

Rare Books

The Sermon That Told of America New Catalogues and Auctions Replies to Readers' Questions

In a bundle of fifteenth century pamphlets sold recently at Messrs. Hodgson's rooms, in London, a copy was found of one of the rarest items relating to the discovery of America. Its title contains little to show the real interest of the tract, and is as follows:

"Carvajal (Bern. de) Cardinal. Oratio super obedientia prestanda."

It is without name of printer or place of printing, and has no date of publication. It was undoubtedly printed by Stephen Planck, the printer of the Latin edition of the famous Columbus letter, at Rome, and must have been issued very soon after it was delivered, on June 19, 1493. Cardinal Carvajal was Ambassador from Spain to the Holy See, and it fell to his lot to present the obedience of the King and Queen, Ferdinand and Isabella, to the Pope, then reigning as Alexander VI. In the course of his remarks, after dilating on the work of the monarchs for the faith, he goes on to say:

"And Christ placed under their rule the Fortunate Islands, the fertility of which has been ascertained to be wonderful. And he has lately disclosed some other unknown ones toward the Indies which may be considered among the most precious things on earth; and it is believed that they will be gained over to Christ by the emissaries of the King."

The translation just quoted is by Henry Harrisse, who devoted considerable space to this oration. But after all his researches he was able to locate only about half a dozen copies. These are safely locked up in such collections as the British Museum (T. Grenville copy), Library of Congress (Peter Force copy), New York Public Library (J. Lenox copy), the Bibliothéque Nationale, Paris, and the library of the Duc d'Aumale. A copy appeared in a German bookseller's catalogue some fifteen or twenty years ago, for which he invited offers, but no further trace of this seems to exist, and apparently no copy has been sold by auction within recent times.

When it is recollected that the famous letter of Columbus announcing his discoveries was dated 3 Kal. May, 1493 (really April 29), and that it is certain that a longer time separated the writing and printing of that letter than would intervene between the delivery and printing of Carvajal's oration, it becomes doubtful whether more than a very few days intervened between the publication of the first printed document relating to America, the letter of Columbus, and the oration of Carvajal, in which that discovery was officially announced.

News of the Trade.

P. F. Madigan is reported as being at home very ill with grip.

Manager Houghton of the Franklin Book Shop, 125 East Fifty-ninth street, is rearranging the stock of his store. He announces that it is the intention to carry a stock of rarities.

There is some complaint from dealers that librarians in public libraries are in the habit of asking for lots of books on approval, the packages being detained an unreasonable time and then returned without orders.

A short time ago a librarian declared that "Many if not most books offered by second hand dealers are shopworn, soiled, have bindings broken or some other defect." Where he examined dealers' stocks that presented the condition he described he did not specify. As the stocks of most dealers are acquired mainly by the purchase of private lots in the auctions, often of whole libraries, the inference is that owners of books are lax in the care of them. That certainly is not true, and from an intimate knowledge of the larger part of the stocks in this and some other cities we assert that, in the main, those stocks are in good condition and are kept so.

Thackeray once went into a large London library asking for a book that would give him some information about Gen. Wolfe. The librarian sought to discover just what part of the career of the soldier he wanted to cover. The novelist said: "I don't want

to know about his battles; any history will tell me that. What I want is something that will tell me the color of the breeches he wore."

Many books are bought for their exquisite bindings whose contents are of little account. The great binders of the past can be found in a large number of collections in New York.

It is said that many of the famous collectors of the past have not been above purchasing some coveted volume that they had been unable to obtain, and that dealers never permitted them to go through their shops unattended.

Two Interesting Bibles.

Among the recent additions to the Daniel B. Dyer Museum at Topeka, Kan., is a cabinet of rare old books and literary curiosities. Resting side by side are two Bibles, one the first complete folio and royal quarto edition of the Bible printed in the United States in the year 1791 in Worcester, Mass., by Isaiah Thomas, and the other a copy of the smallest edition of the Holy Bible in the world. The little volume contains both the Old and New Testaments, and has 876 pages. The space occupied by the large volume beside it would hold 835 of the little ones.

The first complete edition of the *Book of Books* printed in English was by Miles Coverdale. It was produced in 1535, while the first complete translation into old English was by Wycliff in the year 1382.

Sales at Auction.

The Anderson Galleries on October 21-23 sold the collection formed by the late William Temple Emmet. As this was the first sale of the season and the offerings were especially appealing to the collector and dealer the attendance was large and the prices very fine. Adair's *American Indians* sold for \$24; Audubon's *Quadrupeds*, \$31; Lord Bacon's *History Natural and Experimental*, London, 1638, \$70; Blome's *Description of Jamaica*, London, 1672, \$82.50; Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Prometheus Bound*, London, 1833, \$86; Robert Browning's proof sheets of *La Sautsa*, with three A. L. S., \$165; same author's proof sheets of *Jocoseria* and one letter, \$250; the Kilmarnock Burns, \$410; first Edinburgh Burns, \$360; three A. L. S.'s of William Clark, the explorer, \$45, \$51 and \$42.50 respectively; a collection of the first editions of Cooper, 40 volumes, \$40; Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, third edition, London, 1719 22, \$36; Enciso's *Suma de Geographia*, Seville, 1519, \$560; Esquemeling's *Bucaniers*, London, 1684, \$35; Fox's *Northwest Fox*, London, 1635, \$52.50; *She Stoops to Conquer*, London, 1773, \$209; Parley's *Universal History*, Boston, 1837, \$50; Hennepin, London, 1695, \$125; Inlay and Filson, N. Y., 1793, \$25; Irving's *New York*, 1809, \$120; another copy, \$59; Henry James first editions, \$137.50; Joutel, London, 1714, \$72.50; La Fontaine, London, 1703, \$11; Lewis & Clarke, Philadelphia, 1814, \$37; Long's *Voyages*, London, 1791, \$48.

The Walpole Galleries sold October 25 a collection of modern authors, items on Long Island, art books and biography—336 lots—at very satisfactory prices. The attendance was large.

Catalogues Received.

From Galloway & Porter, Cambridge, England, a catalogue containing 943 titles. An unusual lot of books, such as are offered by few dealers on this side of the ocean.

From P. F. Madigan, Bulletin No. 85. Autograph letters, poems, &c. Included is a manuscript copy of John Burroughs's *Waiting*, with many other items that are of value to collectors.

Replies to Questions.

THE FOLLOWING note has been received: "Is a 'late impression' a copy? I found at auction once an engraved plate of a famous sea fight about 1812; a number of impressions were later taken from this plate, which was still in fine condition. Is it a reprint; or is it a copy? Some say, one impression and only one (plate destroyed) is the original. M. L."

Who can answer our correspondent? W. J. B., New Brighton, N. Y.—The book by Conyers Middleton has but little value; it might be of interest to the libraries of theological seminaries.

MRS. A. O. G., CARTERSVILLE, GA.—We regret that we are unable to use the material about the old work on penmanship.

J. A. M., WAPPINGERS FALLS, N. Y.—Cornelia Beare is a teacher of English literature in Wadleigh High School of this city, having entered into the service in 1908. She is the author of a number of books on the subject she teaches, all of which are published by T. J. McEvoy, 6 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, who can furnish any further information you may need.

THE REV. M. J. S., CHESHIRE, CONN.—Number one on your list is worth about \$3; number two about the same price; number three about \$2.

C. A. A., RICHMOND, VA.—None of the books on your list is of special value; about \$2 each would be a fair estimate. They are, as a whole, a class of books that appeal only to scholars and students.

J. L. E., WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—Regarding the quotation given for the Shakespeare, it is only necessary to say that the work in question was badly imperfect.

Harry A. Franck's "Working My Way Around the World"



In *Working My Way Around the World*, compiled by Lena M. Franck, we have primarily an abridgment of one of the famous travel books of the past—Harry A. Franck's *A Vagabond Journey Around the World*. Miss Franck, carefully going over her brother's book, has lifted the most significant, entertaining and instructive passages, retaining the style of the author and only rewriting enough of the original narrative to maintain the continuity of the story.

The book, interesting and highly entertaining, tells how Mr. Franck, just after leaving college, started out without money. He walked much of the way sometimes among people with whom he could only communicate by the sign language and never travelling a beaten path if he could possibly avoid it.

In an early stage of his journey he reached Germany. He found that he was an unwelcome visitor in the Fatherland. And he relates an example of German "efficiency."

He had boarded a train for Weimar and the car was soon filled with peasants and laborers until there was not room for one more. The train was about to move.

"A guard outside closed the heavy door with a bang, then gave a mighty shout of 'Vorsicht!' (Look out!). The station master on the platform raised a hunting horn to his lips and blew such a blast

as echoed through the ravines of all the country round. The lead guard drew his whistle and shrilly repeated the signal. The engineer whistled back. The guard whistled again; the driver gave forth another wild shriek to show that he was ready to start; the man on the platform whistled once more to cheer him on; a heroic squeal came from the cab in answer, and with a jerk that sent peasants, baskets, farm tools, lime pails and cabbages all in a struggling heap at the back of the car we were off. To celebrate the start the engineer shrieked again and gave a second yank lest some sure-footed person among us had by any chance kept his balance."

Mr. Franck's incorrigible instinct for telling the truth and his unerring selection of the most vivid and straightforward style kindles the reader's imagination. In this smaller sized volume his travel story remains as attractive to adult as to youthful readers. The illustrations, of which there are forty-six, are an important feature of the book. They are all from photographs. Mr. Franck is now and has been since the first months of America's entry in the war in France serving in the American army. He is a Second Lieutenant.

WORKING MY WAY AROUND THE WORLD. EDITED BY LENA M. FRANCK. The Century Company. \$1.35.

"The Master"

ONE of the very few genuinely interesting plays of the last theatrical season was the much discussed drama of Hermann Bahr, *The Master*. The practice of producing foreign works on the American stage to the exclusion of native plays is surely to be disparaged, but it would be a pity to go to the other extreme. For this reason we should welcome such first rate plays as *The Master* and Tolstoy's *The Man Who Was Dead*, misnamed *Redemption*.

"Adapted for the American stage" on the title page of the Bahr play is likely to disappoint, but it must be admitted that Benjamin F. Glazer has succeeded in transplanting the story and characters without destroying the illusion created by the dramatist. Still, why not give us Americans the benefit of the doubt and allow the names of the char-

acters and the locale to remain as they are?

The story of the play is surely too well known for us to repeat it.

Mr. Glazer's adaptation is on the whole creditable. The English is colloquial and easy; perhaps too much so; we miss the literary distinction of the original.

THE MASTER. BY HERMANN BAHR. Adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer. Nicholas L. Brown. \$1.

CASH FOR BOOKS
Highest prices paid for
BOOKS, AUTOGRAPHS,
PRINTS or other literary
properties. Cash down; prompt
removal.

Malkan's

New York's Largest Book Store
42 Broadway. Phone Broad 3900

Book Exchange

ALEXANDER M. BROWN, Inc.

OLD, Scarce and Choice BOOKS

"A Bookstore for Brokers"

5 Peckman St., N. Y. C.

Phone Cortlandt 3018

BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPHS. CATALOGUES POST FREE. EARLY PRINTED ITEMS. SETS OF STANDARD AUTHORS. 18TH CENTURY LITERATURE, FIRST EDITIONS, ETC. AUTOGRAPHS A SPECIALTY. THOUSANDS OF ITEMS. TRANSIT RISKS TAKEN BY ME. WRITE:—R. ATKINSON, 97 SUNDERLAND ROAD, FOREST HILL, LONDON, ENG.

HIGHEST PRICES AND CASH DOWN paid for books. We especially want the 11TH EDITION ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA. THOMAS & KRON, INC.

20 John St., N. Y. Phone 4825-4826 John

IMPORTANT TRAVEL, HISTORY, NEAR and Far East. Cat. F. 1230 Items, on request. K. C. MACMAHON, 78 W. 55th St.