

A blank-book when first removed from the press is hard and unyielding. The first duty of the finisher is to "ease" and soften the back to allow it to open freely. He then makes and

**LETTERING
AND FINISHING**

puts on the titles and any other ornamentation that he may see fit. The upper title, in the second panel from the head, usually indicates the name or character of the book, and the lower one, in the fourth panel, the name or initials of the owner. Blank-books should have as little gold finishing as

possible, and the lettering should be brief and readable. An ornamental roll in black ink on a Calf binding, or in gold on a Russia binding, is usually run around the edge and a line or two put on the hubs and bands on the back.



Full Calf Binding with double
Russia Bands and Ends.

The loose canvas, basil or moleskin cover is added after the book is made. All well-bound books should be fitted with a loose cover in order to preserve the binding. The cost is comparatively trifling, and when the book is put away

for reference and the cover removed, the binding remains clean and perfect. In many cases the loose cover is intended to be permanent, and the titles are put on it rather than on the book within. These covers are often made with protecting leather bands and corners to give them strength and durability.

LOOSE COVERS

Inventive minds have been engaged for many years in trying to devise some process of sewing or binding that will permit blank-books to open perfectly flat. Several methods have been found