

## PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

It will be well to explain at once that by Pioneer Typography is here meant the first stages of the Art of Printing generally. The reference is not to the first efforts of typographers on this Continent.

In the display of "books either written, or once owned, by persons of note in Canada," a few years since in our log cabin, there were, it may perhaps be remembered, several specimens of the latter class. The collection of early printed books to be seen on our log cabin book-shelf in the present year originated in the same taste which led to the collection of early printed Bibles exhibited on the same shelf in 1889.

From securing such early specimens of the Bible as came in the collectors way in times past the idea readily extended itself to the collecting of specimens of early typography of a secular character as well. Of course opportunities for securing specimens of this kind occurred but rarely in the old pioneer days of this country, but when a stray copy of a book of a very early date came in the collector's way and could be procured for a trifling sum, it was eagerly taken possession of, and thus by degrees the contents of this year's Log Shanty Book-shelf were amassed.

It is hoped that an inspection will give as much pleasure and prove as instructive to many as did our array of old Bibles in 1889. At all events printers may be expected to take some interest in the collection which is certainly unique so far as the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto of 1890 is concerned, and probably unique in the whole of Western Canada. Several of them bear a date considerably more than four hundred years back, and they are all remarkably good specimens.

Having been in these parts, as far as I know, the pioneer amateur of literature of this kind, I thought it would not be out of place if I were to allow a portion of my collection to form the Log Shanty Book-shelf this year. (For the benefit of the uninitiated, it should be stated that "shanty" is a very English corruption of the French word "chantier," a shed or temporary shelter for goods and materials of various kinds, and such was the appearance presented by the first homes of the early settlers in many an instance.)

The log cabin of the Society of Pioneers, with its belongings and primitive surroundings, as it stands in the nook allotted to it, marked off by its primitive snake fence in the Exhibition park, furnishes as it were a kind of zero mark by