

AN ELEGANT CABINET.

When, under the reign of Louis XVI. (towards 1780), the true principles of art began to prevail again, the degenerated and capricious forms of the preceding epoch, under the Régence and Louis XV., disappeared gradually to make room for straight forms of a purer character, suggested by the revival of classical art. Nowhere more than in cabinet work and furniture do we remark this new tendency: classical entablatures replace the contorted forms of the Rococo; caryatides, acanthus leaves, and enriched mouldings in ormolu, plaques of porcelain, painted with pastoral scenes and flowers, cameo medallions in porcelain and glass, are introduced instead of the confused scroll work and unmeaning decoration of the style of Louis XV.

The piece of furniture represented here belongs to this style of art, and shows rich ornaments in bronze gilt and inlaid plaques of Sèvres porcelain, *pâte tendre*, with bouquets of flowers.

LIBRARIES. — The largest library in the world is stated to be the National Library at Paris, which in 1874 contained 2,000,000 printed books and 150,000 manuscripts. The British Museum and the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg both contained about 1,100,000 volumes in 1874, and the relation is probably the same now. The Royal Library of Munich contains 900,000 books. The Vatican Library at Rome is sometimes erroneously supposed to be among the largest, while in point of fact it is surpassed, so far as the number of volumes goes, by more than sixty European collections. It contains 105,000 printed books and 25,500 manuscripts. In the United States the largest is the Library of Congress at Washington, which in 1874 contained 261,000 volumes. The Boston Public followed very closely after it with 260,500 volumes, and the Harvard University collection came next with 200,000. The Astor and Mercantile, of New York, are next, each having 148,000. Among the colleges after Harvard's Library comes Yale's with 100,000. Dartmouth's is next with 50,000, and then come in order Cornell with 40,000; the University of Virginia with 36,000; Bowdoin with 35,000; the University of South Carolina with 30,000; Ann Arbor, 30,000; Amherst, 29,000; Princeton, 28,000; Wesleyan, 25,500; and Columbia, 25,000.

CABINET IN THE ROYAL PALACE IN MADRID.