

had suggested the subject to the writer. Writer do we say! There was scarcely any writing in it. Out of the four hundred and sixty pages, three hundred and ninety-two were scissored from newspaper reports of the interminable speeches of the illustrious deceased.

This was a ruinous system to publishers. Before the war came to disturb the course of trade, the shores were strewn with the wrecks of famous publishing houses, whose advertisements were known wherever newspapers were read. It was shown on the books of one of these establishments that, in the course of about seven years, the firm had published three hundred works, and sets of works, and that of this enormous number only about twenty-five had been fairly remunerative; while, for the three last years of the firm's existence, every enterprise had resulted in loss.

Thank heaven, this is all over! The high price of material and labor, and the ingenious variety of taxes with which books are burthened, together with the failure of most of the trash-publishing houses, has put a stop to the issue of newspaper cuttings in book form, while the vast circulation of the *Ledger* supplies the sensational story-reading public with as much fiction as it has stomach for, at the moderate charge of six cents a week, with poetry, biography, historical narrative, and essays thrown in.

There is a chance now that a book will once more be a *book*, and the business of publishing books more safe and legitimate. Of all the vocations of man, that of publishing miscellaneous works is, perhaps, the most difficult. Nor are its rewards as great as those of far easier trades. There is reason to hope, however, now that the business is in few hands, and those experienced, with heavy purses within reach, that the business will be at least a *business*, not a game of hazard. Publishers, we notice, are already turning their attention to the production of superior editions of standard works, and the "sensation" business is almost confined to dealers in twenty-five cent ware.

No one need fear that the high price of books will limit their circulation. If a less number of copies are bought, it does not follow that fewer people will read them. The time was when there was not a daily paper in England of a lower price than ten cents, but every man could have an hour's reading of the *Times* for two cents. The paper was left at the hour agreed upon, called for an hour later, and passed into another reader; and, at the close of the day, after having served half a dozen families in town, it was sent to the country, where it continued its course until it was read to pieces. A number of the *Edinburgh Review* costs in England six shillings sterling, but in almost every town and neighborhood there exists little clubs for taking the reviews and magazines in common, by which, for a few shillings per annum, a family has the reading of all the reviews and magazines. Circulating libraries of immense extent, are flourishing in all the great cities, which supply reading to the whole empire for one guinea a year to each subscriber.

In the United States we look to see a prodigious and immediate increase to the number of public libraries on the excellent, self-sustaining system devised by Franklin, and exemplified in the Mercantile Libraries of all our large cities. Next to a good system of common schools, the most valuable educating influences are well-conducted, self-supporting town and village libraries. No village of fifty families should be content to remain another year without one. The cost of one duodecimo volume, which is now two dollars, can secure to every family the reading of all the best new books for a year. Do not wait for a rich man to give a large sum of money to start your library. The most vigorous and useful institutions of every kind are those that are conducted on business principles by men of business—institutions that pay their way, collect their debts, and give a fair equivalent for what they receive—institutions that ask no favor and grant no favors.

The power of a vigorously conducted library is something immeasurable. Let there be a good library in every town in the United States, and every book that appears which has matter in it to interest the people, will reach the entire reading public within a year. The existence of such libraries, so far from being prejudicial to the book-trade, gives it both stability and expansion. Where there are most public libraries, there are most private libraries also. Where the taste for reading is most general, there are the most people who desire to possess books. The libraries themselves take a large number of copies—enough to secure the publisher against loss upon many books. In London, there is a library that has taken fifteen hundred copies of a five dollar book, and there is one in Boston which has sometimes bought as many as two hundred.

We regard the increased cost of books as a great good in many ways, and we hope never again to see the country deluged with printed trash that would be dear if it were given away. The future of the book-trade demands but two things: international copyright and universal public libraries. If, by-and-by materials and labor should again be so cheap as to tempt the issue of indigested and worthless publications, we hope that the improved taste of the public

and the increased intelligence and public spirit of publishers will conspire to forbid such enterprises.—*New York Weekly Review*.

7. MEDIEVAL BOOK-MAKING.

Even so early as the seventh century, it thus would seem that there were certain persons in the several monasteries who were generally employed as scribes. But it was not till two ages later that we find undoubted traces of regular book-manufactories in connection with the monasteries. Each considerable monastery, after the Norman invasion, had a Scriptorium attached to it, which was frequently separately endowed to enable those employed to procure parchment, paints, and the necessary implements for binding. That at Bury St. Edmund's was endowed with two mills. The tithes of a rectory were appropriated to the Convent of St. Swithin, Winchester, in 1171. In 1160, the churches were given to the monks of Ely, *ad libros faciendos*. Croyland was a great place for copying. The Scriptorium of St. Alban's was founded in 1080. Charlemagne gave to the monks of Swithin an unlimited right of hunting, that they might be supplied from the skins of the deer they slew with gloves, girdles, and bindings for their books. And now, let us suppose a work put in hands to be copied. Say ten copies are to be made. The work was carefully unbound, and a sheet delivered to each of the scribes. They made the required number of copies of that sheet, and then received another, and so on, until the work was finished. As soon as the writer had copied a sheet, he handed it over to the illuminators, who put in the initial letters, or any other ornaments the book might seem to require. When finished, the binders began upon the sheets; and thus the work went merrily on, and new books were thus circulated all over Western Christendom in an incredibly short time, considering the means employed. Sometimes we meet with men who were regular book-lovers; who delighted in the work of copying and illuminating, as so many amongst us do now. Thus, Henry, a monk of the Benedictine Abbey of Hyde, in 1178, copied Terence, Boethius, Suetonius, and Claudian. He formed them into one volume, illuminating the initials, and making even the brass bosses of the binding with his own hands. Benedict, Abbot of Peterborough, about the same time transcribed Seneca's Tragedies and Epistles, Terence, Martial, Claudian, the "Gesta Alexandri," and many scholastic and theological treatises with his own hand, evidently from love of the work. But let us see if we cannot find traces of the results of the labour of the monks. A great fire occurred at Croyland in 1091, when 700 volumes were consumed; of these, 300 are called *volumina originalia*, the other 400, *minora volumina*—whether as to their size or contents does not appear. At Glastonbury, in 1248—and it was the richest monastery in England—there were only 400 volumes; at Peterborough, there were, as before said, 1,700 MSS. at the time of the Dissolution. The University Library of Oxford, prior to 1300, consisted of a few works chained in the choir of St. Mary's Church, and a few tracts kept in chests. The library, in fact, might be said to be non-existent until Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in 1440, bestowed upon it 600 volumes. One of the greatest book-collectors of the middle-ages was Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham from 1333-45. His book, called "Philobiblon," is well-known. It is among the earliest of biblio-maniacal works, and shows how strongly he was bitten by that most reasonable of all hobbies. He had been tutor to Edward III. The king was greatly attached to him, and there is little doubt acquired from him much of the ability which distinguished him among contemporary monarchs.—*The Englishman's Magazine*.

V. Papers on Sunday Schools.

1. SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

A correspondent in the *S. S. World*, writes:—Having read with much interest several articles in the *World* upon Sunday-school Libraries, and having had much experience in the selection of books for Sabbath-schools, and noticed the effect of various kinds upon the children and adults, allow me to give your readers a little of my experience.

In the first place, I reject nearly all books that children and youth will not read. It is money thrown away to purchase such; for adults will seldom read those which the younger ones throw aside. Of this class, Memoirs, Biographies, Dissertations, &c., are almost wholly excluded. I find but an occasional good one. In the next place, I select all books of a religious character, which will interest, entertain, and instruct the reader. A book, which after perusal, has excited or appealed to the nobler nature of the soul, the deep, religious feeling and sentiment; which has the tendency to lead the reader to a purer thought, a more earnest purpose, a more decided resolve to do and live better, to work more earnestly in the good