

into hostile collision with the London roughs. This was the motive, we imagine, that led him to apply for quarters in Westminster Abbey, where, whatever else might happen, he would be sure from disturbance by a mob. His application to Abbot Esteney was in all likelihood backed by recommendations which would ensure him favourable consideration. At any rate, his request was complied with, and he was allowed the accommodation he wanted—if not in the abbey itself, yet in its immediate proximity. Dean Stanley reminds us that the expression, "Westminster Abbey," was at that time a much more extensive expression than it is now, and meant not merely the church, but the whole precincts, which embraced a large circumference round the sacred edifice. It was probably in the Almonry that Caxton set up his press, in a house which stood over against Saint Ann's Chapel, in which chapel it is supposed certain printing materials were stored, while it served as an occasional meeting-place for the workmen. Caxton's house, like other business houses at the time, bore a sign by way of distinguishing mark.

It is now generally admitted that the first book printed by Caxton in England was a production of Lord Rivers, one of the printer's earliest patrons, entitled "The Dictes and notable wyse Sayings of the Phylosophers," which bears the date of 1477, and thus settles, as near as it can now be settled, the much-debated question of the time of his establishment as a printer in England.

In the preparation of this work Caxton is said to have assisted his noble patron by translating a certain portion of it and revising the whole. A copy of the work was presented to King Edward IV., and there is in the Archbishop's library at Lambeth a manuscript copy in French, richly illuminated, one of the illuminations representing the presentation, from which picture our engraving is taken, where the man kneeling by the side of the earl is held to be the printer of the book. For fifteen years after the above date Caxton