

A REVIEW OF SOME RECENT AND NOTABLE EXAMPLES OF BOOKMAKING



AMONG the volumes, in limited editions, which have been published during the past fall by Houghton, Mifflin and Company there are three which claim special attention for their attractive format aside from the subject-matter.

We mention, first, a tall quarto volume, on *Abraham Lincoln*.*

This is made up of four contributions as follows: On "The Life-Mask of Abraham Lincoln," by Richard Watson Gilder, "The Por-

**Abraham Lincoln. A Biographical Essay*, by Carl Schurz. With an *Essay on the Portraits of Lincoln*, by Truman H. Bartlett. With eighteen illustrations in photogravure. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. MDCCCXVII. Edition limited to 1,040 copies. Price, \$10.00 net.

traits of Abraham Lincoln," by Truman H. Bartlett, "The Hand of Abraham Lincoln: A Poem," by Edmund Clarence Stedman, and "A Biographical Sketch," by Carl Schurz. While each of these is rather brief they possess new and peculiar interest and together form a splendid estimate of the personality of the man. The book contains a number of interesting and unusual plates, in photogravure, among them several portraits as curious as they are rare. In size the book is uniform with *The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey* and *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, which were brought out earlier in the year. The severely simple but excellent arrangement of the type is thoroughly satisfactory, although the title page might be criticised in some minor details. The book is bound in old-

blue boards, with a natural linen back, and a leather label. On the front cover is inserted a reproduction of a medallion of Lincoln which was struck in Paris in 1865, and which lends a certain effectiveness to the binding. Certainly in this series the publishers have evolved a dignified volume and format, and those that have thus far been published will have a real historical value.

Another volume which embodies many characteristics of good book-making has the title *Hydriotaphia, or Urne-Buriall*,* by Sir Thomas Browne. The publishers state that though this is perhaps not as well known as the author's *Religio Medici*, it has long been regarded by the best critics as his finest and most individual work and the one most sure to hold its place among the enduring masterpieces of classic English prose. The present volume is a reprint in almost exact type facsimile of the original edition which was issued in 1658. While the subject-matter is necessarily of a more or less gruesome nature it nevertheless possesses a curious interest, and one is impressed with the thoroughness with which the subject is covered. The publishers have very sensibly retained the archaic spelling of the first edition, which has a peculiar appropriateness. In size the book is a square thin quarto, printed on Arnold unbleached paper. The type page is very handsome and readable, and the italics, which are numerous, appear especially attractive with their swash capitals. Elucidating marginal notes appear frequently throughout the book. The binding is in full crimson leather, richly stamped in gold on both covers from a design reproduced from an English binding of the early nineteenth century.

The last volume of this trio is a very delightful historical account entitled *Earl Percy's Dinner-Table*,† by Harold Murdock. It presents a vivid picture of

Boston in the year of the opening of the Revolution, from the British point of view. It tells in a most alluring manner of the conversations around Earl Percy's hospitable board, which was mostly composed of prominent officers in the British army, and noted citizens of the town. Through their conversations we gain a clear insight into the picturesque and exciting life of those days. We are taken through the minor personal encounters between Tories and Patriots, until finally we reach the picture of the thrilling battles at Lexington and Bunker Hill. The atmosphere of the period has been remarkably suggested throughout the story, which holds the interest of the reader to the end. The book is a thin quarto, with very liberal margins, and presents an unusual opportunity for extra illustration. There is a frontispiece of Earl Percy, designed and engraved with particular artistic charm by Sidney L. Smith. The portrait is enclosed within an emblematic border containing a vignette of one of the dinner-table conversations. The typography suggests all the flavour and simplicity of the period which the story records and the binding is in plain crimson cloth, with a paper label.

A handy and attractive series of standard volumes has recently been inaugurated by Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co., of Chicago. They are entitled The "Prairie" Classics,* and thus far four volumes have been issued: *Kenilworth* and *Ivanhoe*, by Sir Walter Scott, and *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Oliver Twist*, by Charles Dickens. The volumes are small 12mos, very handy and compact in form, and well printed in a readable type on thin paper. Each volume contains a frontispiece, in full colour, and they are issued at the uniform price of \$1 each. They are neatly bound in green cloth, with the title stamped on the back in gold, with a gilt top.

The plan of the publishers is to complete the writings of each author, and to take up other standard writers as time goes on. *Laurence Burnham.*

**Hydriotaphia, Urne-Buriall*; or A Discourse of the Sepulchral Urnes Lately Found in Norfolk." By Sir Thomas Browne, D. of Physick. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1907. Edition limited to 385 numbered copies. Price, \$7.50 net.

†*Earl Percy's Dinner-Table*. By Harold Murdock. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1907. Edition limited to 550 numbered copies. Price, \$5.00 net.

*The "Prairie" Classics: "*Kenilworth*," by Sir Walter Scott; "*Ivanhoe*," by Sir Walter Scott; "*A Tale of Two Cities*," by Charles Dickens; "*Oliver Twist*," by Charles Dickens. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.00 each.