

BOOK BORROWERS.

AN old Harlequin Ms. contains a warning which in those days would not be disregarded, and of which the following is a translation: "The booke of St. Mary and St. Nicholas o Arransteln, the which if anyone shall purloin it may he die the death, may he be cooked upon a gridiron, may falling sickness and fevers attack him, and may he be broken upon a wheel and hung." Books were valuable and possessed by few save the priests and very wealthy, hence the dread anathema.

The following lines are commonly in one form and another:

Steal not this book, my worthy friend,
For fear the gallows may be your end;
Up the ladder and down the rope,
There you'll hang until you choke;
Then I'll come along and say—
'Where is that book you stole away?'

In a volume of sermons from the pen of a divine who has long since gone to rest, some irreverent reader had written the following, which, if not quite apropos, may be here quoted:

If there should be another flood,
For refuge hither fly,
Though all the world should be submerged,
This book would still be dry.

In one or two cases scripture texts have supplied the recited warning against the crime of peculation, or the less heinous sin of omitting to return a borrowed volume.

The author of the following evidently had no very high opinion of book borrowers generally:

My master never lends me,
So if I'm found elsewhere,
A thief is my possessor;
Therefore, ye knaves, beware!

! About the middle of last century an eccentric physician who possessed a good library had on the inside cover of all his books a label bearing the words, "Stolen from the library of Dr. —, —." These notices are on all fours with a practice observed in certain hospitals where the medicine bottles for indoor patients have the words, "Stolen from — Hospital" engraved on them in large letters.

Sometimes verses very much to the point are found, as for example:

Small is the wren, black is the rook,
Great is the sinner who steals this book.

Book lovers who have evidently suffered from lending their precious volumes, often burst into verse, of which the following example is one of the many that might be quoted:

If you borrow me, I pray,
Treat me as a friend;
Keep me by your own fireside,
And to no others lend.
Guard my leaves and keep them clean,
Do not turn them down;
With no pencil marks deface,
Nor with thumb marks brown

Probably the verse following derived its inspiration from the well known motto, "Anyone may borrow a book, a gentleman returns."

Kind friends to whom my master lends
His choicest books,
When they are read, return at once
And save black looks.
Fools may borrow them, but 'tis
The gentleman returns.

One motto which might with advantage be used in public library books, and may be commended to all borrowers,

both from public and private collections, is:

Whenever you borrow me,
I hope you'll keep me clean;
For I am not a linen rag
That can be washed again.
—Bookworm.

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6747. Gretchen Schottische. By W. H. Hargratt, Whaley, Royce & Co., Toronto, Ont.

6748. Recipe for Growing Good Potatoes. Circular. Elias Meek, Freeport, Ont.

6749. Connecting Links. Book. By David Lionel Palmer, Montreal, Que.

6750. Insurance Eye Openers No. 1. How to get at a Man. By Charles St. Morris, Vancouver, B.C.

6751. Home Health Hints. Book. Scott & Bowne, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

6752. Happy Hearts Lancers. By Nellie S. Smith. Whaley, Royce & Co., Toronto, Ont.

6753. The Flight of Ages. Song Words by Frederik E. Weatherly, music by Frederik Bevan. The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association, Ltd., London, England.

6754. Lettres de P. F. X. Duplessis, de la Compagnie de Jesus. Accompanees d'une Notice Biographique et d'Annotations. Par J. Edmond Roy Lewis, Que.

6755. The Silent Reminder, 1893. Chart Miss Jessie Gourlay, London, Ont.

6756. Inspiration Waltz. By John A. Sims, Toronto, Ont.

6757. Banks and Banking. By J. J. Gormully, Q. C., and R. V. Sinclair, barrister-at-law. Second edition. Joseph James Gormully and Robert Victor Sinclair, Ottawa, Ont.

6758. Rules for Ardri, or The Parlor Game of Football. Frederick Thomas Butler, Toronto, Ont.

6759. The Shekinah in the Soul. By Rev. John D. Dinick, Toronto, Ont.

6760. Scientific Eye Test and Method of Ascertaining Defects of Vision. Circular. Frederick W. Nolte, Victoria, B.C.

6761. Current Salt Chart. Wm. B. Bentley, Toronto, Ont.

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393. The Housekeeper's Note Book and Discount Voucher. Frank W. H. Pointer, Toronto, Ont.

A TYPEWRITER TRUST.

Rumors are flying thick and fast as to the formation or attempted formation of a typewriter trust. That such a combination is in process of formation there can be no doubt, although the alleged promoters of the scheme are evidently withholding the facts until they are assured of success. The name of E. N. Fowler, of the Equitable Mortgage Company, 40 Wall street, is most prominently connected with the matter. The scheme, so far as facts can be arrived at with the meager information granted, seems to be the formation of a single company which shall be composed of all or as many as possible of the firms engaged in this line of business.

Each company will be represented in the combination to the extent of the value of its business. This company will issue \$20,000,000 of stock, of which each company in the trust will hold shares equal to the value of its plant, the value of which in each of the companies concerned is now said to be in process of adjustment. The sum mentioned is undoubtedly far too large, as good authority says that it is more than double enough to buy up all the typewriter

companies in the country. Under such a combination it is alleged that the price of machines will not be advanced, and that the only object is to do away with the severe competition which enters into the transaction of business as now conducted, and thus reduce the expenses, and, incidentally, of course, increase profits.—American Stationer.

HOME-SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.

This is an association formed and managed by Mr. Edgar S. Reade, with headquarters at Halifax. He proposes to supply dry goods, boots and shoes, books, etc., at 20 to 50 per cent. less than retailers who dealt in the respective class of goods. The life membership fee was \$10; but people have ferreted out the scheme. A recent trial was held as to the validity of notes given to him, and now held by innocent parties. The judge gave judgment in favor of the holders, viz., the Bank of Montreal. The following from the statement in defence is interesting:

That the said Edgar S. Reade representing himself as the agent and manager of the Home Supply Association, falsely and fraudulently represented to the defendant that any goods of any kind description or quality that defendant desired to purchase that the Home Supply Association would supply him, the said defendant, at from 20 to 50 per cent. discount on the prices the said goods could be sold in Halifax, and if said defendant would subscribe and pay said association the sum of \$10 the said association would issue to him, the said defendant, a life member certificate of said association, which would give the privilege of obtaining any goods that he required at the place aforesaid, and upon such representation so made the defendant signed the said note. And upon the faith and representation aforesaid: Whereas, in truth and in fact there is no such association, and such association (if any) cannot and has refused to furnish such goods to the defendant at the discount aforesaid, and has never given the certificate, all of which said plaintiffs had knowledge, and that said note was endorsed to the plaintiffs for the express purpose of avoiding this defence, and after said note became due, and that there was no consideration for the making of said note."

The plaintiffs replied at length, contesting all the allegations of defendant.

Stipendiary Motion reviewed the evidence and said he could not see anything in the case that would justify him in saying anything favorable to the transactions with the association. Mr. Reade had floated the association, representing himself as its solicitor. The first impression had been that he was a legal solicitor, but it had turned out that it meant he solicited members. The certificate of the association was not signed by anybody. Reade's name was printed as manager and then his initials were written as solicitor. His honor thought the certificate worthless, and that those who had subscribed would have to suffer. But in giving his decision he had to be governed by law. The notes were held by the bank as collateral, and it was not shown that there was any collusion between the bank and association, or that the former was aware of the circumstances leading up to the notes. But he had to take the law as he found it.