

Beaumont and Fletcher's *Scornful Lady*, 1616, \$170;

*Cæsar and Pompey*, an anonymous play, printed about 1607, \$220;

Chapman's *Blinde Beggar of Alexandria*, 1598, \$370. This copy sold in the Perkins sale in 1889 for £8 14s.

Chapman's *Gentleman Usher*, 1606, \$180;

Fletcher's *Two Noble Kinsmen*, 1634, attributed to Shakespeare, \$155;

*Lilly's Woman in the Moone*, 1597, \$300.

Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters*, 1608, \$130;

Peele's *Battell of Alcazar*, 1594, \$200;

Preston's *Life of Cambises*, 1570, \$250;

Shakespeare's *Sir John Old Castle*, 1600, \$290;

Shakespeare's *Whole Contention betweene the Two Famous Houses, Lancaster and Yorke*, 1619, \$700.

A poor copy of the first folio, 1623, with eighteen leaves in facsimile, brought \$850, and a set of Shakespeare's *Works* in eight vols., an edition published by A. Donaldson in Edinburgh, 1771, brought the high price of \$888. This set formerly belonged to Robert Burns, and had his name on the title of Volume I. Without this signature the set would have brought little more than \$8.88.

The second Arnold sale took place at Bangs's on May 7 and 8. It was a successful sale, though, perhaps, not such a phenomenal one as Mr. Arnold's first sale in January. The collection included several books which are very rarely offered at auction. Mrs. Browning's first book, *The Battle of Marathon*, 1820, one of fifty copies printed, with the book-plate of S. M. Barrett, the author's uncle, brought \$425. The only other copy previously sold at auction was Mr. Foote's for \$330 in 1895. It was expected that this second sale would show a much greater increase. Robert Browning's first book, *Pauline*, 1833, of which only eleven copies are known to exist, brought \$700. This copy had been bought for Mr. Arnold at Southeby's last December for £120. These two books were both cheap, compared with prices paid for other books of no greater interest in recent sales. Among other Browning items were several presentation copies with inscriptions and a most interesting set of proof-sheets of the *Ring and the Book*. These four volumes were bound in two, and brought \$680.

A copy of Homer, translated by Chapman, containing notes by Coleridge and a long letter which he sent with the book to Wordsworth's sister-in-law, Miss Hutchinson, which cost Mr. Arnold \$100 and ten per cent. commission in the Frederickson sale in 1897, brought \$635.

A presentation copy of the first edition of Keats's *Poems*, 1817, with very interesting inscription in Keats's autograph, brought \$500. In this sale also was included a full set of the Kelmscott Press publications. One item was a single trial page of a proposed edition of Shakespeare's plays, and is one of two known copies; it brought \$625. A copy of the first edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, 1667, with the author's name on the title-page in large type, brought \$830. There are copies of the same date with the name in small type, and it is a matter of dispute which is absolutely the earlier, but the large type is certainly the rarer.

The copy was in the original sheep binding and in unusually fine condition.

Shelley's *Adonais* in the original blue-paper cover, uncut, brought \$510. Although a copy bound by Rivière sold in the French sale for \$130, the Arnold copy must be considered much the cheaper, even at its advanced price, on account of its being in the original condition as published, with the margins all full width. The type page of *Adonais* is an octavo, though the book was printed with wide margins and issued as a quarto. As Shelley's other books were issued as octavos, most copies of *Adonais* have been cut down to range with the other volumes.

Two privately printed plays of Tennyson's, the *Falcon*, 1879, and the *Promise of May*, 1882, brought \$410 and \$430 respectively. These were both issued in very limited numbers, probably for the use of the actors, and not more than ten or a dozen copies are known of either of them.

The book which showed the greatest percentage of advance above the original cost was probably No. 1 of the catalogue, *A Short Historical Sketch of the Art of Bookbinding*, by William Loring Andrews, one of fifty copies printed on Japan paper. Mr. Arnold bought this in a bookseller's shop three or four years ago for \$1.50; it brought \$44.

Mr. Arnold has in preparation itemised "Reports" of his two sales, telling when each item was bought, whether at auction or private sale, the cost and the selling price. These two volumes will contain a large number of facsimile productions not in the catalogues, and will be printed in black and red in a very limited number at the Marion Press. Dodd, Mead and Company will publish these two "Reports."

Luther S. Livingston.

## EASTERN LETTER.

NEW YORK, May 1, 1901.

Business during the month just passed showed considerable activity in a number of departments and proved to be one of the best so far in the present year. Fiction led in both sales and publications, and the additions in this field were many and attractive. *The Helmet of Navarre*, by Bertha Runkle, the publication of which in book form had been preceded by its appearance as a serial in *The Century*, was so sought for as to warrant the publishers in making a first edition of one hundred thousand copies. The continued sale of this first work by a previously unknown author is such as to indicate that it will take its place as one of the most prominent books of the year. Other novels of the month already much in demand are *The Octopus*, by Frank Norris; *Penelope's Irish Experiences*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin, and *Old Bowen's Legacy*, by E. A. Dix. In addition may be mentioned as selling readily *Lysbeth*, by H. Rider Haggard; *Every Inch a King*, by J. C. Sawyer, and *Arrows of the Almighty*, by Owen Johnson.

Included in the miscellaneous books of the month were a number on outdoor subjects, such as *Bird Portraits*, by E. Seton Thompson; *Everyday Birds*, by Bradford Torrey, and

*Seed Plants*, by J. M. Coulter and C. J. Chamberlain, and in this connection may also be noted an interesting little sketch entitled *Mr. Chupes and Miss Jenny: The Life Story of Two Robins*, by Effie Bingnell.

Biographies are numerous among the recent publications, and the new three-volume edition of the *Life of Phillips Brooks* is meeting with a good demand. Several works on religious subjects are also noticeable, *The Creed of Presbyterians*, by Egbert W. Smith, being among them.

Of the books published since the first of the year, *The Visits of Elizabeth*, *Graustark*, *Your Uncle Lew*, and *The Octopus* have come into the first class in point of sale, while of the older works still holding their own are *Eben Holden*, *Alice of Old Vincennes*, *To Have and to Hold*, and *Richard Yea-and-Nay*.

Among the announcements for early publication of titles likely to be in good demand *The Crisis*, by Winston Churchill, takes a leading place, and judging from advance orders bids fair to rival *Richard Carvel* in point of sale.

Library business continues to show much activity, the orders being both numerous and large. While fiction constitutes the greater part of most lists there is still a good demand for other classes of literature. Text-book business, on the other hand, is now practically over and will not again be prominent until the latter part of summer.

The trade outlook is encouraging, with much interest being manifested in the outcome of the efforts of the Publishers' Association to maintain prices.

The list of popular books for the month past is given below:

*The Helmet of Navarre*. By Bertha Runkle. \$1.50.

*Eben Holden*. By Irving Bacheller. \$1.50.

*Alice of Old Vincennes*. By M. Thompson. \$1.50.

*The Visits of Elizabeth*. By Elinor Glyn. \$1.50.

*To Have and to Hold*. By Mary Johnston. \$1.50.

*Richard Yea-and-Nay*. By Maurice Hewlett. \$1.50.

*Graustark: The Story of a Love Behind a Throne*. By G. B. McCutcheon. \$1.50.

*Your Uncle Lew*. By C. R. Sherlock. \$1.50.

*The Octopus*. By F. Norris. \$1.50.

*In the Palace of the King*. By F. Marion Crawford. \$1.50.

*Billy Baxter's Letters*. By W. J. Kountz, Jr. 75 cents.

*Truth Dexter*. By S. M. McCall. \$1.50.

*Like another Helen*. By George Horton. \$1.50.

*The Silver Skull*. By S. R. Crockett. \$1.50.

*Uncle Terry*. By C. C. Munn. \$1.50.

## WESTERN LETTER.

CHICAGO, May 1, 1901.

Business last month, it must be confessed, was not especially interesting, running, as it

did, pretty much along the same lines as it has followed since the present year opened. There was, of course, a falling off in volume as compared with the earlier months, but considered relatively, the month's record is not an unsatisfactory one. The demand was steady and even, and absorbed rather more in the way of staple miscellaneous stock than is usual at this time of the year. Fiction was as usual in heavy demand, last year's books especially being very prominent in sales, as compared with the books published since January.

*Eben Holden* and *Alice of Old Vincennes* still head the list of best selling books, although, like other popular favourites, the number sold per week decreases as the spring season wanes. With the exception of *Like Another Helen*, the spring books so far have not been strikingly successful in regard to numbers sold, although many of them are meeting with what can be termed fairly good sales. *The Helmet of Navarre*, which has just been received, promises an unusual sale, even in these days of phenomenal sales of popular books. The number of new publications received last month was unusually large, owing principally to the fact that the spring output was very late this year. In consequence of this, it is more than probable that the sales of many books will prove somewhat disappointing.

Business on the Pacific Coast, judging from the reports of travelling salesmen, who have just returned from that locality, appears to be in good condition. The trade there are showing liberality in their purchases of forthcoming books, and are also buying very freely the established popular favourites.

There appears to be every disposition on the part of the trade to give the plan adopted by the American Publishers' Association, which has just gone into operation, a fair trial. While it does not give entire satisfaction, especially in the matter of protecting fiction, yet it is recognised as a step in the right direction, and it is hoped that it will eventually place bookselling upon a common-sense basis.

The best selling books last month were:

*Alice of Old Vincennes*. By Maurice Thompson. \$1.50.

*Eben Holden*. By Irving Bacheller. \$1.50.

*Like Another Helen*. By George Horton. \$1.50.

*Graustark*. By George B. McCutcheon. \$1.50.

*Richard Yea-and-Nay*. By Maurice Hewlett. \$1.50.

*Garcilaso*. By J. Breckenridge Ellis. \$1.25.

*In the Palace of the King*. By F. Marion Crawford. \$1.50.

*Stringtown on the Pike*. By John Uri Lloyd. \$1.50.

*Your Uncle Lew*. By Charles R. Sherlock. \$1.50.

*The Chevalier de St. Denis*. By Alice Ilgenfritz Jones. \$1.25.

*The Inn of the Silver Moon*. By Herman Viele. \$1.25.

*The Octopus*. By Frank Norris. \$1.50.

*The Cardinal's Snuff Box*. By H. Harland. \$1.50.