Class A.

WILLIAM CAXTON AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ART OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

THE collection of books here arranged is so complete, and illustrates so thoroughly the typographical career of Caxton, that it seems appropriate to include in the prefatory remarks a short biography of the printer.

The original documents having a direct reference to the life of Caxton are few, the most important being the prologues and epilogues written by himself, and appended to his various publications as they passed through the press.

Caxton was born about 1422 in the Weald of Kent, and received a good education in his youth. In 1438 he entered as an apprentice into the household of Alderman Robert Large, a wealthy mercer, who lived in a spacious mansion at the corner of the Old Jewry, nearly opposite the end of Basinghall Street. In 1441 Large died, and Caxton, to whom he left a small legacy, was turned over to a new master, and probably at once went to Bruges, then the capital of the dominions of the Duke of Burgundy, and the centre of the wool trade, wool being the staple article dealt in by mercers. Here Caxton must have been successful in trade, as in 1446 he was surety for a fellow mercer in a sum equal to £1,500 of our present money. In 1462 he appears as "Governor of the English Nation Abroad," a most important position, which gave him authority over all the English merchants in the Duke's dominions, who were associated together as "merchant adventurers." The head-quarters of this company were in London, at Mercers' Hall, a large majority of

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them being mercers. In 1464 he was nominated with Sir Robert Whitehill as ambassador to the Duke of Burgundy concerning a trade treaty, several of the letters to and from Caxton on this important matter being still preserved in the archives of the Mercers' Company.   In 1468 took place at Bruges the marriage between the Princess Margaret of York, sister of King Edward IV., and Charles, Duke of Burgundy, and at this time Caxton probably attracted the notice and gained the goodwill of the Duchess of Burgundy.   The same year Caxton was again chosen to act with two other mercers as ambassador to the Duke on trade arrangements.   In March, 1469, Caxton appears for the first time in a literary capacity as translator of a few leaves of " Le Recueil des Histoires de Troye," a tale compounded of mythology, love, and "deeds of arms," but, dissatisfied with the attempt, he put them by without, as he says, any intention of completing the translation.   In 1469 Caxton was still governor at Bruges, judgment being given in a dispute between an Englishman and a Genoese merchant in his name. It is dated May 12th, and is the latest notice of him in his official capacity.   On the 13th August of the same year the town council of Bruges made him a present of wine.   In 1470 the English king, Edward IV., took refuge in Bruges from the machinations of the Earl of Warwick, and at this time Caxton was doubtless of great use to his countrymen in their need.   The exact date when Caxton entered the service of the Duchess of Burgundy is unknown.   It must, however, have been about 1470, as in March of the succeeding year he was receiving a yearly salary and other benefits.   It is probable that at this time he married.   In March, 1471, the Duchess commanded him to continue his translation of " Le Recueil," which he did with alacrity, for although at one time at Ghent and then at Cologne, the task was not neglected, till on the 19th September in the same year he offered to his royal mistress a complete manuscript copy of " The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye."   The romance was a success, and many of the English lords required copies, so that Caxton wearied both hand and eye in trying to satisfy them.   How long he supplied manuscript copies before he thought of printing is unknown, but it was about 1474-75 that the first printed edition was completed.   This was done, as all the typographical minutiæ of the books prove, by the aid of Colard Mansion, the first printer at Bruges, and in passing this book through the press Caxton made his first essay as a printer.   The next year saw the issue of the " Chess-book," and in 1476, or early in 1477, Caxton left Bruges, and settled as a printer at Westminster, under the shadow of the Abbey.   Here until his death, in 1491, he published at least ninety-nine works, of which ninety are represented in this collection by original copies, and nine in fac-simile.

Concerning the arrangement and sequence of the copies a few words must be said.

Class A.—Caxton and Development of the Art.   3

Of all the books issued by Caxton, only one-third have the date of imprint plainly stated. Placing these dated books by themselves in chronological order, we find that they naturally fall into eight clearly defined classes :—

TYPE No. 1.—The Bruges-printed books, for which one type only was used, which makes its first appearance in " The Recuyell."

TYPE No. 2.—The first type used at Westminster, of which the first edition of " The Dictes," 1477, is the representative. It lasted no longer than the end of 1478, after which it disappears.

TYPE No. 2*.—A re-cast of No. 2, with variations, lasting from " The Cordial " in 1479 to " Tully," 1481.

TYPE No. 3 was used from 1479 to 1484, for head-lines. It was a Missal type and unsuited for the text of books generally.

TYPE No. 4 makes its first appearance in " The Chronicles " of 1480, and goes out of use with the " Confessio " in 1484.

TYPE No. 4* is a re-cast of No. 4. It appears first in the " Knight of the Tower," 1483, and last in " Paris and Vienne," December, 1485, although it is probable that books without date were printed in it for two years later.

TYPE No. 5 begins with the " Book of Good Manners," 1487, the last dated book being the " Doctrinal " of 1489.

TYPE No. 6 (which is No. 2 altered) comes in with " Fayts of Arms," 1489, and lasts over Caxton's death, being used by his successor, Wynken de Worde.

We have here evidently a good foundation for classification, the data of which may still further be multiplied by noticing some of the typographical habits of the workmen. For instance :—

The practice of printing books with lines of an uneven length, a sure sign of an infant press, and found in all Caxton's first productions, was entirely discontinued in 1480.

The use of printed signatures is a proof that the book in which they occur was not earlier than 1480.

The paragraph mark was not used by Caxton until the year 1483.

The great device was first used in 1487, and the small device at once shows the book to be printed after Caxton's death.

Woodcut embellishments began with Parvus Catho in 1480, and printed initials in 1483.

If now we take the mass of undated books, and arrange them according to their types and the above signs of date, we obtain the chronological sequence of the following list, which includes everything at present known to have been issued from the Press of William Caxton.

4   Caxton Celebration.

TYPE No. 1. AT BRUGES.

i. The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye. Folio. 1474.
ii. Le Recueil des Histoires de Troye. Folio. 1475-6.
iii. The Game of the Chesse. Folio. 1st edition. 1476.
iv. Les fais de Jason. Folio. 1476.
v. Meditacions. Folio. 1478.

TYPE No. 2. AT BRUGES.

vi. Les quatre derrenieres choses. Folio. 1476.

TYPE No. 2. AT WESTMINSTER.

vii. The Dictes and Sayings. Folio. 1st edition. 1477.
viii. History of Jason. Folio. 1477.
ix. Horæ. 1st edition. 8vo. 1477-78.
x. Canterbury Tales. 1st edition. Folio. 1477-78.
xi. Moral Proverbs. Folio. 1478.
xii. Propositio Joh. Russell. 4to. 1478.
xiii. Stans Puer. 4to. 1477-78.
xiv. Parvus Catho. 1st edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xv. Parvus Catho. 2nd edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xvi. Horse, Sheep, and Goose. 1st edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xvii. Horse, Sheep, and Goose. 2nd edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xviii. Infancia Salvatoris. 4to. 1477-78.
xix. The Temple of Glass. 4to. 1477-78.
xx. The Chorle and the Bird. 1st edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xxi. The Chorle and the Bird. 2nd edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xxii. The Temple of Brass. 4to. 1477-78.
xxiii. The Book of Courtesy. 1st edition. 4to. 1477-78.
xxiv. Anelida and Arcite. 4to. 1477-78.
xxv. Boethius. Folio. 1477-78.

TYPE No. 2.* AT WESTMINSTER.

xxvi. Cordyale. Folio. 1479.
xxvii. Fratris Laur. Gul. de Saona. Folio. 1480.
xxviii. Dictes and Sayings. . 2nd edition. 1480.
xxix. An Indulgence. 1481.
xxx. Parvus et Magnus Catho, by Burgh. Folio. 1481.
xxxi. Mirrour of the World. Folio. 1481.
xxxii. Reynart the Fox. Folio. 1481.
xxxiii. Tully of Old Age. Folio. 1481.
xxxiv. The Game of the Chesse. Folio. 1482.

TYPE No. 3. AT WESTMINSTER.

xxxv. A Hand-bill. 1478.
xxxvi. Directorium Sacerdotum. 4to. 1st version. 1477-78.
xxxvii. Horæ. 2nd edition. 4to. 1480-83.
xxxviii. Psalterium. 4to. 1480-83.

TYPE No. 4. AT WESTMINSTER.

xxxix. Chronicles. Folio. 1st edition. 1480.
xl. Description of Britain. Folio. 1480.
xli. Curia Sapientiæ. Folio. 1481.
xlii. Godfrey of Bulloyn. Folio. 1481.

Class A.—Caxton and Development of the Art. 5

xliii. An Indulgence. 1481.
xliv. Chronicles. Folio. 2nd edition. 1482.
xlv. Polychronicon. Folio. 1482.
xlvi. Pilgrimage of the Soul. Folio. 1483. (Partly in type No. 4*.)

TYPE NO. 4.* AT WESTMINSTER.

xlvii. A Vocabulary. Folio. 1483.
xlviii. The Festial. 1st edition. Folio. 1483.
xlix. Quatuor Sermones. 1st edition. Folio. 1483.
l. Servitium de Visitatione. 4to. 1480-83.
li. Sex Epistolæ. 4to. 1483.
lii. Confessio Amantis. Folio. 1483.
liii. Knight of the Tower. Folio. 1484.
liv. Caton. Folio. 1484.
lv. Golden Legend. 1st edition. Folio. 1484.
lvi. Death-bed Prayers. Folio. 1484.
lvii. The Fables of Æsop. Folio. 1484.
lviii. Order of Chivalry. 4to. 1484.
lix. Canterbury Tales. 2nd edition. 1484.
lx. Book of Fame. Folio. 1484.
lxi. The Curial. Folio. 1484.
lxii. Troilus and Creside. Folio. 1484.
lxiii. The Life of our Lady. Folio. 1484.
lxiv. Life of St. Winifrede. Folio. 1485.
lxv. King Arthur. Folio. 1485.
lxvi. Charles the Great. Folio. 1485.
lxvii. Paris and Vienne. Folio. 1485.
lxviii. Golden Legend. 2nd edition. Folio. 1487.

TYPE NO. 5. AT WESTMINSTER.

lxxi. Book of Good Manners. Folio. 1487.
[lxxii. Sarum Missal. Printed for Caxton at Paris. Folio. 1487.]
lxxiii. Speculum. 1st edition. 1487.
lxxiv. Directorium. 1st edition of second version. Folio. 1487.
lxxv. Horæ. 3rd edition. 8vo. 1488.
lxxvi. Royal Book. Folio. 1488.
lxxvii. Image of Pity. 4to. 1489.
lxxviii. Doctrinal of Sapience. Folio. 1489.
lxxix. Speculum. 2nd edition. Folio. 1490.
lxxx. Commemoracio Lamentationis. 4to. 1491.
lxxxi. Servitium de Transfiguracione. 4to. 1491.
lxxxii. Horæ. 4th edition. 1491.

TYPE NO. 6. AT WESTMINSTER.

lxxxiii. Fayts of Arms. Folio. 1489.
lxxxiv. Statutes of Hen. VII. Folio. 1489.
lxxxv. Governal of Helthe. 4to. 1489.
lxxxvi. Reynart the Fox. 2nd edition. 1489.
lxxxvii. Blanchardyn and Eglantine. Folio. 1489.
lxxxviii. Four Sons of Aymon. Folio. 1489.
lxxxix. Directorium. 2nd edition of second version. Folio. 1489.
xc. Eneydos. Folio. 1490.
xci. Dictes and Sayings. 3rd edition. 1490.

xcii.   Mirrour of the World.   2nd edition.   1490.
xciii.   The xv. Oes.   4to.   1490.
xciv.   Diverse ghostly Matters.   4to.   1490.
xcv.   Arte and Crafte.   Folio.   1491.
xcvi.   Festial.   2nd edition.   Folio.   1491.
xcvii.   Four Sermons.   2nd edition.   Folio.   1491.
xcviii. Ars Moriendi.   4to.   1491.
xcix.   Book of Courtesy.   2nd edition.   1491.
c.   Chastising of God's Children.   Folio.   1491.   And the Treatise of Love.
             Folio.   1491.

By Caxton's Executors.   Westminster.

ci.   Life of St. Katherine.   Folio.   1493.
cii.   Golden Legend.   3rd edition.   Folio.   1493.
ciii.   Siege of Rhodes.   Folio.   1493-94.

WILLIAM BLADES.

Section I.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM CAXTON.

1.

ERCERS' Records.   Wardens' Accounts.
             Lent by the Worshipful Company of Mercers.
        Under the 16th year of Henry VI. (1437-38):
              "Item John Large   ⟩les apprentices de
              Item William Caxton ⟩   Robert Large. iiij s."
        This was the fee for apprenticeship.

2. MERCERS' Records.   Acts of Court.
             Lent by the Worshipful Company of Mercers.
    A letter sent by the Court of the Merchant Adventurers to William Caxton,
Governor of the English Nation beyond the sea.   It is endorsed: "A lettre send
oū to Caxton goūnor." and begins: "Right trusty Sir, We grete youe well."

3. CHURCHWARDENS' Accounts of Saint Margaret, Westminster.
             Lent by the Rector and Churchwardens.
        Among the Receipts in 1491 is the following:
           "Item. At bureying of William Caxton for iiij Torches—vj*s.* viij*d.*
              Item. For the Bell atte same Bureying—vj*d.*"
        Caxton's name appears also three times as auditor of the parish accounts.

4. THE Wardens' Accounts of the Guild of our Lady, St. Margaret's
    Westminster.   15th cent.   *Lent by the Rector and Churchwardens.*
        This volume shows the connection of the Westminster Guild with the Wool
Staple and with the Mercers' Company.   It also contains in the later years several
interesting entries of charges for work done by Pynson and other early typographers.

5. A PHOTOGRAPH of a MS. supposed to be in Caxton's autograph.
Presented by the Hon. and Rev. A. Nevile.

It is a translation of the 10th to the 15th books of Ovid's Metamorphoses, and was doubtless intended for the press, and perhaps printed. No printed copy, nor even a fragment has yet been found, but the following Colophon here exhibited leads to the hope that a copy will some day be discovered. "Translated and fynysshed by me William Caxton at Westmestre the xxij day of Apryll, the yere of our lord m. iiijc iiijxx" (1480). The original is in the Pepysian Library, Cambridge.

SECTION II.

THE PRESS OF WILLIAM CAXTON AND COLARD MANSION AT BRUGES.

BOOKS PRINTED IN TYPE NO. 1.

6.

EFEVRE, Raoul. The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye. Translated 1469-71. Without place or date of printing, but probably at Bruges about 1474. Folio.
Lent by the Duke of Devonshire.

In a glass case alone on a velvet cushion, being the first book printed in the English language, during the printing of which, as Caxton says in the Epilogue to Book II., he learnt his new art. This copy has the autograph of Elizabeth Grey, Queen of Edward IV., and cost 1,000 guineas at the Roxburghe Sale in 1812. The original vellum cover is bound up with it.

7. LEFEVRE, Raoul. The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye. A second copy. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*
First page, printed in red ink.

7*. LEFEVRE, Raoul. The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye. A third copy.

8. LEFEVRE, Raoul. The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye. A fourth copy. *Lent by the President and Governors of Sion College, London.*
Last page.

9. CESSOLIS, Jacobus de. The Game and Play of the Chess, moralised. First edition. Translated in 1474. Without printer's name, date, or place, but about 1475. Folio. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*
This also was probably printed at Bruges by Caxton and Mansion. First page. There is very little about chess in the work, each separate piece being used merely as a peg whereon to hang an anecdotical essay on the various duties of mankind.

10. CESSOLIS, Jacobus de. The Game and Play of the Chess, moralised. A third copy. *Lent by the Duke of Devonshire.*

11. LEFEVRE, Raoul. Le Recueil des Histoires de Troye. Compose en lan de grace, 1464. Without printer's name, place, or date, but probably printed at Bruges about 1476. Folio.
Lent by Her Majesty the Queen.

First page. This is the first book printed in French, and is believed by many English bibliographers to have been printed by Colard Mansion.

12. LEFEVRE, Raoul. Le Recueil des Histoires de Troye. A second copy. Last page. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*

13. LEFEVRE, Raoul. Les Fais de Jason. Without printer's name, place, or date. Printed at Bruges, probably by Colard Mansion, about 1476-77. Folio.
Lent by the Provost and Fellows of Eton College.

This is the only copy in England ; there are two in Paris.

14. D'AILLY, Pierre, Cardinal. Meditacions sur les sept pseaulmes penitenciaulx. Without printer's name, place, or date. Probably printed at Bruges by Colard Mansion about 1477.

A page in facsimile from the unique copy in the British Museum, which was discovered by Mr. Winter Jones, in 1841, in the same cover with ''Les Quatre derrenieres choses,'' just as they were bound when issued.

SECTION III.

CAXTON'S PRESS AT WESTMINSTER.

BOOKS PRINTED IN TYPE No. 2.

15.

MEMORARE Novissima. Les quatre derrenieres choses. Without printer's name, place, or date. Appears to have been printed at Bruges about 1476. Folio.

A page in facsimile from the unique copy in the British Museum. The peculiar use of red ink should be noticed as a link with the press of Colard Mansion. (See No. 192.) A page by Mansion is placed by its side.

16. THE Dictes and notable wise Sayings of the Philosophers. First edition. Without colophon. " Emprynted by me Wylliam Caxton at Westmestre. 1477." Folio. *Lent by S. Christie-Miller, Esq.*

This book is placed alone in a glass case on a velvet cushion, being the first book from Caxton's press with printer's name, and with place and date of printing, thus forming the foundation stone of the present Celebration.

17. THE Dictes and notable wise Sayings of the Philosophers. First edition. Without colophon. Printed at Westminster by William Caxton. Folio. 1477. A second copy.
Lent by W. Amhurst Tyssen Amhurst.
> The first book from Caxton's press with printer's name, place, and an unmistakable date.

18. THE Dictes and notable wise Sayings of the Philosophers. First edition. "Emprinted by me William Caxton at Westmestre, 1477." Folio. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*
> This copy is unique in having the colophon of the second edition, but in different type, printed on the last page.

19. LEFEVRE, Raoul. The History of Jason. Folio. Without printer's name, date, or place. About 1477. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*
> First page.

20. LEFEVRE, Raoul. The History of Jason. A second copy. Last page. *Lent from the Bodleian Library.*

21. HORÆ ad usum Sarum. First edition. 8vo. 1477-78.
Lent by William Blades, Esq.
> Facsimile by G. I. F. Tupper, showing how the book looked when bound. 8 pages. This was probably the smallest book which issued from Caxton's press, and must have made originally a charming little volume, although known now by a fragment only, which is in the Douce Collection at Oxford.

22. CHAUCER, Geoffrey. The Canterbury Tales. Folio. Without printer's name, place, or date. First edition. About 1477-78.
Lent by Earl Spencer.

23. CHRISTINE de Pisan, The Moral Proverbs of. Translated by Earl Rivers, and "Enprinted by Caxton at Westmestre." Folio. 1478. First page. *Lent by S. Christie-Miller, Esq.*

24. CHRISTINE de Pisan, The Moral Proverbs of. A second copy.
Lent by the Earl of Jersey.

25. CHRISTINE de Pisan, The Moral Proverbs of. A third copy.
Lent by Earl Spencer.
> Last page. These three are the only copies of this book known.

26. PROPOSITIO Johannis Russell. 4to. Without printer's name, place, or date. Printed about 1478. *Lent by Earl Spencer.*
> First page. A Latin oration made upon the investment of the Duke of Burgundy with the Order of the Garter.

27. PROPOSITIO Johannis Russell. A second copy.
Lent by the Earl of Leicester.
> Last page. These two are the only copies known.

28. LYDGATE, John. Stans Puer ad Mensam. 4to. Printed about 1478.
Unique.   *Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.*

A boy's school-book, teaching Latin and good manners at the same time.

29. PARVUS Catho, by Burgh. 4to. First edition. Printed about
1478. Unique.   *Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.*

A boy's school-book.

30. PARVUS Catho, by Burgh. 4to. Second edition. Printed about
1478. Unique.   *Lent by the Duke of Devonshire.*

31. LYDGATE, John. The Horse, the Sheep, and the Goose. 4to. First
edition. Printed about 1478. Unique.
     Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.

A poetical disputation as to which of these animals was most useful to mankind.

32. LYDGATE, John. The Horse, the Sheep, and the Goose. 4to.
Second edition. About 1478.
     Lent by the Dean and Chapter of York.

33. INFANCIA Salvatoris. 4to. Without printer's name, place, or date.
About 1478. Unique.
     Lent from the University Library, Göttingen.

Purchased from Osborne, a celebrated London bookseller, in 1745, who had
bought all the printed books of the Harleian Library. The librarian of Gottin-
gen, who purchased five other Caxtons at the same time, gave half-a-guinea
for it.

34. LYDGATE, John. The Temple of Glass. 4to. About 1478.
Unique.   *Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.*

A poetic composition of Dan John Lydgate.

35. LYDGATE, John. The Chorle and the Birde. 4to. First edition.
About 1478. Unique.
     Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.

A favourite piece of poetry by Lydgate, in which a labourer and a nightingale
discourse of mundane matters.

36. THE Chorle and the Bird. 4to. Second edition. About 1478.
Unique.   *Lent by the Dean and Chapter of York.*

37. CHAUCER, Geoffrey. The Temple of Brass. 4to. About 1478.
     Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.

This is Chaucer's "Parliament of Fowls."

38. THE Book of Courtesye. (Lytyl John.) 4to. First edition. About
1478. Unique.   *Lent from the University Library, Cambridge.*

A school-book.