4*d.*, for several interesting items which have already been referred to. As no sum occurs below 4*d.*, we may conclude that that was the lowest at which a bidding might be started, increasing by penny biddings up to a pound, and sixpenny ones after that sum had been reached.

The sale was held at Dr. Bernard's own house in Little Britain, and began on Tuesday, Oct. 4th, 1688. The auctioneer's name is not given, but it was probably Benjamin Walford the bookseller, whose name appears in the imprint of the title, as one of those from whom catalogues could be obtained, a sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* being charged for each. Below the conditions of sale, however, it is stated that "any gentlemen who cannot be present at the sale may direct their commissions to be left for Mr. Thomas Hargrave at Tom's Coffee House near Ludgate, and they shall be faithfully executed." This may mean that Hargrave conducted the sale; but as his name does not come into notice elsewhere as an auctioneer of the period, it is much more likely that a recognised auctioneer like Walford should sell the library.



## CHAPTER V.

### JOHN DUNTON'S IRISH BOOK AUCTIONS.

**J**OHN DUNTON ("Honest John"), that erratic, restless, rambling genius, Printer, Publisher, Bookseller, Auctioneer and Author, always, though with the most pacific and friendly intentions, getting into hot water with his fellow-tradesmen, although not the first to introduce book-auctions into Dublin, is the first of whose auctions there we have any account. He was a great sea traveller. He had, he himself tells us, "crossed the sea half a dozen times, visited America, and been four months together on the ocean." In 1686 we find him in Boston printing and publishing sermons and pamphlets by Cotton and Increase Mather and others, in the imprint of one of which he describes himself as "lately arrived from London." We do not know whether he held auctions of books there, but we know that he did in Holland and Belgium. Of his auction catalogues none are known to the writer, but his Dublin

auctions brought him into quarrelsome contact with another bookseller already residing there, one Patrick Campbell. This quarrel gave rise to an extraordinary production of 544 pp. 8vo, which he entitled "The Dublin Scuffle, being a Challenge sent by John Dunton Citizen of London to Patrick Campbell Bookseller in Dublin," 1699. Most of the book is occupied by Dunton's doings in Ireland, the visits he paid to different acquaintances, his rambles in country places, and a curious episode regarding a certain Dublin citizen's wife; but we shall only notice those portions which deal with his auctions. He arrived in Dublin on April 8th, 1698, but did nothing in the way of business until June 24th, on which date he drew up and published "An Account of the Three Auctions to be held in the City of Dublin, in a letter to the Wise, Learned and Studious Gentlemen in the Kingdom of Ireland, but more especially to those in the City of Dublin. Gentlemen, though the Summer be a time for rambling, and the Season of the Year invite all men abroad, that love to see foreign Countries, yet 'twas not this alone, but the good acceptance the way of Sale by Auction has met with from all lovers of books, that encouraged me to bring to this Kingdom of Ireland a General Collection of the most valuable pieces in Divinity, History, Philosophy, Law, Physick, Mathematicks, Horsemanship,

Merchandize, Limning, Military Discipline, Heraldry, Musick, Fortification, Fireworks, Husbandry, Gardening, Romances, Novels, Poems, Plays, Bibles and School-Books, that have been printed in England since the dreadful Fire in London in 1666 to the present Time.

“In this General Collection of Books you'll find that many a good book has lain asleep, as not being known, and when a Book is not published, it cannot be nourished by the favourable acceptance of the World, I might instance in Mr. Turner's 'History of the Remarkable Providences, which have happened in this Age,' of which there is near a thousand disposed of in London, and scarce twenty of 'em sold in Ireland, though by viewing the contents of this Work (which are given gratis at Dick's Coffee-House in Skinner Row) 'twill evidently appear there is not a more useful book.

“Now Gentlemen, as Books are the best furniture in a house, so I see no reasons why others with myself should not think their variety the most excusable prodigality; and therefore as the good success Auctions have met with, with my natural love of travelling (as appears by my venture of this nature to New England, Holland, and other parts in the year 1686) put me upon this Undertaking, so I hope you will give it encouragement in some proportion to my great expense in purchasing and bringing

over so large a Collection; and indeed, Gentlemen, as this sale is designed for your profit, as well as my own, so it seems of right to challenge your protection, which if it receives, I shall not value what some little prejudiced people can do to discourage it. . . . Gentlemen, having said thus much of Auctions and the Collection of Books I have brought into this Kingdom, I would have no man displeas'd if he finds not all he expected in my first catalogue, for if he has patience his expectation will be fully answer'd; but the great variety of Books I have brought over have rendered it impossible to have them all bound time enough for my first Sale. I have therefore divided them into three Auctions, the first of which will begin July 7, 1698. There will be a distinct Catalogue for every Auction, and when printed (of which publick notice will be given) will be delivered gratis at Dick's Coffee-House (the place of Sale) and at the Coffee-Houses in Limerick, Cork, Kilkenny, Clonmel, Wexford, Galway and other places, so that those that live at a distance may send their commissions to their relations in Dublin, or to my friend Mr. Richard Wilde, and they shall have their orders faithfully executed, for as this countrey is oblig'd to his universal knowledge in Books for the goodness of the Collection, so to his care and fidelity is committed the charge of the whole undertaking."

Dunton then goes on to assure his intending patrons of the honesty with which he intends to conduct his sales, "thinking it unjust to advance the Rate upon them by any underhand Bidding."

But Dunton had hardly got fixed at Dick's Coffee-house, and issued the above advertisement of his auctions, when a quarrel arose between him and a rival bookseller, Patrick Campbell, who, apparently jealous of the encouragement being given by the literary men and the ministers of Dublin to his enterprise, compelled him to remove to other premises, by meanly offering double rent to the proprietor of the room which Dunton had engaged for his business. He appears, however, to have held his first (and perhaps his second) auction on Dick's premises. Of the second auction Dunton says little or nothing; but on his removal to Patt's Coffee-house he issued "An Account of my Third Auction in Dublin, to be held at Patt's Coffee-House, over against St. Michael's Church in High St., on Monday, November 7th, 1698, with my reasons for removing thither." In this advertisement he sets out the causes for removal thus: "One Patrick Campbell, designing himself to keep an Auction of Books there, and thinking that the Room where Gentlemen had found such fair usage in my Auction would give a Reputation to his, takes it over my head, pressing Dick to the bargain by those moving Argu-

ments of a double price or going to another place, and easie Dick, finding that 'twas the law of Auctions, that he who bids most is the buyer, lets him have it without being so fair as to cry Ten Shillings once, ten shillings twice, either to myself or Mr. Wilde, to whom he promised the refusal." "Ten shillings" refers to the rent of the room, which was double the sum paid by Dunton. In this notice, we learn that this agent of Dunton's, Richard Wilde, was the first to introduce book auctions into the capital city of Ireland, and was, says Dunton, "the means of bringing Mr. Thornton's formerly, and mine now." Dunton in this notice gives us the interesting information that in this venture of his, he had brought "near Ten Tun" of books to Dublin, which he valued at £1500, "and £200 more could I approve of Setters" (*i.e.* men employed to enhance the biddings). Dunton finishes this advertisement with an expression of the hope that "the candid treatment the gentlemen buyers have found in my Two Auctions will invite them to visit my third. . . . You will find that I have yet divers good Books, as Doctor Barrow's Works, Josephus' History in English, Rawleigh, the best editions, Milton's Political Works, and many others. You will also find I have several excellent Law Books, such as the Irish Statutes in folio, and the Year Books of the best edition, etc. Also a collection of Scarce Pamphlets on most subjects; and

when my Catalogue of Manuscripts is published (it containing great variety of Curious Subjects never yet in print), I sha'n't doubt the company of ingenuous persons, but this being my last sale for the year 1698, and my time of Imbarkation for London being very soon, I can allow but two days after the Auction is ended, for the taking away what you buy in it."

Dunton describes this sale as "such an Auction of New Books as never was sold in Ireland before," and finishes by pathetically appealing to buyers to "pay up" promptly for their purchases. Notwithstanding his differences with his opponent Campbell, and his removal to a rival coffee-house, Dunton's third auction seems to have met with a considerable amount of patronage. He declares his auction at Patt's "was crowded with generous buyers," and then announces that he has "proceeded so far in the disposing my whole venture as to come to what I call (the word Auction being worn threadbare) my farewell Sale."

He advertises this "farewell Sale" as follows:—"Though my three Auctions are now ended I have yet variety of Books left, so I design to try your generous biddings a fourth time. The Sale shall begin the following Monday at three in the Afternoon at Patt's Coffee-House in High St., and shall end December the first, neither will I exceed that, resolving (God willing) to embark for London



December 5th. 'Tis true I have Books enough to continue the Sale much longer, but Native Countrey has Charms in it and I am very desirous to be at home. And therefore December 5th I shall bid you all farewell; for though when my fourth Sale is over, I shall still have quantities left, yet all that is then remaining I'll lump to the Booksellers of Dublin (to whom you must give higher rates, of which the Sale of the French Book of Martyrs is a late instance), or if we can't agree, the same ship that brought them hither, will be able to carry them back. The Conditions of this last Sale are that whatever is bought till Thursday night be all paid the following Fryday, and for what has been bought in my three past Auctions, 'tis expected they should be all fetcht away by Saturday the 26 instant." To this advertisement Dunton thought fit to append an "Attestation" as to his conduct of his Sales, signed by Richard Wilde, Heneage Price, George Larkin, and William Robinson.

It was to the following effect:—"That being all of us present at Mr. John Dunton's Three Auctions in Dublin, and having seen the management thereof every day, we do attest that as all was carried on and managed with the greatest candour and sincerity imaginable by Mr. Dunton, so the generality of those gentlemen that bought his books, have acknowledged in our hearing, that they had all the fair dealing they could desire; and

we can more particularly affirm, that Mr. Dunton's Demeanour during his whole Auctions, has been such as has given content to all the gentlemen there; for whereas in other auctions it is common to have Setters to raise the value of the books, in Mr. Dunton's Auctions we are sure there were none from the beginning to the end, Mr. Dunton having absolutely declared against it as not fair or honest."

Dunton's "positively last appearance" did not come to an end with his "farewell Sale." On December 12th, 1698, he issued a notice of his intention to have yet one more (but not in the "way of Auction"), which he called "The Packing Penny." He says: "Though my three Auctions and farewell Sale are now ended, yet I have quantities of Books left, which (for a Packing Penny) I'll sell at very reasonable rates (the Sale to begin Tuesday, December 13th, in the morning and to end the same evening). I shan't sell these remaining Books by way of Auction, but at such easie rates as shall be agreed upon between Mr. Wylde and the buyer." He then breaks off into a denunciation of those unjust people who, "considering I had no Setter in any of my four Sales were yet so unjust as to buy what they won't pay for," and what was worse, "maliciously and ignorantly discouraged those worthy gentlemen and clergymen that were disposed to furnish themselves with good Books" at his

auctions. This usage Dunton characterises as "unbecoming anything of a Christian, who by setting up as a banterer, contrary to Christianity spoils his neighbour's fair Market, making good what Solomon so long ago observed—'It is nought, it is nought saith the buyer, but when he is gone he boasteth.'" He then proceeds to threats of legal proceedings against his defamers, giving notice to the world "that as I act upon the fairest and justest bottom that can be in this last Sale; so I am resolved to vindicate my proceedings, and in order thereunto, if I can have but good proof, that either without doors, but more especially at my Sale, of any persons, that shall take the liberty to spoil my market, I am resolved to bring Actions of Damage against those persons that shall be guilty of such notorious actions."

Dunton's first auction in Ireland began July 7th, 1698. We cannot say how many days' sale he held in all his five auctions between that date and his departure for England at the end of December. He himself tells us, however, that during that period he disposed of books to the value of £1500. As to the books he sold, they consisted of the current literature of the period—that is, books printed since the Great Fire up to his own time, including some printed by himself. In the "Dublin Scuffle" he specifies many of the books he sold, and they are representative of all the best writers of his time in all

the branches of literature, including the plays of Shakespeare, Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, Dictionaries and Histories, Husbandry Books and Theology, and as he justly says, books of such a character that it "could not be thought the gentlemen of Ireland, who are owned to be very ingenious, would give £1500 for a parcel of Trash (as my venture was called by some selfish people)."

Dunton's venture appears, on the whole, to have commended itself to the reading public of Ireland, and he cites various testimonies from eminent Irishmen of his time, as to the beneficial effect of his sales. Thus Col. Butler, M.P. (of Ireland), to whom the "Dublin Scuffle" is dedicated, tells him that he had been, by his undertakings in book auctions a "great benefactor to the country," and a clergyman said that he had "done more service to Learning by his Auctions than any one single man that had come into Ireland these hundred years"; and the Bishop of Clogher (Dr. Clayton) testified to his "justice and fair dealing" in his auctions. But there were members of the bookselling fraternity of his day who, apparently jealous of his success, called his books "trash," and the auctioneer "a grand sharper." These he flagellates in several pages of quaint indignation, and says of one T. F. (Thomas Faulkner) that "Copy from Heaven would be a foolish paper to him, if

he were not the Bookseller." He says of another fellow-tradesman that "he struts like a Turkey-Cock at a red petticoat and is very saucy to every Book that he don't print himself." But he is very satisfied with the general verdict, and is desired "by some of the best quality" to make an annual auction of books in Ireland.

Dunton characteristically finishes his account of his Irish auctions by "A farewell to those that have bought what they won't pay for." "If you won't be just," says he, "I will persuade you to it, and to that purpose I have agreed in the lump with an honest Lawyer and Two Bailiffs, who will fear nothing in the just execution of their office . . . then pray be honest in a few days, that even Lawyers and bailiffs may be kind to ye. . . Neither do I serve the City of Dublin as you have served me, for of £400 odd I have expended in it I have Receipts from all I have dealt with to a very halfpenny." To those who had patronised his auctions (and paid for their purchases) he declares that, "if in my next ramble I meet with such men as you, men so refined from all mixture of our grosser elements, men so spiritualized before their time, I shall ramble to Scotland to good purpose and despise the Proverb of a Rolling Stone."

He concludes by giving "particular characters" of his patrons, who included the Bishop of Clogher, the Rev. John Jones,

Tutor in the University, Dr. John Stern of St. Nicholas, Dean Trench, Dean Sing, Archdeacon Handcock, Dr. Bolton, Dean Francis, Rev. Mr. Fisher, Chaplain to the Earl of Meath, Col. Butler, and other Members of the Irish House of Commons, and numerous private gentlemen.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF BOOK AUCTIONS IN ENGLAND  
IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY AS FAR AS KNOWN  
TO THE AUTHOR.

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONEER.
1676, Oct. 31...	Lazarus Seaman, D.D.	Warwick Lane	W. Cooper.
1676-7, Feb. 6	Rev. Thos. Kidner	Little Britain	W. Cooper.
1677-8, Feb. 18	Rev. Wm. Greenhill	Bread Street	Z. Bourne.
1678, Mar. 25	Thos. Manton, S.T.D.	King St., Covent Garden	W. Cooper.
1678, May 13...	Benj. Worsley, D.D.	Paternoster Row	{ J. Dunmore and R. Chiswell.
1678, Nov. 11	Jo. Godolphin, J.U.D. Owen Phillips, A.M.	S. Bartholomew's Close...	W. Cooper.
1678, Nov. 25	D. Gisbert Voetius	Bartholomew's Close	Moses Pitt.
1678, Dec. 2 ...	Brooke, Lord Warwick Rev. Gab. Sangar	Warwick Lane	Nath. Renew.
1678-9, Feb. 24	Moses Pitt, Bookseller	Petty Canons Hall	M. Pitt.
1679, June 2 ...	Stephen Watkins, Dr. Thos. Shirley, Rich. Chiswell, Bookseller	Paternoster Row	W. Cooper.
1679, Nov. 15	Sir Edw. Bysshe	Ivy Lane	Jo. Dunmore.

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONEER.
1680, Mar. 29	Jon. Edwin, Bookseller	Warwick Lane	E. Millington.
1680, April 19	Sir Kenelm Digby	Paternoster Row	Anonymous.
1680, Oct. 4	Stephen Charnock, D.D.	Cornhill	Anonymous.
1680, Oct. 8	Thomas Watson, D.D.	Cornhill	Anonymous.
1680, Nov. 22	Abel Roper, Bookseller	Pope's Head Alley	Anonymous.
1680, Nov. 29	Dr. H. Stubb, Dr Dil- lingham, Dr. Thos. Vincent, Dr. Canton, and John Duntton	...	T. Parkhurst.
1680-1, Feb. 14	Edward Palmer, Esq.	Kirby St., Hatton Garden	Anonymous.
1680-1, Feb. 21	Dr. Thos. Jessop	Warwick Lane	E. Millington.
1680-1, Mar. 21	Dr. Thos. Castell	Little Britain	W. Cooper.
1681, May 30...	Dr. Samuel Brooke	Warwick Lane	E. Millington.
	Dr. Geo. Lawson, Dr. Geo. Fawler, Dr. Owen Stockdon, and Dr. Thos. Brooks...	...	...
1681, June 6	Peter Cardonell	Little Britain	W. Cooper.
1681, July 4	Rev. Thos. Lloyd	Ivy Lane	J. Dunmore.
1681, Oct. 24...	Nathaniel Paget, M.D.	Little Britain	W. Cooper.
1681, Nov. 7	Radulph Button, S.T.P. Thankfull Owen, S.T.P.	Ivy Lane	E. Millington.
1681, Dec. 5	Rev. D. Wm. Hoel Henry Parker of Gray's Inn	Ivy Lane	E. Millington.



1681, Dec. 5 ...	Chr. Wilkinson ...	Warwick Lane ...	Wm. Cooper.
1681, Dec. 12...	Th. Dring, Bookseller Rev. Canon Wm. Out- ram ...		
1681-2, Feb. 23	Dr. Thomas Gataker		
1682, May 15...	Robert Croke, Esq. ...	S. Bartholomew's Close...	R. Chiswell.
1682, June 19...	Richard Smyth, Esq. ...	Little Britain ...	Wm Cooper.
1682, Nov. 30	Walter Rea, Esq. ...		
	John Parsons, Middle Temple ...	Ave Maria Lane ...	E. Millington.
1682, Dec. 4 ...	John Humphry of Rowell, Co. Northants, and others ...	Exchange Alley, Cornhill	Wm. Cooper.
1682-3, Feb. 12	John Arthur and others ...	Ave Maria Lane ...	E. Millington.
1683, April 2 ...	Sam. Wilson, a Scot ...		
1683, April 23	Rev. Dr. Whateley of Banbury ...	Pope's Head Alley ...	E. Millington.
	Simon Rutland, M.D. }		
1683, April 30	Brian Walton Bp. of Chester	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	Sam. Carr.
1683, June 21	Rev. Dan. Rogers of Haversham, Bucks }	Exchange Alley ...	Cooper and Mil- lington.
1683, July 22 ...	John Collins, Esq. of Gray's Inn ...	Flying Horse Court, Fleet St. ...	E. Millington.
1683, Nov. 16	Rev. Chas. Adams of Chelmsford, ...	Black Boy, Chelmsford	Anonymous.

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONER.
1683, Dec. 3 ...	Dr. John Lloyd of North Minms, Herts. ... } Justice Thos. Raymond, etc. ... } ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1683-4, Mar. 20	Gaspar Gunter, M.D. ... }	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1683-4 Mar. 24	Rev. Rich. Chase, T.B., Ch. Bathurst, M.D. ... }	Little Britain ...	W. Cooper.
1684, May 2 ...	Geo. Tonstall, M.D. Matth. Smallwood, Dean of Lichfield ... }	Gresham College, Bishopsgate ...	Anonymous.
1684, May 26...	Dr. John Owen ... Dean of Christ Church, Oxon. ... }	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1684, June 16...	Fr. Kendon, Bookseller ... }		
1684. Aug. 8 ...	John Gellibrand and Thos. Simmons ... }	Tunbridge Wells ...	E. Millington?
1684, Sept. 8 ...	Anonymous, Bibliotheca Sturbitchiana ... }	Stourbridge Fair ...	E. Millington.
1684, Nov. 3 ...	Sir John Moor, Master of Ordnance ... }	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1684, Nov. 17	Rev. Doct. Thomas Lye Thos. Jennings ... }	Pope's Head Alley ...	Anonymous.
1684, Dec. 16...	Benj. Broeckhuysen, M.D. and others ... }	Little Britain ...	W. Cooper.

1684-5 Feb. 16	Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1685, April 28	Dr. Rich. Lee of Kings Hatfield, Herts, ...	Hatfield ...	Anonymous.
1685, May 25	Rev. Doct. Ambrose Atfield	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1685, Sept. 8 ...	Anonymous, Bibliotheca Stubrigensis ...	Stourbridge Falr ...	E. Millington.
1685, Oct. 19 ...	Thos. Parkhurst, Bookseller	Pope's Head Alley ...	Anonymous.
1685, Nov. 10	Bibliotheca Nobilis Angli...	Pope's Head Alley ...	E. Millington.
1685, Nov. 18	Peter Hushar, City Merchant	Boar's Head, Cornhill ...	E. Millington.
1685, Nov. 26	Rich. Davis, Oxford Bookseller (quire stock) ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1685, Nov. 30	Moses Pitt, Bookseller ...	Petty Canons Hall ...	Wm. Cooper.
1685, Dec. 1 ...	Rev. Dr. Stokes, and others	Little Britain ...	E. Millington.
1685, Dec. 10...	Moses Pitt's Bibles ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1685-6, Feb. 8	Rich. Chiswell, Bookseller	Pope's Head Alley ...	E. Millington.
1685-6, Feb. 18	Catalogue of Law Books ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1685-6, Feb. 25	Catalogue of Law Books } ( $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet) ...	Lyon's Coffee House, Doctor's Commons ...	Anonymous.
1686, Mar. 29	Rev. Obadiah Sedgwick ...	Trumpington, Camb. ...	E. Millington.
1686, April 12	Dr. Christ. Terne, F.R.S. Dr. Thos. Allen, F.S.S.	Ave Mary Lane ...	Cooper and Millington.
1686, April 19	Dr. Rob. Talbor Pyretiarus } Richard Davis, Oxford } Bookseller (Part 1) }	Oxford ...	

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONEER.
1686, May 5 ...	Bibliotheca Anglicana, ( $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet) ... ..	Trumpington, Camb. ...	
1686, May 17...	Wm. Whitwood ... ..		
1686, May 19...	Bibl. Baconiana, Fr. Bacon, ( $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet) ... ..		
1686, June 14...	John Bradford and Wm. Cooper, Booksellers ...		
1686, June 24...	Sir Richard Weston ... ..		
1686, June 30...	Edmund Castell, D.D. ...		
1686, July 13 ...	Catologus Librorum Medicorum ... ..	Cambridge ... ..	E. Millington.
1686, Aug. 30	Bibliotheca Medica (Anonymous) ... ..	Ave Mary Lane ... ..	Anonymous.
1686, Oct. 4 ...	Richard Davis, Oxford Bookseller (Part 2) ...	Oxford ... ..	Cooper and Millington.
1686, Oct. 25...	Arthur, Earl of Anglesey	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	Thos. Philipps?
1686-7, Feb. 14	Anonymous, (Viri Cujusdam literati) ... ..	Little Britain ... ..	W. Cooper.
1687, April 18	Anonymous, (Bibliotheca Selectissima) ... ..	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687, May 19...	Sir Wm. and Mr. Henry Coventry ... ..	Haymarket ... ..	W. Cooper,

1687, June 13...	Rev. Dr. Maynard of Mayfield and Sussex ...	Pope's Head Alley ...	E. Millington.
1687, June 20...	Sir Edw. Wray of Barling, Co. Linc. ...	Little Britain ...	W. Cooper.
1687, July 12 ...	Anonymous, (Bibliotheca Latino-Anglica) ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	E. Millington.
1687, Oct. 31...	Rev. Doct. Thomas Jacob	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687, Nov. 21	Wm. Cecil Lord Burghley and others ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	{ T. Bentley, and B. Walford.
1687, Nov. 21	Rev. Preb. Sill ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687-8, Jan. 19	Dr. Cornelius Callow ...	Little Britain ...	W. Cooper?
1687-8, Feb. 1	Books in Quires (to Booksellers only) ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687-8, Feb. 13	Monsieur Massaue of Montpelier ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	B. Walford.
1687-8, Mar. 12	Robert Scott, Bookseller ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687-8, Mar. 12	Anonymous (Citizen of London) ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	E. Millington.
1687-8, Mar. 13	Valuable Books, (Anonymous) (4 pp.) ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	Anonymous.
1688, April 2 ...	Anonymous, (4 pp.) ...	Paternoster Row ...	B. Walford.
1688, April 24	Rev. Rob. Wallis of Elsborough, Co. Bucks	Ave Mary Lane ...	B. Walford.
	Anonymous (Latin, French and English Books) ...		

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONEER.
1688, April 30	Anonymous, (English and Latin Books) ... ..	Paternoster Row ... ..	E. Millington.
1688, April 30	Anonymous, (Latin, French, and English) ... ..	Threadneedle Street ... ..	Anonymous.
1688, June 11...	Dr. Wm. Gulston, Bp. of Bristol ... ..	Ave Mary Lane ... ..	E. Millington.
1688 June 25 ...	Richard Davis, Oxford Bookseller (Part 3) ... ..	Oxford ... ..	Wm. Cooper.
1688, Sept. 17	Anonymous (Valuable and Scarce Books) ... ..	St. Paul's Churchyard ... ..	Anonymous.
1688, Oct. 30 ...	Maitland, Earl of Lauderdale ... ..	Ave Mary Lane ... ..	B. Walford.
1688-9, Jan. 2	Anonymous (English and Latin Books) ... ..	St. Paul's Churchyard ... ..	Anonymous.
1689, May 8 ...	Anonymous (Bibliotheca Selectissima) ... ..	Ave Mary Lane ... ..	John Bullord.
1689, Aug. 5 ...	Rev. Dr. Carter, Archdeacon of St. Albans ... ..	St. Albans ... ..	E. Millington.
1689, Aug. 21	Anonymous, (Catalogus Librorum) ... ..	Ave Mary Lane ... ..	Anonymous.
1689, Aug. 21	Anonymous, (Latin and English Books) ... ..	St. Paul's Churchyard ... ..	Anonymous.
1689, Sept. 9 ...	Anonymous, (English and Latin Books) ... ..	St. Paul's Churchyard ... ..	Anonymous.

1689, Sept. 23	Anonymous (Choice Books)	St. Edmondsbury Fair ...	E. Millington.
1689, Oct. 9 ...	Anonymous, (Bibliotheca Theologico-Miscellanea)	Ave Mary Lane ...	G. Ravenshaw,
1689, Oct. (?) 21	Anonymous, (Latin and English Books) ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	B. Walford.
1689, Oct. 28 ...	Maitland, Earl of Lauder- dale (Collectio Secunda)	Pope's Head Alley ...	Anonymous.
1689, Nov. 6 ...	Anonymous, (Books, and Books of Prints) ...	Pope's Head Alley ...	Anonymous.
1689, Dec. 2 ...	Anonymous (Considerable Books) ...	Norwich ...	E. Millington.
1689, Dec. 16...	Mrs. Oliver of Norwich ...	Ave Mary Lane ...	Jo. Bullord.
1689-90, Feb. 3	Caspar Fagel and Steph. Le Moyne ...	Ludgate Hill ...	Jo. Bullord.
1690, Dec. 8 ...	Anonymous, (Bibliotheca Generalis) ...	St. Paul's Churchyard	E. Millington.
1690-91, Feb. 2	Rev. Dr. Thos. Cudworth	Ave Mary Lane ...	Benj. Walford.
1690-1, Feb. 9	Adiel Mill, Bookseller ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	Nat. Rolls.
1692, April 18	Anonymous (Bibliotheca Ornatissima) ...	Abingdon ...	E. Millington.
1692, May 9 ...	Anonymous (Ancient and Modern English Books)	Ludgate Hill ...	Jo. Bullord.
1692, Mar. 15	Littlebury, (Bibliotheca Littleburiana, Part 4) ...	Oxford ..	John Howell.
1692, Nov. 9 ...	Anonymous, (Catalogus Librorum) ...		

DATE.	OWNER.	PLACE OF SALE.	AUCTIONER.
1692, Nov. 29	Littlebury, (Bibliotheca Littleburiana, Part 5) ...	Ludgate Hill ...	Jo. Bullord.
1693, Feb. 22...	Elias Ashmole ...	St. Paul's Churchyard ...	...
1696, May 5 ...	Rev. G. Ashwell ...	Oxford ...	John Howell.
1697, Oct. 25...	Dr. Edward Bernard, Savilian Professor ...	Oxford ...	E. Millington.
1697, Nov. 28	Dr. Michael Harding ...	Oxford ...	E. Millington.
1698, June 29...	Geo. Levinz, M.D. ...	Oxford ...	E. Millington.
1698, Oct. 4 ...	Francis Bernard, M.D. ...	Little Britain ...	Anonymous.
1698-9, Feb. 18	Sir Charles Scarborough ...	Middle Row, Holborn ...	G. Bateman.
1698-9, Mar. 1	Anderton, (Bibliotheca Andertoniana) ...	Oxford ...	Jo. Bullord.
1698-9, Mar. 15	Francis Oxlad, Oxford Bookseller ...	Oxford ...	Benj. Shirley.
1699-1700 Mar. 11	Rev. Rob. Whitehul ...	Oxford ...	Benj. Shirley.
1700-1. Feb. 10	Rev. Prebendary Wm. Hopkins ...	Oxford ...	Jo. Bullord.





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