

to 100  
WAREHOUSE AND COLLECTING DEPOT, AUGUSTUS SQUARE, LONDON, ENGLAND.

No. XXI. |

*Lege totum si vis scire totum.*

| Oct., 1892.

## Bibliotheca Miscellanea Curiosa.

### A CATALOGUE OF INTERESTING BOOKS, ANCIENT and MODERN

RELATING TO  
AMERICA, STANDARD ILLUSTRATED WORKS, GREEK AND LATIN  
CLASSICS, CELEBRATED OLD TRIALS, HISTORICAL AND  
DEVOTIONAL THEOLOGY, MISCELLANEOUS AND  
GENERAL LITERATURE. ON SALE BY

**JOHN BRITNELL,**  
298 YONGE STREET, - TORONTO, CANADA.

Our correspondents will please bear in mind:—

1. The annexed prices are net, and do not include Postal or Express charges.
2. We have by far the largest stock of the best old European literature in Canada.
3. Professional bookselling is not with us a business in which large profits are made or extortionate prices charged. *We have no fancy prices.*
4. We pay ready money for all purchases and sell at the lowest possible remuneration to all customers for cash.

When Lord Spencer took his seat in the House of Lords, 1621, the great Earl of Arundel, speaking of what had taken place previously, addressed the newly created peer in these words: My Lord, when these things were done your ancestors were keeping sheep? Said Lord Spencer: When my ancestors were keeping sheep as you say, your ancestors were plotting treason! This rebuke was well timed for the vast estates held by the great "Howards" are mostly the spoils of the Norman Conquest. But as "all roads lead to Rome" and as "chickens come home to roost" so are the great freebooting families losing their influence, and their estates are being broken up mostly through riotous living, the libraries collected and preserved being one redeeming point in their history.

Perhaps the most magnificent collection of books in private ownership was that of Lord Spencer in Althorp Park, Northampton. In the early part of this century, when early and beautiful specimens of typography was more cheap and less rare than now, John, Earl Spencer, made many additions, and we venture the statement that had this precious collection of almost priceless gems been sold in the ordinary way, they would have realized at least a half a million sterling. In the old "book room," an apartment about twenty-two feet square, could be seen more rarities than could be found in any similar space in England, or the world, its precious contents being moderately valued at £100,000. The St. CHRISTOPHER PRINT alone would have brought thousands of pounds, and there were whole shelves filled with CANTONS, and WYNKYN DE WORDES, to say nothing of TYNDALE'S PENTATEUCH, 1534, and the only perfect copy known of the quarto edition of COVERDALE'S BIBLE, 1537. Some years ago a London bookseller gave £5,000 for a copy of the MENTZ PSALTER. In this splendid library could be seen copies of the first, second, and third editions all in beautiful state. The ALDINES and FIRST EDITIONS of the CLASSICS, the COMPLUTENSIAN BIBLE, the richly bound folios of Shakespeare, and the masterpieces of binding by ROGER PAYNE and others, in short, to walk through these rooms, and afterwards to examine the very practical and first-rate library of the late JOHN FORSTER (who succeeded CHARLES DICKENS in the editorship of the Daily News,) now at South Kensington, provides a rich supply of mental fare for a lifetime. Here we find subject matter for reflection in the fact that a widow becoming the possessor and afterwards the donor of this magnificent collection, which we understand is only the first instalment of a great scheme which bids fair to become a formidable rival to the British Museum. But there is a moral to this tale. For at the same time Canadians are burying themselves in the fool's paradise of poverty-stricken protection, by a short-sighted policy of selfishness and isolation, and thus accumulating a national debt for which they will be execrated by their children. The great aristocracy of England, who are mostly conservatives and protectionists by nature are actually selling their estates and not even sparing their libraries through poverty occasioned by extravagance and fast life. At this very time Free Trade Manchester is providing a colossal fortune for the RYLANDS who are sturdy non-conformists and strong Free-Traders, and the widow, for the benefit of her townspeople and with out the slightest hesitation, writes off the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds.