

GROTIUS SCRIPSIT.—Mr. Edward C. Strutt recently wrote to the *Athenæum* from Rome, informing it that he had the good fortune to pick up, amongst a lot of old literary trumpery at a book-stall, an autograph letter of the celebrated Hugo Grotius to Isaac Vossius. Feeling that such of our readers as have given any attention to the study of International Law will be glad to read this missive from the hand of him who may well be styled the founder of the science, we subjoin the letter in its original Latin. Mr. Strutt says that the writing is very small and cramped, and occupies but a little space of a large double sheet of paper, folded in the usual manner and sealed with red wax. It will be observed that Grotius refers to the famous feuds that were then in progress between the literati of the time, mentioning amongst the belligerents his friend Salmasius, with whom our own Milton was shortly after to wage Homeric conflict over the lawfulness of the execution of Charles I. Indeeu this epoch witnessed a veritable literary aceldama, where Titans did each other to death. It is pleasant to know that so great a jurist as Grotius was also reckoned as one of the acutest theologians and philosophers of his age. In common with Erasmus, he thought that the great schism of the sixteenth century might have been avoided if the dominant Church had reformed her own morals, and been lenient with diversities of opinion in matters which did not entrench upon the essentials of the primitive Christian faith. Critics of our own day rank him as one of the best modern writers of Latin verse; and his contemporary, Ménage, called him "a monster of erudition."

Here is Mr. Strutt's treasure-trove :

"CLARISSIME ET ERUDITISSIME DOMINE.—Gratias habeo pro parte ista libri de Americanis gentibus. Velim aliquis cui plus sit otii quam nunc est mihi meas coniecturas firmet aut adferat meliores. Certe quae Peruanis quum Sinensibus congruunt, plura sunt quam ut fortuito concursui tribuantur. Hoi liber multum hic legitur. Creditur in eo opere non Bezae tantum famam vindicasse, sed et gratificari voluisse D. Salmasio. Idem ille Hoius Petavium tractat indignis modis, is responsurum se negat ideo quod norit annua augeri ministris contra quos scribitur. Gernanes mire semper Heinsio favet. Quod Cloppenburgius mihi obicit idem obiectum Erasmo fuit. Parabola Evangelicae