

A BOY'S BOOKS, THEN AND NOW—X.

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(Continued from p. 73.)

I HAVE still to notice Littleton's Dedication. Having been not simply an eyewitness of the troubles of England in 1649–1669, but an actual personal sufferer from them, it was to be expected that his satisfaction at the restoration of the Stuarts would be great. It was to be expected, too, that his gratitude to Charles himself would be lively, inasmuch as in his case a good deal had been done to reinstate him in the emoluments, honours and comforts of which he had been deprived. But the terms used in the Dedication of his dictionary to the King exceed all bounds. He accosts Charles as a divinity. After the inscription, "Ser-enissimo Domino D. [for Divo] Carolo Secundo, Dei gratiæ Britanniarum, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Regi, Antiquæ et Apostolicæ Fidei Defensori, Christianæ Pacis Sequestro," he proceeds, "Non aspernabitur Sacro Sancta ac Diva Majestas tua ea est Numinis tui clementia ac benignitas quâ universos subditos tuos complecteris, hoc quale-munus literarium ab homine domestico oblatum." But it is not beneath the dignity of exalted personages, he says, to patronize letters. Julius Cæsar himself wrote books; witness his rhetorical work entitled, "De Analogiâ Linguæ Latinæ," and the deified Augustus (Divus Augustus) established a library dedicated to Apollo on the Palatine Mount, wherein were assembled the works and busts of all worthy Greek and Latin authors; of which library a view adorns the book, he adds. Moreover, had not Charles been in-

vested with the title "Pater Patriæ"? How fitting then that a work intended for the benefit of the youth of Britain should be consecrated to him! He then compliments Charles on the successful issue of his efforts to bring about for all Europe the so long desired peace [the peace of Nimeguen],—which explains the allusion in "Christianæ Pacis Sequestro," in the superscription.

Examples of quaint English, of course, abound in Littleton. I do not observe that he indulges his spleen against political opponents, as South did, and Johnson afterwards. I notice that he turns a slang expression of the Court probably, namely, "a gifted brother," meaning a Puritan or Roundhead, into Latin by the words "fanaticus homo, entusiasta, batto-logiæ deditus, a fanatical person, an enthusiast, one given to vain repetitions in his prayers." One startling translation of a Latin word appeared in the first edition of Littleton's Dictionary. While the work of compilation was going on, an amanuensis innocently asked of Littleton, but somewhat superfluously, as he seems to have thought, in regard to the Latin word "concurro," whether it meant "to concur." "Concur," replied Littleton, either testily or jocosely, "Oh! no, *condog!* of course." And down went "condog" as the English of "concurro;" and so in due time it came forth solemnly printed. This rendering causes the first edition of Littleton's Dictionary to be sought after.