

A BOY'S BOOKS THEN AND NOW.—XII.

BY HENRY SCADDING, D.D., TORONTO.

(Continued from page 168.)

(DICTIONARIES), (3) *English: (b) "Minsheu."*

HERE is "Minsheu," a work often named, but seldom seen. It is a folio with an elaborate title, first in Latin and then in English. Inasmuch as it not only defines the English words, but gives their equivalents in other languages, its general heading is "Ductor in Linguas." The English version runs as follows:—"The Guide unto the Tongues, with their Agreement and Consent one with another, as also their Etymologies, that is, the Reasons and Derivations of all or the most part of words in these nine languages, viz:—1. English. 2. Low Dutch. 3. High Dutch. 4. French. 5. Italian. 6. Spanish. 7. Latine. 8. Greek. 9. Hebrew, etc.; which are so laid together for the help of memorie, that any one with ease and facilitie may not only remember foure, five, or more of these languages so laid together, but also by their Etymologies under the Name, know the Nature, Property, Condition, Effect, Matter, Forme, Fashion or End of things thereunder contained, differing from all other Dictionaries ever heretofore set forth; also the Exposition of the Termes of the Lawes of this Land drawn from their originall the Saxon and Norman Tongues, with the descriptions of the Magistracies, Offices and Officers, and Titles of Dignity noted with this  throughout the whole Booke. Item: there are added the Etymologies of proper names of the Bible, Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, etc., with the

Etymologies of Countries, Cities, Townes, Hilles, Rivers, Flouds, Promontories, Ports, Creekes, Islands, Seas, Men, Women, Gods, Peoples, and other things of note, which are marked with this mark, (†,) through the whole worke. By the Industrie, Studie, Labour, and at the charges of Iohn Minsheu, Published and Printed 22^o July, Anno 1625. The Second Edition, Cum gratia et privilegio Regiæ Majestatis, and are to be sold at Iohn Brownes shop, a bookseller in Little Britaine, without Aldersgate Street in London: (et venales extant Londini apud Iohannem Browne, Bibliopolam in Vico vocato Little Britaine." The Dedication is in the usual abject strain, and in Latin of course. It is addressed "to the most reverend prelate and his most honoured lord, John, by Divine providence Bishop of Lincoln and Keeper of the Great Seal of all England."

"According to the pleasure of God Supreme," he says, "ye who are raised to high place, are so raised that ye may aid those who are below you; an office as suited to your rank, as likely to yield consolation to many. However, it is not the hope of reward, but a reverential respect that brings me to dedicate to you this book. If it shall please your dignity to regard it favourably and to condone my audacity, this is the utmost of my aspirations." He adds that he has toiled at the perfecting of this second edition, because he is now old and deaf, and unfit for any other kind of employment. He then enumerates the