sixteenth-century book-man, one of third-rate reputation-a semi-obscure specimen of vast erudition by prefer. ence-and the thing is done. This little trick secures that the volumes to which it is applied shall be brought up by the first book hunter that drops in. An old volume of any century, but the further back the better, is of much additional value if the fly-leaves-always numerous in very old books-be those originally bound up with the volume. There is a great demand for manuscript documents of all kinds dating back into the past; and there are plenty of men in London who can simulate the familiar style of any celebrity of any period and country during the last three hundred years. Nearly all the more celebrated wrote by secretary, merely signing themselves; so all that is wanted is to have the body of the document in fair sixteenth-century caligraphy. Signatures of that date, being for the most part large, formal, and rigid, are verv imitable. Old-book fly-leaves are often used for purposes much less innocent than deceiving a gatherer of varieties. They are the things on which to incribe forgeries intended to substantiate the claims of persons who pretend to belong to old families of rank and wealth. Such claims are often put forward out of sheer vanity by successful money-grabbers, but occasionally with a purpose more sinister.

The trade is annoyed by book-thieves of various sorts, only two of which require special notice. First stand the men who make a living among us by hunting out, volumes wanted to make a valuable but imperfect set, or to complete an order, and which we have no time to go in search of. Every day of the week finds every one of us in this perdicament, therefore such agents are indispensible. These useful fellows are slippery too. We have to keep our eyes on them while they remain in the shop. But still the chances are that they will 'do' us in some way or other. They always come in with a heap of books under one arm. as well as with a lot in a bag. These are volumes all of which they would have us understand have been ordered, but some of which we know well are intended for eachange in a way peculiar to these people. One of them, we will say, has got an order for an odd volume, and wishes to acquire it by a method more pleasing than purchase. He knows where it is to be found, on a shelf of easy access, and he knows its size and general appearance. So he procures a comparitavely worthless article of similar outside, and, being dexterous at such feats, he is pretty sure to substitute the one volume for the other before he takes his departure. We may surprise him in the act, or detect the exchange before e he quits the shop, and so we obtain our e own again; but that is all. The man is too servicable to be quarrelled with and the act when detected is commonly passed off with a jest and a laugh on both sides. "The other sort of book-thieves to which I have alluded are those halfdemented, well-to-do folk who seem to have no business in the world except to accumulate typographical rarities. They are of many kinds. Some 'go in' for rare books in general, and some for rare bindings in general; some make a particular printer or binder their hobby, and some set their hearts on a particular book. Then there are people who search out the books of certain eras, as all the French publications of the time of Francis I.; or one section of the literature of an era, as the political pamphlets of the reign of Anne. In fact, there is no end to the varieties of bibliomania. And it is a fact that an inveterate book-maniac, though the most respectable of men in all other respects, is sometimes unscrupulous and even knavish here. There is no trick to which he will not resort in order to possess himself of a coveted volume. He will wheedle you out of the treasure if you are at all easy-going; he will beg it, or borrow it, or buy is as the last resource. I have known a bibliomaniae purchase volumes which were not at all rare, and for which he had no earthly use, at a cost beyond that of the object of his desire, just to get an opportunity for putting the last in a sly way into one of his capacious pockets. Such gentlemen I do not care to watch closely; indeed, I would not offend one of them for the world. I can always tell when the furtive mood is upon them; and that same manner which carries them restlessly over the shop to bring them back fifty times to one favorite spot mostly indicates the article in danger. I wait until they disappear, when a glance at the shelf shows me what has been appropriated. Then I simply put the missing volume down on the bibliomaniac's bill, to have it paid for in due course. I am informed that a good many drapers do much the same thing with certain kleptomaniacal customers. In conclusion, let me observe I take good care never to make the smallest remark about such transactions; and so do the bibliomaniacs. -Harper's Weekly.



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THE WESLEYAN, FRIDAY, AUGUSI 15, 1879.

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