

The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

AT THE ANDERSON GALLERIES

COLORED plate books of military uniforms, regimental histories, and original drawings, the property of C. F. Gaunt, Churchfield, Warwickshire, England; the modern library of Edmund S. Wendt of this city, and the library of the late Major William L. Wallace of Ashland, Ky., with additions, were sold on May 20 and 21, 657 lots bringing \$5,552.25. There was much interesting material for the general reader and the public library but little of outstanding rarity. A few of the more important lots and the prices realized were the following:

The Gentleman's Magazine of Fashions, Costumes and Regiments of the Army, 272 colored plates, 9 vols., 8vo, London, 1828-36. Of extreme rarity. \$60.

"Historic, Military and Naval Anecdotes of personal valor, bravery, and particular incidents which occurred to the armies of Great Britain and her allies in the late war terminating with the Battle of Waterloo," many brilliantly colored plates, 4to, London, 1819. Large uncut copy of this scarce work. \$50.

Jenkins (James). "The Naval Achievements of Great Britain from the year 1793 to 1817," colored plates, folio, London, 1817. \$97.50.

Rowlandson. "Loyal Volunteers of London and Environs, Infantry and Cavalry, in their respective uniforms," many brilliantly colored plates heightened with gold by Thomas Rowlandson, 4to, morocco, London, 1799. \$95.

Smith (Charles Hamilton). "Costumes of the Army of the British Empire, according to the last Regulations, 1814," colored plates by Stadler, folio, morocco, London, 1815. \$105.

Morris (William). "Collected Works," 24 vols., square 8vo, boards, linen backs, London, 1910-15. Limited definitive edition. \$47.

Wells (H. G.). A collection of first editions of his writings, 25 vols., 12mo, cloth, London and New York, 1896-1922. \$35.

Burns (Robert). "Works," edited by William Scott Douglas, 6 vols. extended by extra illustration to 12 vols., 8vo, levant extra, Edinburgh, 1877-79. \$80.

Selections from the libraries of Countess Pierre de Jumilhac of Bercy-le Sec, Aisne, France; Charles Smith of Tappan, N. Y.; the late Jonas D. Rice of Trenton, N. J., with additions, were sold in a single session May 19, the 395 lots bringing \$4,480.50. There were only a few lots of interest to the collector and these were not generally in the best of condition. On the whole, very fair prices were realized, considering the character and condition of the material. A few representative lots and the prices which they brought were the following:

Burk (John). "The History of Virginia from its first Settlement to the Present Day," 4 vols., 8vo, calf, Petersburg, 1804-16. First edition with the rare fourth volume. \$65.

Cooper (James Fennimore). "Novels," 32 vols., 8vo, cloth, New York, 1859-61. Clean set of the Townsend edition. \$42.50.

Elzevir Press. A collection of Elzevir imprints comprising 48 vols., 24mo, old calf, 1626-64. Many volumes contain William E. Burton's autograph. \$35.

Walton and Cotton. "The Complete Angler," 2 vols., royal 8vo, morocco, London, 1836. Good copy of Pickering's beautiful edition. \$67.50.

Wynkyn de Worde. "Peniteas cito libellus late nuncupatur tractans compendiose de penitentia et eius circumstantiisac vitam peccatis deprautam emendare cupientibus multum utilis et necessarius," small 4to, morocco, London, circa 1510. A fine copy of this rare and beautiful book of this early printer. \$70.

GIFT OF IRVING COLLECTION

MRS. ISAAC N. SELIGMAN, widow of the New York banker, has presented her late husband's collection of books, autograph letters, manuscripts, portraits and drawings of and relating to Washington Irving to the New York Public

Library as a memorial. The collection includes the original manuscript of "Bracebridge Hall," "Oliver Goldsmith," the notebook for "Knickerbocker's History of New York," the notes for the "Life of Washington," and several of the few extant chapters of that work in manuscript, together with a remarkable series of manuscript journals and diaries covering the period of 1804-42. A few of the additional noteworthy items in the collection, still rich in unpublished material, are a series of forty-two letters from Irving to his closest friend, Henry Brevoort; letters to numerous distinguished men of his day including Thomas Moore, John G. Lockhart, and Allan Cunningham, and presentation copies of his own works given by Irving to various members of his family, mainly first editions. There is also a series of drawings made by the author during a tour in Wales in 1815. As Irving was a native of this city and the first president of the Astor Library, now an important part of the New York Public Library, it seems very appropriate that the gift of this important collection should be made to the great public library of New York.

NOTE AND COMMENT

AT a sale at Henkel's in Philadelphia May 20, some Washington autograph letters brought very high prices. A letter written November 20, 1891, to David Stuart, one of the commissioners who negotiated the transfer of the District of Columbia to the United States Government, referring at length to the plans of the capitol, sold for \$3,200. A petty cash account book was bought by the Library of Congress for \$300. The manuscript of a humorous poem by Benjamin Franklin fetched \$525.

At Christie's, in London, May 20, an illuminated manuscript, an Italian missal, dated 1532, brought £2,100. It was formerly owned by Horace Walpole of Strawberry Hill, in the catalogue of which the history is given in part as follows: "This precious volume was executed expressly for Claude, Queen of France, wife of Francis I. . . . It was purchased by Horace Walpole from the collection of Dr. Mead." Dr. Richard Mead was a celebrated physician,

who was called to Queen Anne on her deathbed. On the accession of George II, he was appointed as the king's personal physician.

A. J. HOPPE, associate editor of *The Bookman's Journal* of London, is engaged in compiling a bibliography of the writings of Samuel Butler, and is said to have discovered particulars relating to some fifty-one first and rare editions. The bibliography will contain a series of hitherto unpublished letters, some of which are of bibliographical interest and will be reproduced in facsimile.

Points of View

(Continued from page 812)

The reviewer kindly tells the world that this is an example of "the scintillating play of Professor More's rapier" and also that it is "as accurate as it is refreshing." Now any zoologist, except a superannuated professor like me, would look very differently at this sentence. He would say confidently that it is plain and conclusive evidence that Professor More has never read Weissman's essay on the inheritance of mutilations. But I am old enough to have learned that there are many who can read as if not reading and perhaps our author is one of those. As to that I express no settled opinion. But if the sentence fairly represents the author, it is conclusive evidence that he does not have even the beginning of a competent understanding of Lamarck, Darwin, or Weissman, still less of the history of zoological thought in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

As to "scintillating play," I am ready to concede it as fully as the reviewer can ask. It is the scintillation by which ignorance seeks the applause of the ignorant. The method has succeeded in this case as it has so often before. Such is the working of nature, and it is in full accord with the doctrine (or dogma) of evolution. It is perhaps not inappropriate for me to say also that it is in full accord with reason and with scripture—*abyssus abyssum invocat*.

E. A. BIRGE.

Madison, Wisconsin.

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—from the Mandalay Edition of Kipling, Volume 26, page 232.)

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