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ON THE
LIBRARY OF THE TOWN OF IPSWICH.

BY
STERLING WESTHORP, ESQ.

*Read at the Congress of the British Archaeological Association at Ipswich, 1864,
and extracted from the Journal of the Association.*

The Library belonging to the Corporation of Ipswich, which is one among the earliest of town libraries, appears to have been founded by William Smarte, portman (or, as he would now be called, alderman) of the borough, who, by his will dated the 8th of January, 1598 (proved at Doctors' Commons the 2nd November, 1599), made the following bequest: "My latten printed bookes and written bookes in volume and p'chmente...I gyve towards one librerye, safelye to be kepte in the vestrye of the parishe church of St. Mary Tower in Ipsw'ch afore-sayde, and the doore to have two sufficiente lockes and keyes, th'one to remayne in the custodye of the minister of the parish for the time beinge, and the other to be kept by the churchwardens of the sayde p'ishe for the tyme beinge, to be used there by the co'mon preacher of the sayde towne for the tyme beinge, or any other precher mynded to preache in the sayde p'ish church."

The books and MSS. given by Smarte do not appear to have been deposited in the Vestry of St. Mary Tower, as directed by his will. In an old parchment book dated May 1615, lately found amongst the town records, and containing a catalogue of the books ("Index Bibliothecæ") and names of the donors, it is stated they were *reserved* by the town in an old chest until the year 1612. In this year they were deposited in a large spacious room over the chapel at Christ's Hospital, fitted up for the purpose by the Corporation; with the addition of many volumes purchased by them with a legacy left by a Mrs. Walter, whose name appears as donor of fifty-three works still in the Library. Subsequently to the year 1748 this room was used as the Grammar Schoolroom, in

consequence, it is presumed, of the old Grammar Schoolroom, which stood in front of the Chapel, being taken down; and the books were then, or at some subsequent time, removed to a room under the former one; and in consequence of the damp state of this room they were, about the year 1820, again removed to another room, adjoining the cloisters, which was used as a committee-room by the governors of Christ's Hospital. It may not be out of place to remark that Christ's Hospital was situate in Foundation-street, in the parish of St. Mary Key; and was, prior to the dissolution of monasteries, a house of the Black Friars, Dominicans (called the Friars Preachers); and was, soon after its dissolution, purchased by the Corporation, and used for the purpose of a hospital for poor boys, a grammar-schoolroom, a bride-well, almshouses, etc. The last remnant of the hospital was taken down about the year 1851, and new almshouses for aged poor, and schoolrooms for poor boys, have been erected on the site.

Formerly the keys of the Library were kept in the hands of the bailiffs (mayors) of the town and the Master of the Grammar School, who was generally the town preacher or lecturer of the Corporation; and latterly the Master of Christ's Hospital School, which adjoined the Grammar School, was entrusted with a key, and had free access to the Library. In the year 1832 the Library was placed under the care of the late Literary Institution, in the room at the Town Hall in which it now is, and they are now under the sole charge of the Corporation.

The Library has been increased from time to time (but not much of late years) by gifts from the bishop of the diocese and the clergy and inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, and now contains 922 volumes, representing 659 works, only two of which bear the date of the present century. Most of them are of a theological character. The MSS. are now only ten in number, eight of which appear to have been given by William Smarte.

The oldest printed book in the Library (No. 1) is the second volume (imperfect) of the "Pantheologia, seu Summa Universæ Theologiæ," of Raynerus de Pisis; folio, printed at Nuremberg by Anthony Koburger in the year 1474,—remarkable as being the year in which the first book from moveable types was printed in England. From the old catalogue above referred to, both volumes of this book appear to have been given to the Library by the will of Mr. Caston, rector of Ottley; but it is stated, "his executors never add' y^e 1st p^t of Rayner^s." There are three other works belonging to this Library printed in the same century,—No. 26, "Gratiani Decreta," Argent., 1490, folio; No. 355, "Epistolæ ad Pontifices," Nuremberg, Koburger, 1481, fol.; and a work (No. 387) of S. Thomas Aquinas; Basil, 1495, folio: and also the three following from the Library of the Ipswich Museum, tempora-

rily deposited in the Corporation Library,—“Appiani Alexandrini Historia,” Venet., Bernard Pictor and others, 1477, 4to.; “Mammotrectus,” *i.e.*, a manual for the guidance of priests in the reading and exposition, in the services of the Church, of the Bible, hymns, extracts from writings of the Saints or Fathers, etc.; Venet., 1479, Nicholas Jansen, 4to. (a Frenchman, considered by some the founder of printing in that city. The third book from the Museum is “Maillardi Sermones,” Lyons, John de Vingle, 1498, 8vo.

There are three large folio Bibles worthy of special notice. No. 12, Cranmer’s (“The Great”) Bible, black letter, and printed in the reign of Henry VIII. It is either the copy printed by Edward Whitchurch, 28th May, 1541, or that printed by Richard Grafton in 1540-41. All the insignia, except the “descriptyon and successe of the kings,” etc., and the prologue or preface by Archbishop Cranmer, and the woodcuts at the commencement of chapters, have been abstracted. This was the Bible required by royal proclamation to be placed in every parish church. It contained an elaborately engraved title-page, in which King Henry VIII was represented delivering the Bible (“Verbum Dei”) to the bishops, with this injunction, “Hæc precipe et doce”; and to the judges with this, “Quod justum est, judicate ita parvum audietis ut magnum”; a bishop in turn delivering the Bible to the clergy, and the latter preaching to the people, who were shouting “Vivat rex” and “God save the king.” This frontispiece is supposed to have been the work of Hans Holbein.

No. 11, commonly called “The Bishops’ Bible”; London, by Richard Jugge, in 1572, folio. It contains the two versions of the Psalter, that of “The Great Bible” in black letter, and a new one in Roman; and has for many of the illustrated initials in the New Testament, subjects from Ovid’s “Metamorphoses.” The engraved title-page to the Old Testament, and the portrait of Lord Leicester at the commencement of Joshua, are wanting. The portrait of Lord Burleigh between Job and the Psalms, and the title-page to the New Testament, are extant. Preceding the title-page to the New Testament is “a table to make plain the difficultie found in St. Mattheue and St. Luke touching the generation of Jesus Christ,” etc.

No. 13, “La Bible,” à Geneve, 1588, 8vo.; a Protestant edition with epistle by Theodore Beza. It was presented to the Library by the widow of Edward Bacon, Esq. (the half-brother of Lord Francis Bacon), to whom it had been given by Theodore Beza, his former preceptor. About the year 1828 the following memorandum recording this fact was in existence upon a blank leaf in the book, since removed: “This book was given to Edward Bacon, Esquire, by Theodore Beza, in whose house he had lived diverse years in Geneva, as a monument of their

Christian acquaintance; recorded by Lambert Duncan in an epistle dedicatorie to the sayde gentleman, intended by him in his lifetime to be placed in this Library; and now by Mrs. Helena Bacon, his wife and sole executrix, given to the same use A° D'ni. 1618, Septemb^r 25th." It is also referred to in the old catalogue of 1615, as "A French Bible of Mr. Beza's gyft to him" (Bacon); and within the period of living testimony this volume contained an original letter from Beza himself to his quondam pupil, which has also been abstracted. This bible has many illustrations.

The "Holy Bible," Lond., Robert Barker, 1617, folio.

There are several works from the printing presses of the Stephens (the French family, so numerous and celebrated in their day for scholarship and the art of typography). No. 145. "Ecclesiastica Historia Eusebii," etc. No. 146. "Eusebii preparatio Evangelia," Græce, R. Stephens, Paris, 1544-5, folio. These volumes are beautifully printed, and contain the earliest specimens of the device subsequently adopted by royal printers, a thyrsus with an olive branch and a serpent wound round it, and the motto "Βασιλει τ' αγαθῶ κρατερῶ τ' αιχμητη." No. 165. Bucer (Mart.) opera, Lat. No. 450. "Biblia Hebraica," first Parisian edition, 1540-43. The margin of this book abounds with notes, written in a very minute character. All these works contain the device on the title page of an olive-tree, with one or more branches broken off, while new ones are grafted on, and the motto "Noli altum sapere," but without the addition of "Sed tunc," sometimes added by Stephens. No. 47. Henry Stephens, the IInd, in 4 vols., folio. No. 47. Stephani, Henr., "Thesaurus Græcæ Linguae;" Paris, 1572, 4 vols., folio.

Amongst the earlier printed books are the following:—

No. 15. "Salemonis ecclesiæ Constantiensis ep'i glosse ex illustrissimis collecte auctoribus, sine loco, anno, aut nomine typographi."

No. 320. "Postilla super Matheum, &c.," Nicolai de Lira. Old printing, good type and paper, and in excellent condition, but leaves at end wanting. This book is an excellent specimen of perfect register in printing.

No. 24. "Decretalium Gregorii Noni," folio; Rembolt at Dystichon, 1514.

No. 25. "A Catena of the Fathers," printed at Paris by the widow of Rembolt, Madame Caroline Guillard, the first woman who distinguished herself in the typographic art.

No. 136. "Provincialis Guilielmi Lyndewode," 1505. This book was the gift of Wm. Smarte.

No. 55, is a fine edition of the works of the Venerable Bede, folio, 6 vols. in 3, Coloniae, 1612; with a beautifully engraved title page, containing a view of the city with the crane upon the unfinished tower

of the cathedral. It is remarkable, that although Bede was considered the most learned man of his age, his works were never published in a complete form in his native land until within the last few years.

No. 65, is a fine copy of the works of S. Chrysostom in Latin, 5 vols. in 4, folio, Paris, 1614; and No. 134 is a copy of the same works in Greek, printed at Eton in 1613, in 8 vols., folio, under the editorship of the eminent scholar Sir Henry Savile. Both works contain finely engraved frontispieces.

The works printed by the Elzevirs are not good specimens. No. 573, "Descartes Opera Philosophica," is by Daniel Elzevir, the last of the race, and was printed at Amsterdam in 1672.

There are many works printed by Froben, the Wechels, Froschoverus, Blaeu, Plantin, Oporinus, and other continental printers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, containing specimens of the curious symbols, etc., adopted by them.

No. 397, containing the works of William Tyndal, John Frith, and Dr. Barnes, martyrs, 1572; and No. 411, containing the works of Thomas Beacon, 1560, have a local interest. They were printed by the eminent printer John Daye, who was born at Dunwich in the county of Suffolk, and buried in the parish church of Bradley Parva in the same county, where there is a monument with an inscription to his memory. The books are curious as containing specimens of the quaint devices or symbols adopted by printers of the day. Day's device represents the sun rising, and a man (doubtless intended to represent himself) awaking a sleeping monk, saying, "Arise, for it is day." John Daye was the printer of the first edition of Fox's "Acts and Monuments."

In addition to those above mentioned, there are in the library the following valuable works:—

No. 2. "Biblia Polyglotta, Briani Waltoni," 6 tom. folio, Thos. Roycroft, London, 1653-7, printed on paper, allowed by Cromwell to be imported duty free for the purpose; but the preface does not contain either the republican or loyal clauses.

No. 3. "Lexicon Heptaglotton," E. Castelli, 2 vols., folio, 1669, to accompany Walton's "Polyglot."

No. 7, a perfect copy of Fox's "Acts and Monuments," in 2 vols., folio, Company of Stationers, 1610.

No. 14. "Biblia Hebraice, Græc. et Lat., Francisci Vatabli," 2 vols., folio, ex officina Commelinina, 1599.

No. 16. Bishop Hacket's "Century of Sermons, folio, Andrew Clark, London, 1675; given to the Library 6th May, 1675, by Sir Andrew Hackett, his son.

No. 19. Elias Ashmole's "Order of the Garter," with plates by

Hollar, folio, J. Macock, London, 1672; given by John Knight, Doctor of Physicke, Sergeant Chirurgion to his May^{tie} Charles y^e Second, February 1680.

No. 27. John Minsheu's "Ductor in Linguas," folio, John Brown, London, 1617. The first work published by subscription in England; but this copy is without the very rare list of subscribers.

Nos. 44 and 189. Wm. Dugdale's "Baronage of England," 2 vols., folio, Thos. Newcomb, London, 1675; and his "Antiquities of Warwickshire," Thos. Warren, London, 1656; and No. 140, Roger Dodsworth and Guil. Dugdale's "Monastici Anglicani," 3 vols., folio, London, 1661—all given by Dr. Knight; and No. 258, "Will. Dugdale's History of St. Paul's Cathedral," with portrait and plates by Hollar, folio, John Warren, London, 1618, the gift of the Rev. Thos. Hewett.

No. 45. Rev. J. Dart's "History and Antiquities of Canterbury Cathedral," with plates, folio, J. Cole, London, 1726.

No. 60. "Immanuel Tremellius et Franciscus Junius, Biblia Sacra Latina ex Hæbræo facta, fol. Typ. Wechel. apud Claud. Marnium, & Hær. Joan. Aubrii, Hanoviæ, 1603."

No. 79. Bayle's "Historical and Critical Dictionary," 2nd edition, 5 vols., folio, London, 1734. This copy contains the two lives of David.

No. 91. "Matth. Westmonasteriensis Flores Historiarum Florentius Wigorniensis Chronic., fol., Typis Wechelianis, &c., Francofurti, 1601."

No. 95. "Rerum Anglicarum Scriptores post Bedam præcipi: Will. Malmsburiensis; Henricus Huntindoniensis; Roger de Hoveden; Chronic Ethelwardi; Ingulphus." Fol., G. Bishop, &c., Londini, 1696; referred to in the old Catalogue as the gift of "Mrs. Catherine Dod, widow."

No. 97. Nicolas de Lyra, "Textus Biblii cum glossa ordinaria, postilla," &c., folio, 3 vols., Froben, Basil, 1506. The gift of Wm. Smarte.

No. 107. Francis Peck's "Desiderata Curiosa," in 2 vols., folio, London, 1732.

Nos. 109 and 110. Bishop Tanner's "Notitia Monastica" and "Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica," 2 vols., folio, 1744 and 1743; given by the Rev. John Tanner, Vicar of Lowestoft.

No. 112. Peter Heylyn's "Cosmography," 3rd edition, folio, London, 1666.

No. 162. P. Melancthon, opera in 4 vols. folio, Hær., Joan Cratonis, Witebergæ, 1580.

No. 176. "De Antiquitate Britannicæ Ecclesiæ," M. Parkeri, folio, Typ. Wechelianis, Hanoviæ, 1605.

No. 226. "Purchas his Pilgrimes," in 4 vols., folio, Wm. Stansby,

London, 1625; given by "Mr. John Smytheir, merchant, during his life reserving one in his owne custody." And No. 399. "Purchas his Pilgrimage," 2nd edition, small folio, Stansby, London, 1614; the gift of Mr. John Sicklemore.

No. 255. "Erasmi Annot. in Nov. Test.," folio, John Froben, Basil, 1527; the gift of Mr. Jno. Carter, of Bramford.

No. 272. "Rhemish New Testament," by W. Fulke, folio, G. B., London, 1601.

No. 279. Edward Brown's "Fasciculus Rerum," folio, 2 vols., R. Chiswell, London, 1690.

No. 369. Henry Spelman's "Concilia in Eccles. Britan." folio, Rich. Badger, London, 1639.

No. 370. S. Birgit, "Revelationes celestes," 2 vols., folio, Anthony Koburger, Nuremberg, 1517; the gift of Wm. Smarte.

No. 373. "Natural History of Oxfordshire," by Plot, with plates, folio, Theater, Oxford, 1677; the gift of Dr. Knight.

No. 401. Wm. Wollaston's "Religion of Nature," L.P., 4to, Longman and others, London, 1726; given to the Library by the author.

No. 416. Samuel Moreland's "History of the Evangelical Churches of Piemont, London, 1658; with illustrations of the terrible sufferings the brave Waldenses had to endure in adhering to their primitive faith."

No. 442. Browne Willis's "Survey of Cathedrals," vols. i and iii, 4to, London, 1742.

No. 484. The first volume of the "Philosophical Transactions for 1665-6," 4to, printed in the Savoy.

No. 559. John Marbeck's "Common Places," B.L., 4to, Thos. East, London, 1581.

There are also in the Library the works of SS. Cyprian, Cyril, and Jerome, S. Thomas Aquinas, and of Maldonatus. The works of Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin, and other reformers; and of Socinus and other Unitarian writers of the sixteenth century; the latter bearing fictitious names for the places where they were printed, in consequence of the persecution the writers were then liable to.

And in the Library of the Museum, are the following valuable works temporarily deposited in this library:—"Strutt's Dictionary of Engraving;" "Astle's Origin of Writing;" "Singer, on Playing Cards, with Illustrations of the Origin of Printing and Engraving on wood;" "Ottley's History of Engraving;" "Dibdin's Typographical Antiquities;" and "Twelve Prints of the Monasteries, etc., in Suffolk," by Joshua Kirby, with his historical book thereon.

No. 461 in the Corporation Library, "Dr. Brook Taylor's Perspective," by Joshua Kirby, was printed at Ipswich in 1755, and contains the curious frontispiece by Hogarth setting at defiance all rules of perspective, underneath which is the following, "Whoever makes a

Design without the knowledge of *Perspective* will be liable to such absurdities as are shown in this Frontispiece." It was given to the Library by Kirby himself. This is the earliest book in the town library printed at Ipswich, although the art was carried on there at a very early period.¹

¹ In the year 1548 there were three printers at work in Ipswich, namely, John Oswen, John Overton, and Anthony Scoloker. Two books printed by Oswen and Overton were exhibited at the Congress by W. P. Hunt, Esq. That by John Overton is the work of John Bale, a biographical dictionary of British writers, with catalogues of the works printed by them, and the first work of the kind published in England. It is entitled "*Illustrium Majoris Britanniae Scriptorum...Summarium*." It is believed that in all other editions of this work it is entitled "*Catalogus*" in lieu of "*Summarium*." It has the following explicit, "*Completum erat præsens...opus...excusumque fuit Gippeswici in Anglia per Joannem Overton anno a Christi incarnatione 1548, pridie calendæ Augusti.*" This book contains for frontispiece a picture of Bale presenting his book to King Edward VI, and on either side of the leaf preceding the preface there are a likeness of Wicliffe and a small engraving similar to that of the frontispiece. It is not known that Overton printed any other book than this at Ipswich.

Bale was a Suffolk man. He informs us in this book (at pp. 242-3) that he was born at Cove, three miles from Sothold, and five from Dunwich, in Suffolk, and educated in the monastery of Carmelites at Norwich, and at Cambridge. His education was, of course, in the Romish religion; but at some subsequent period he turned Protestant, and gave proof of having renounced one at least of the rules of the Romish faith, by marrying; which event is thus referred to by himself: "*Horribilis bestiae, seu execrabilis Antichristi maledictum characterem deinceps—erasi, extirpavi, delevi. Non enim ab homine, neque per hominem, sed ex speciali Chri Verbo et dono, uxore fidelissimâ accepi Dorotheâ, at non amplius essem papæ creatura, sed Dei jubentis, Qui non continet, nubat in domino.*" In a letter to Lord Cromwell, Bale styles himself Doctor of Divinity, and "*late parysh prest of Thomden in Suffolk*"; and in the deposition of one Robert Blossé *alias* Mantel, recorded in Strype's "*Annals*" (vol. ii, p. 2, Append. No. 25) a reference is made to "*Mr. Bale, the learned man, prior of the White Friars in Ipswich.*" Bale was made bishop of Ossory, in Ireland, after he became a Protestant.

The other book belonging to Mr. Hunt is by John Oswen, and is a 12mo., in black letter, and contains the following title: "*A newe Booke containynge an Exhibitiō to the Sycke. The Sycke Man's Prayer.—A Prayer with thanks at the Purification of Women.—A Consolation at Burial, 1548*"; and the following colophon, "*Imprynted at Ippeswicke by me, John Oswen, cum privilegio ad imprimendum solum.*" Oswen also printed the following books at Ipswich: "*Invective against Drunkenness,*" 16mo.; "*Of the trewe Auctoritie of the Church newly translated out of Latyn into Englyshe,*" 16mo., Peter Moon, eight leaves, 4to.; "*John Escolampadius, his Epistle that there ought to be no Respect of Personages of the Poore, but all to be holpe and comforted in their Necessities,*" 16mo.; "*The Mynde of M. Jhon Caluyne, what a faithful Man, which is instructe in the Worde of God, ought to do dwelling amongst the Papisters,*" 16mo, k 4, in eights; "*A Brief Declaration of the fained Sacrament, translated out of the Latine into Englysh,*" 16mo, b, in eights. Oswen left Ipswich in the year 1548, and in the same year established printing at Worcester.

Anthony Scoloker printed at least three books at Ipswich, the following are the titles:—"*A right notable Sermon made by Doctor Martyn Luther vpon the Twentieth Chapter of John, of Absolution and the true use of the Keyes, full of great comfort. In which also it is intreated of the Mynysters of the Church, and of the Scholemaisters what is dune unto them. Ande of the Hardnes and softenes of the Harts of Menne,*" 8vo.; "*Certeayne Preceptes,*

The old catalogue, above referred to, contains some interesting entries. It is stated at the commencement, "This booke was made and given by Willā Saires, book-binder, of Ipswich, May 1st, An. 1615."

The following extract refers to the gift of Mrs. Walter, and contains a list of the prices¹ given in, or prior to, the year 1612 for the books purchased with her legacy, An. 1615:—"Mrs. Walter, widdow, her gift to the towne is conferred towards the furnishing of this librarie, see the 1 page, £50."

The old catalogue contains a list of the books given by Wm. Smarte, and refers also to the following benefactors:—"Mr. Samuel Ward, publicke preacher, of Ipswich, the workes of Pareus, in 9 vols., £2:10:0, still in the Library, Nos. 454 to 460. Samuel Ward was chosen town preacher in 1604, and died about the year 1640; he was a Puritan, and man of some note in his day. Mr. J. P. Hunt has an original portrait of him, well executed, and exhibited at the Congress. He is represented with an open book in his right hand, ruff, peaked beard, and moustache; on one side is a coast beacon lighted, and inscribed "Wachte Ward ætatis suæ 43, 1630."

Mr. Drax, of Harwich, his owne workes; Mr. (Tho.) Eldred, Dr. Hall's workes, and Mr. Hernes workes, and also Lorinus, 3 in Psal. Gesner., in 3 vols. The Eldred here referred to was Capt. Thomas Eldred, who sailed round the world with Cavendish, the navigator, in 1586. The house in which he lived is still standing in St. Clement's Street, opposite the Neptune Tavern: it contains some curious paintings upon the old carved oak panels of the fire-place in the front room. They consist of a ship in one panel, a globe in a second, and a portrait of a man holding a sea glass towards his eye in the third.

"The Lord Bishop of Norwich, at his visitation, 1662, gave £10 to y^e Library.

Mr. John Coleman, *inter alia*, "Syb's Riches of Mercy;" "Bruised Read;" "Soul's Conflict;" "Beams of Light;" "Light from Heaven;" "Saints' Cordials," in folio; "Bowels opened;" "On 3rd of y^e Philips;" "Evangelical Sacrifices;" "Returning Back-slider": a curious specimen of the nomenclature of the Puritan writers of the day.

The manuscripts are all (except No. 10) written on vellum, and are gathered by Hubricus Zuinglius, declaring howe the ingenious youth ought to be instructed and brought unto Christ—translated out of Latine into Englysh by Maister Richarde Argentyne, Doctour of Physyck," 12mo; "Sermons (6) of Bernardus Ochinus," translated by R. Argentyne, small 8vo, of which a perfect and fine copy is to be found in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. It is very much to be regretted that works of so great a local interest are not to be found in this library. There is no trace of any books having been printed at Ipswich during the remainder of the sixteenth century, or even during the seventeenth.

¹ As the prices vary little from what the works are now obtained at, the enumeration is omitted from this paper.

upon theological subjects. They are, for the most part, illuminated, in a fair state of preservation, and good specimens of the writing of the several periods to which they belong.

No. 1. "Biblia Concord." MS., illuminated, folio, sæc. xiii. vl xiv.

No. 2. Bede, "On the Gospel of St. Luke," imperfect, fine MS., sæc. xii.

No. 3. "Biblia Sacra, Exodus cum Glossa," sæc. xiii: contains a beautifully illuminated title-page, and is in a very good state of preservation.

No. 4. "Mariale de Sa. Ed. per J. Abbatem," sæc. xiv. Probably by John Abbot, of St. Edmund's Bury, in a very good condition.

No. 5. "A Collection of Sermons," circa sæc. xiv.

No. 6. "Varia," containing:—1. *Compilatio super moralia S. Gregorii*; 2. A Theological work, explicit, "A Libello qui dicitur Paratum"; 3. List of Archiepiscopal and Episcopal Sees; 4. *Libellus excerptis ab Ethimologiis Rabani, dictus Palmapenne*; Texts on subjects, etc., circa M.CC.LXX.

No. 7. "Officina et preces," sæc. xiv.

No. 8. A book entitled "Liber Sancti Edmundi Regis in quo continentur Expositio super Psaltarum Josue et Judicorum Glosati," sæc. xiii. This work was probably written by the monks of St. Edmund's Bury.

No. 9. "Sacra Vulgata cum Concordantia."

No. 10. "Catechitice," *Versiones variæ*. Heb., Græc., Lat., and Engl., MS. on paper.

In the year 1746, a laudable attempt was made by a clergyman of the town to do something for the preservation of the books. For that purpose he had a label prepared at his own expense, representing the Arms of Ipswich, with the words "The Ipswich Library," and "The gift of ———," on scrolls above and below, and made some valuable suggestions. But, unfortunately, this gentleman had his own arms in miniature, and the date 1746 engraved upon the label, which were considered by a Committee of Inspection appointed to consider the matter, sufficient reasons for the rejection of the proffered gift and the suggestions too, for they do not appear to have been ever acted upon, although the plate, with the objectionable armorial bearings and date erased, has since found its way into the books. And in 1799 a catalogue was prepared of the books of which but two or three copies remain. But there does not appear to have been much care taken of the library. Many valuable works have been lost, and many of those that remain are much mutilated.

This has arisen in a great measure, it is believed, from the library not having been sufficiently accessible to the public to induce them to take an interest in its preservation or augmentation.

It would be very desirable that this library and that attached to the museum should be amalgamated and made the nucleus of a good Library of Reference, which is very much needed in the town. And also that the records, charters, and other documents belonging to the Corporation should be chronologically arranged and bound in volumes, and kept in the library for inspection by the public under proper regulations, as is now becoming customary with other municipal corporations.

This practice has been found useful for the preservation of public documents, and there can be no doubt that if an arrangement of this kind were adopted, it would inspire confidence and many valuable additions would be made to the collection.

“The writer of this paper feels some diffidence in placing it before the Association, as until within the last few weeks, bibliography was not a study to which he had given much attention, but being at the time of the announcement of the visit of the Association to Ipswich engaged as a member of the corporation in preparing a catalogue of the library, he from that circumstance was requested to give some information upon its history and contents.”





