

brother of Reginald Heber, bishop of Calcutta. Possessed of wealth, he set no bounds to a passion, awakened in him in early youth, for curious and rare volumes and books in general. His aim was to amass a perfect library; and he thought nothing of starting at a moment's notice on a journey of hundreds of miles, to attend a sale where there was a chance of securing a book which he did not already possess. At Hodnet, the family home in Shropshire, usually associated with the memory of Reginald Heber, he had a collection for which he built a special receptacle. A house where he resided in Pimlico was filled from top to bottom with books. In York Street, Westminster, he had another house similarly furnished. In rooms on the High Street, Oxford, he had a library. In like manner, even in cities abroad—in Paris, at Antwerp, at Brussels, at Ghent—he possessed large collections. The titles of his books, when sold after his death in his 59th year, in 1834, filled five thick octavo volumes. In his English libraries there were 85,000 volumes; in his foreign, 42,000. They have been calculated to have cost him £100,000. In Dibdin's *Decameron*, or *Ten Days' Pleasant Discourse on Books*, the interlocutor named Atticus is understood to be Mr. Richard Heber. Atticus's apology for desiring three copies of the same book is as follows—it reveals a willingness to oblige friends: "Why, you see, sir," he says, "no man can comfortably do without three copies of a book. One he must have for a show copy, and he will probably keep it at his country-house; another he will require for his own use and reference; and unless he is inclined to part with this, which is very inconvenient, or risk the injury of his best copy, he must needs have a third at the service of his friends." Heber was the intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott and other distinguished literary contemporaries. In 1821 he was returned a member of Parliament for the University of Oxford. My first relic of Heber is a volume from one of his libraries. It is stamped inside, as were all his books, with the words *Bibliotheca Heberiana*. I value the work for this, of course; but also for its contents. It is a folio, printed at Utrecht (Trajecti ad Rhenum) by Gilbertus à Zyll, in 1671, and is entitled, *Monumenta Illustrium Virorum et Elogia*. It is stated on the engraved title-page to be *Editio nova, aucta Antiquis Monumentis in Agro Trajectini repertis*. The original work, we are informed in the preface, was by Sigifridus Rybischius, for which the plates were engraved by Tobias Fendtius. It contains numerous epitaphs of the classic and