

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

FIRE.

*Libraries destroyed by Fire.—Alexandrian.—
St. Paul's destruction of MSS., Value of.—
Christian books destroyed by Heathens.—
Heathen books destroyed by Christians.—
Hebrew books burnt at Cremona.—Arabic
books at Grenada.—Monastic libraries.—
Cotton library.—Birmingham riots.—Dr.
Priestley's library.—Lord Mansfield's books.
—Cowper.—Strasbourg library bombarded.
—Ofor Collection burnt.—Dutch Church
library damaged.—Library of Corporation
of London.*

viii. *Contents.*

CHAPTER II.

WATER.

Heer Hudde's library lost at sea.—Pinelli's library captured by Corsairs.—MSS. destroyed by Mohammed II.—Books damaged by rain.—Wolfenbittel.—Vapour and Mould.—Brown stains.—Dr. Dibdin.—Hot water pipes.—Asbestos fire.—Glass doors to book-cases.

CHAPTER III.

GAS AND HEAT.

Effects of Gas on leather.—Necessitates re-binding.—Bookbinders.—Electric light.—British Museum.—Treatment of books.—Legend of Friars and their books.

Contents. ix.

CHAPTER IV.

DUST AND NEGLECT.

Books should have gilt tops.—Old libraries were neglected.—Instance of a College library.—Clothes brushed in it.—Abuses in French libraries.—Derome's account of them.—Boccaccio's story of library at the Convent of Mount Cassin.

CHAPTER V.

IGNORANCE AND BIGOTRY.

Destruction of Books at the Reformation.—Mazarin library.—Caxton used to light the fire.—Library at French Protestant Church, St. Martin's-le-Grand.—Books stolen.—Story of books from Thonock Hall.—Boke of St. Albans.—Recollet Monks of Antwerp.

x. *Contents.*

—*Shakespearian “find.”—Black-letter books used in W.C.—Gesta Romanorum.—Lansdowne collection.—Warburton.—Tradesman and rare book.—Parish Register.—Story of Bigotry by M. Müller.—Clergymen destroy books.—Patent Office sell books for waste.*

CHAPTER VI.

THE BOOKWORM.

Doraston.—Not so destructive as of yore.—Worm won't eat parchment.—Pierre Petit's poem.—Hooke's account and image.—Its natural history neglected.—Various sorts.—Attempts to breed Bookworms.—Greek worm.—Havoc made by worms.—Bodleian and Dr. Bandinel.—“Dermestes.”—Worm won't eat modern paper.—America comparatively free.—Worm-hole at Philadelphia.

Contents. xi.

CHAPTER VII.

OTHER VERMIN.

Black-beetle in American libraries.—Blatta germanica.—Bug Bible.—Lepisma.—Codfish.—Skeletons of Rats in Abbey library, Westminster.—Niptus hololencus.—Tomicus Typographicus.—House flies injure books.

CHAPTER VIII.

BOOKBINDERS.

A good binding gives pleasure.—Deadly effects of the “plough” as used by binders.—Not confined to bye-gone times.—Instances of injury.—De Rome, a good binder but a great

xii. *Contents.*

*cropper.—Books “hacked.”—Bad lettering.
 —Treasures in book-covers.—Books washed,
 sized, and mended.—“Cases” often prefer-
 able to re-binding.*

CHAPTER IX.

COLLECTORS.

*Bagford the biblioclast.—Illustrations torn
 from MSS.—Title-pages torn from books.
 —Rubens, his engraved titles.—Colophons
 torn out of books.—Lincoln Cathedral.
 —Dr. Dibdin’s Nosegay.—Theurdanck.
 —Fragments of MSS.—Some libraries
 almost useless.—Pepysian.—Teylerian.—
 Sir Thomas Phillipps.*

Contents. xiii.

CHAPTER X.

SERVANTS AND CHILDREN.

*Library invaded for the purpose of dusting.—
Spring clean.—Dust to be got rid of.—Ways
of doing so.—Carefulness praised.—Bad
nature of certain books.—Metal clasps and
rivets.—How to dust.—Children often injure
books.—Examples.—Story of boys in a
country library.*

POSTSCRIPTUM.

Anecdote of book-sale in Derbyshire.

CONCLUSION.

*The care that should be taken of books.—
Enjoyment derived from them.*