

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The \$50,000 which was paid for a copy of the Gutenberg Bible at the recent sale in New York of the books collected by the late Mr. R. M. Hoe, makes a new high-water mark in book collecting. No such price was ever paid before for a single volume. Only seven copies of this Bible are known to be in existence. The last time one was sold, it brought \$20,000.

George Cary Eggleston's "What Happened at Quasi," which was noticed in this department two weeks ago, derives a melancholy interest from the fact that it was the author's last work, and consciously so, although conveying in its happy tone no suggestion of the circumstances under which it was written. Believing that he should not recover, Mr. Eggleston in a note dictated to his son, pathetically urged his publishers to hasten an advance copy that he might see the makeup of the book before he died. The fact that the dedicatory page was to bear a sketch of his little grandson added to his interest. It is pleasant to know that Mr. Eggleston received complete copies of the book while he was able to examine them critically, although his death occurred before the book reached the boy-public to which it was addressed.

Henry Holt & Co. announce the publication of a new and important library of low-priced books, written with a common purpose of imparting information to the general reader, but covering a wide range of subjects. The series will be known as the *Home University Library of Modern Knowledge*,—a title which well describes the books projected. The books will be written by specialists, but they are not meant for the reading of specialists but of laymen. They will appear in quarterly battalions of ten volumes,

until at least one hundred volumes have been issued. The first ten volumes, promised for this month, include *The French Revolution* by Hilaire Belloc; *The Irish Nationality* by Mrs. J. R. Green; *Shakespeare* by John Massfield; *A History of War and Peace* by G. H. Perris; *The Socialist Movement* by J. Ramsay MacDonald, chairman of the British Labor Party; *The Stock Exchange* by F. W. Hirst, editor of the *London Economist*; *Modern Biography* by Dr. Marlon Newnegin; *Polar Exploration* by Dr. W. S. Bruce, leader of the "Scotia" expedition; *Parliament* by Sir Courtenay P. Ilbert, clerk of the House of Commons; and *The Evolution of Plants* by Dr. D. H. Scott, late "keeper" at Kew Gardens. This enumeration will serve to indicate the scope of the series.

It is perhaps one indication of a revived interest in Ireland, historically as well as politically, that several volumes on Irish history are to be published this season. One of the most important is Dr. Robert Murray's "Revolutionary Ireland and its Settlement," a work based on a fresh examination of the documents and bringing further light to bear upon the controversies of the time. It will be published by Messrs. Macmillan this month. Mr. Joseph R. Fisher's "The End of the Irish Parliament," which is announced by Mr. Arnold, covers the thirty years preceding the Union, and examines the causes that produced the Irish Rebellion, as well as the motives that led Pitt to abolish the Irish Parliament, and the means by which his policy was carried out. From the Oxford University Press we are to have "Ireland under the Normans, 1169-1216," by Mr. G. H. Orpen, and Mr. Elliot Stock has in the press the sixth volume of Mr. P. H. Hore's "History of Wexford."