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Books of enduring scholarly value

# History of Printing, Publishing and Libraries

The interface between authors and their readers is a fascinating subject in its own right, revealing a great deal about social attitudes, technological progress, aesthetic values, fashionable interests, political positions, economic constraints, and individual personalities. This part of the Cambridge Library Collection reissues classic studies in the area of printing and publishing history that shed light on developments in typography and book design, printing and binding, the rise and fall of publishing houses and periodicals, and the roles of authors and illustrators. It documents the ebb and flow of the book trade supplying a wide range of customers with products from almanacs to novels, bibles to erotica, and poetry to statistics.

#### The Enemies of Books

First published in 1881, this popular and entertaining work by the printer and bibliographer William Blades (1824–90) examines the numerous threats that books have faced throughout their existence. Based on the author's experience of collecting printed works, the book explores such destructive forces as fire, water, disgruntled pirates, ignorance, and vermin. Even bookbinders and collectors are accused of causing mischief. In 1886, Blades was cruelly tormented by one of his enemies when his printing works burned down. A founder of the Library Association, he most notably investigated the work of Caxton: his two-volume *Life and Typography of William Caxton* (1861–3) is also reissued in this series. After his death, his extensive collection of books formed the basis of the St Bride Printing Library. Six editions of *The Enemies of Books* emerged between 1881 and 1886. Reissued here is the revised, enlarged and illustrated version that appeared in 1888.



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# The Enemies of Books

WILLIAM BLADES





# **CAMBRIDGE**UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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> www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108076418

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1888 This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07641-8 Paperback

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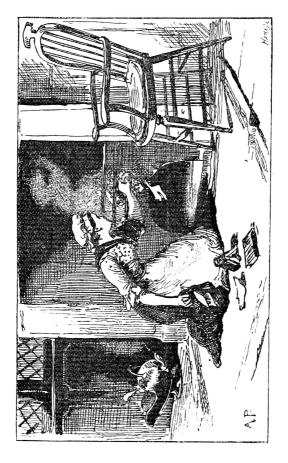


The Book-Lover's Library.

Edited by

Henry B. Wheatley, F.S.A.





Servant using a "Caxton" to light the Fire.



# ENEMIES OF BOOKS

BY

WILLIAM BLADES

Revised and Enlarged by the Author



LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62 PATERNOSTER ROW
1888





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