

## A BOY'S BOOKS, THEN AND NOW—IX.

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*(Continued from p. 16.)*2. *Latin: (a) Calepinus.*

COME now to the Latin dictionaries. And first I show a Calepinus, a worthy co-mate of the Schrevelius already examined, a folio bound in oaken boards, covered with stamped vellum, and retaining its rudely-cut copper clasps. It bears the imprint "Venetiis, MDLXC. Apud Johannem Gryphium," *i.e.*, Venice, 1540; from the house of John Gryphius. According to the custom of the day, Gryphius has placed conspicuously on the title-page his badge or device, which is the same as that of his more famous brother Sebastian Gryphius, or Gryphæus, typographer at Lyons, exhibiting, as a play upon the family name, a magnificent Griffin (anciently Gryphon), triumphantly bearing up through the air a carefully-shaped but heavy rectangular block of stone aided by a winged globe underneath, which supports and helps to carry up the mass; with the motto in bold capitals, half on one side of the device and half on the other, "Virtute Duce, Comite Fortunâ;" implying, I suppose, that difficult enterprises (publishing huge folios, for example) well and "squarely" planned, and buoyed up by a high principle, succeed. The well-known device of Aldus Manutius, the great Venetian scholar and printer, was a Dolphin twining round an Anchor; and we might have expected to see it here, for the work before us is a copy of Calepinus edited by Paulus Manutius, the son of Aldus, now the head of

the Aldine printing house, from which, between the years 1540 and 1583, proceeded, we are told, more than sixteen editions of this ponderous work. The Latin dictionary of Calepinus was, in fact, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the Ainsworth of the period, a book held to be indispensable to every student of Latin. It made its first appearance at Poggio, in North Italy, in 1502, under the name of "Cornucopiæ Linguæ Latinæ." In several of the large towns of Europe other editions of the same work were repeatedly issued.

Of Calepinus himself I shall have occasion to speak again presently. It will suffice now to say that he was an Augustinian monk, born at Calepio, fourteen miles south-east of Bergamo, in North Italy, about the middle of the fifteenth century. I must give in extenso the title-page of Paulus Manutius' Calepinus as we have it here before us. It is a table of contents rather than a title-page, and it will be seen that the work has been transformed from a mere dictionary into a comprehensive classical cyclopædia. Thus it reads, translated into English: "The Dictionary of Ambrosius Calepinus; in the restoration and improvement of which we have rendered the following services to the student:—1, We have taken care to do not only what all previous editors have done, *viz.*: add a great number of words, but also, what no one else to this day had done, *viz.*: render