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The publication of a new music folio announced in last issue by Whaley, Royce & Co., has been unexpectedly delayed. The exact date of issue is not yet mentioned, but the publishers expect to make a definite announcement in a few days.

PROBABLY TOLD AFTER DINNER.

A rebuke has been given the publishing houses of the country for the poor quality of paper used, even in their most costly publications, at the meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club, held on January 1 by Gardner M. Jones, of the Salem Public Library. George Haven Putnam, of New York, was present, and in defence of his craft made the following strange explanation:

"I am exceedingly sorry to be obliged to admit the truth of the gentleman's statement, but I assure you all that it is a fact that none deprecate more than we of the publishing fraternity. And though it may seem to many well-nigh incredible, the reason for this lies in the decrease of religious fanaticism on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Myriads of pilgrims used to cross those dreary deserts on their way to Mecca. And these, every one, were clothed in flowing garments of finest white linen. Out of their number hundreds and thousands would die by the wayside, and it was at one time a most profitable business to strip these linen garments from the bodies and send them to the large paper factories of Europe. It was from this source that we obtained our best paper; but they no longer, in such large numbers, undertake these pilgrimages, hence not so many die by the wayside, and we are unable to furnish so high a quality of paper as formerly. You increase the number of pilgrimages, and we will raise the quality of our paper."

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