

**The retrospective review; consisting of criticisms upon, analyses of, and extracts from curious, valuable, and scarce old books.**

London, J. R. Smith.

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Wednesday the 11th, Ditto.—Lei fu matto in maggior segno (*I was enraged with her to the greatest degree*).—Susan Poplar went away this night at 8 o'clock, without taking leave.

The 10th Ditto. (May, 1701.) I was sensible of the gout being come into my right—w<sup>ch</sup> I streind three days agoe looking after Ben, and was forced to come away from Dorch<sup>r</sup> in great paine by 2 o'clock. This evening I applyed oatmeal poultice to it and had a very uneasy night.—[And, as if the anguish of his gout was not enough for him,] Q<sup>ua</sup> sera A. tamando—fu mata in maggior segno per niente. (*This evening A. taking—was mad to the greatest degree for nothing.*)

Munday, the 19th (May, 1701).—Hoggidi A. eveniva matta altravolta in maggior segno e mi trattava come un schiavo p. niente.

(*To-day A. became mad again, to the greatest degree, and treated me like a slave for nothing.*)

Munday, the 26 Ditto (May, 1701).—Mary Lillington came hither.

Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> Ditto (June, 1701).—Besai M. L. pr<sup>ma</sup> vez. (*I kissed M. L. the first time*).

[Who could M. L. be but Mary Lillington, who came the 26th of May? The first time, too, as if he meant to do it again. He had said before that Mrs. Richards had treated him like a slave, *per niente*, for nothing. For nothing, forsooth!]

B.

(*To be continued.*)

#### HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

(FROM A MANUSCRIPT IN PRIVATE HANDS.)

THEs parcelles her after wretyn ben in my place in litill Barw (?), that is for to sey, in the halle and in the parlour, and in the chambre above and benethe, in the botry, and in the lardirhous, and in the kechyn, wretyn with mine own hand the xv day of May, Anno Domini m<sup>i</sup> iiij<sup>e</sup> lxij<sup>e</sup>

En primez, in the halle :

A standyng sper  
An angying of steyned werk  
A mappa mundi of parchement  
A syde table, j. dormond  
A bem, with vj. candilstykkus

Item, in the parlour :

An hang' of worsted red and gren  
A cobbord of escchebordes  
A table and a peyr trestelz  
A branche of laton with iiij. ligtes  
A peyr of aundyrens  
A peyr of tongges  
A fform to sit uppon  
And a cheyre.

Item, in the botry :

A flat basyn bolyond abowt be the egges  
And a round basyn

And a ij. candilstikes, on of the sam with ij. nosis

A chargour of pewter  
viij. platers, viij. disches  
And viij. sawcers of pewter  
And iiij. table clothes, and therof on of worke and ij. pleyn

And a towelle of werke

And ij. pleyn towells

Aud ij. rollers

And iiij. sanappus

ij. tubbis

A good chern of xij. galons.

Item, en the chambre :

j. ffethirbedd

And iiij. bolsters with fethirs

And ij. matras

And ij. peyr blankettes

And iiij. coverlettes

And xij. shetes	A fryng pann and a . . .
A sylour and iij. curteyns of blew bokeram	A brasyn ladylle
And cost's abowt the chambre of blew bokeram	A flesch hok
And a whit sylour and chamberyng costours abowt with alle white clothe	A peyr rakkus of yren
And vj. pelows stuffid with downe, etc.	A morter off marbil
And a peyr aundyrons	A crow of iren
A gret chest with ij. lyddis	An axe
A less chest with a lock and key	A haget
A prus desk chest	A bille.
A close almyr in the low chambre	En the bultyng hous :
Item, in the kechyn :	En the stable :
A brasyn pott of <i>iiij. galons</i> (?)	ij. sadelz
A cawdron off <i>xij. galons</i> (?)	iiij. bridelz
A littil cawdroun off . . .	i. panelle.
A chaffre to mak a <i>sell</i> . . .	En the ches hous :
	En the berne :
	A wayn schodd with iren
	With iij. long cheyuns therto.

[There is nothing in the original manuscript to enable us to identify the writer.] W.

## Communications and Correspondence.

### OUR OLD PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

AN inquiry is urgently demanded into the numerous and valuable collections of books belonging to the public, which are scattered over the country, in the hands of *trustees*, either official, or by descent in certain families, or by nomination; and all of which come under the title of public libraries. In the reign of Queen Anne—our Augustan age—these important institutions were brought before Parliament, and a law was passed for their better preservation. This statute (7 Anne, c. 14) provides that the incumbents of parishes and the churchwardens shall give security to the civil authorities for the care of the books. It also invests the bishops and other ecclesiastics with power to *visit* the libraries; and it enjoins the librarians, once a year, to certify to their good state.

The fact of such a law being made one hundred and forty-two years ago, is a satisfactory proof that public libraries were not wanting among us of old. They are indeed to be traced to remote times; and, instead of deserving the common contemptuous designation of "mere repositories of musty divinity and crabbed Latin," they are often of great literary and scientific value. They are curiously characterised, too, by tokens of dedication to *public* use. In the will of the venerable Judge Littleton, whose "Tenures" are so well known from Lord Coke's "Commentary," a black-letter volume of the fifteenth century—a Poem—bequeathed to a Worcestershire village—is expressly directed to be always *chained*. It was at all times to be open to "the