

A BOY'S BOOKS, THEN AND NOW—IX.

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(Continued from Vol. II., p. 339.)

DICTIONARIES—GREEK, LATIN, ENGLISH.

I HAVE thus far been reviewing only elementary Latin books, formerly used in classical schools amongst us. I could easily extend these notices; and, with the material at hand, I might be equally diffuse on our old Greek elementary books as well. I have by me early specimens of the "Westminster Greek Grammar" (Camden's), the Eton and the Port Royal—all three in Latin; as well as Wettenhall, the "Irish National Greek Grammar," formerly in Latin likewise, but in my copy translated; with innumerable Delectuses, Excerpts, Epigrammata, Græca Minora, each of them duly expounded and annotated in *usum studiosæ Juventutis*, in Latin. But, for the present, from this division of my subject I shall refrain, very tempting though it be. I purpose now to remark upon a number of venerable Dictionaries which have accumulated around me, Greek, Latin, and English; all of them for the most part superseded in the present day; but still, all of them, when re-examined, found to be replete with interest as monuments of by-gone times, and the essential ancestors of the manuals now in vogue.

1. *Greek*: (a) *Scapula*.—And first, let me introduce my *Scapula*; so, for brevity's sake, we used to designate Johannes Scapula's very copious folio, entitled "*Lexicon Græco-*

Latinum Novum." *Scapula's* ponderous book used to be costly, and was the personal possession of few juvenile students. The first copy I ever saw, and probably the first copy imported here, was the one in the Principal's room at Upper Canada College, deposited there by Dr. Harris in 1830, for reference, along with *Stephanus' "Thesaurus Linguae Latinæ"* in four volumes, folio, *Dammius*, *Facciolati*, and other formidable tomes which one used to gaze at with a degree of awe, and occasionally use, according to one's lights at the time.

Of late years, *Scapulas* of every edition are common enough in the street book-stalls of London and other places, marked very low, being of little use for modern linguistic purposes. My copy is to be prized as a curiosity, being of the rather early date of 1604, and bearing the imprint of Sebastian Henric-Petri at Basle, with a bold wood-cut of his device; it is also bound in the original wooden boards, covered with elaborately stamped hog-skin, and once had clasps, as may be seen. The volume opens with a dedication to the "Consuls" and "Senators" of the commonwealth of Berne, whom *Scapula* calls his liege-lords, and salutes as *Amplissimi* and *Magnifici*. He compliments them on the great zeal shown at Berne and Lausanne in the cause of public education, aforesaid and then. He speaks of scholastic buildings lately restored