

A BOY'S BOOKS, THEN AND NOW—1818, 1881.—IV.

BY HENRY SCADDING, D.D., TORONTO.

(Continued from page 277.)

ALTHOUGH the compilers of the Eton Latin Grammar deemed it most fitting to eliminate from that manual the theological element, care was taken that there should be no deficiency in the supply of religious knowledge to the alumni of the Royal College; and that too in the Latin tongue, as ancient custom demanded. Several authorized books were used in this department of instruction, having the double object in view of imparting the proper information and at the same time promoting skill in the Latin language. The titles of four of them are as follows: *Evangelia*; *sive Excerpta ex Novo Testamento secundum Latinam Seb. Castilionis versionem* (a translation in purely Classical Latin as distinguished from Jerome's and Beza's), in *usum Classium inferiorum*. *Selectæ à Veteri Testamento Historiæ*; *ad usum eorum qui Linguae Latinæ Rudimentis imbuuntur*. *Monita et Præcepta Christiana*. *De Fide et Officiis Christianorum, excerpta ex Thomæ Burneti et Grotii libellis, in usum Juventutis Christianæ*. The only one of these that I have happened to retain is the last-named, which is a concise and most useful compendium with an excellent syllabus at the beginning of the numerous points treated. As stated on the title page, the matter is chiefly taken from Thomas Burnet's book bearing the same name, with additions here and there from Grotius de Veritate. Apologies, which seem almost unnecessary, are offered in the preface for the non-Ciceronian

character of some of the Latin, but the student is told to remember that the matter is here of more importance than the manner: "*non tam verba hic, quàm rem agi.*" I shall quote a passage from the Address to the Reader to shew the strain in which it has been the fashion for divines and others to write, generation after generation, of the condition of things around them, indicating how continually, in the imagination of men, truth and faith are in danger of being extinguished. This little outline of Christian doctrine and practice had been prepared, we are told, in order that young men might go forth from their early training-place imbued with a just respect for the creed which they profess, and fortified in some degree against the prevailing impiety of the times, when so many, instead of valuing and cultivating the religion of the country, either attack it in a hostile spirit or ignore it; while too few have any satisfactory comprehension of the subject. "*Cum tantum abest ut perinde ac de hominum vitâ merita est, laudetur et colatur sacrasancta nostra religio, ut etiam inimice eam nonnulli insectentur, quam plurimi prorsus negligant, paucissimi satis intelligant; non inutilis videtur opera in juventute erudiendâ disciplinæ Christianæ quasi lineamenta quædam tabellâ exhibere; unde Veritatem ejus, naturam et præstantiam intuentes, summâ eam, quâ decet, veneratione adolescentes excipiant; fideque ac moribus ad eam maturæ compositis, prodeant ex palæstrâ*