

of the printed books in the British Museum from A.D. 1450 to the present time, say, the end of the year 1878, representing about 1,250,000 vols., and comprising between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 entries—*i.e.*, main titles and cross references (Ev. 170,176). He considered the work might be ready for printing, "in a rough and ready way," in two years (Ev. 197, &c.), and in less time if more force were employed, and that it would take five years to print. All the witnesses agreed that the printing of the British Museum Catalogue would be highly desirable, and the committee are of the same opinion. Mr. Bullen stated that the subject of printing a catalogue of the English books in the Museum down to the year 1640 was now practically before the trustees. (Ev. 142-146).

"3. The committee find that at three different periods the Catalogue of the Printed Books in the British Museum has been printed in whole or in part—in 1787, in folio; in 1813-19, in 8vo.; and again in 1841, when it did not proceed beyond the letter A. The committee are of opinion that the great size of the catalogue affords no argument against printing it.

"4 The committee recommend that, before the inquiry into the cost of printing the Universal Catalogue is carried further, it should be ascertained if the Government would entertain the idea of printing the Catalogue of the Printed Books in the British Museum down to the end of the year 1878 in the cheapest practical form suitable for use in all the public libraries at home, in our colonies, and abroad.

"5. To aid the inquiry, the Society has caused a specimen page to be prepared in what would probably be the cheapest form that could be adopted. A larger type would add greatly to the cost, necessarily large in any case. The catalogue is to be used like a dictionary, which is oftentimes printed in a type much less distinct than that which it is now proposed to employ. It is a work to be useful occasionally,