

BOOKBINDING

CHAPTER I.

BOOKBINDERS' APPLIANCES.

BOOKBINDING is a term that is popularly applied to any process for making a book by fastening together printed or unprinted sheets of paper, and providing them in this compact form with a suitable covering. The term, used in this sense, covers such widely different productions as a cheap cloth- or paper-covered novel and a costly volume bound in leather. These two books are representative products of the two great divisions of the bookbinding industry as carried on at the present day. Each division may, indeed, almost be called a distinct industry; for, though the means employed and the results obtained in both cases bear on the surface a certain resemblance to each other, the manner in which the work is carried out, and the result aimed at, are in both cases fundamentally different.

A bound book is, technically, a book bound in leather. It is more solid in appearance, is better sewn, the leaves lie more compactly together, and the book opens more readily than a cloth-boarded book. Even a person without any technical knowledge is struck with the difference between a leather-bound volume and a cloth-boarded book. While the former will last for years and resist hard usage, the latter serves a temporary purpose only, and rough usage soon reduces it to a collection of loose leaves, scarcely held together by a few tangled threads. Belonging also to the division of bound