COVER OF THE LIVRE D'OR DE LA LORRAINE.
(The Golden Book of Lorene.)

Designed by Victor Prouvost and Cunliffe Martin, and executed in mosaic marcas by Ernst Winter, Nancy.
Livre d'Or.

ENTERING on an examination of the "Livre d'Or de la Lorraine," the critic of the various productions specially issued during the recent Franco-Russian fêtes at once sees that he has before him work of the highest class, and of a truly artistic character. As an outcome of patriotic effort, and the amicable and emulatory feelings engendered between the two nations, this volume, both in contents and cover, is worthy of all praise, and highly creditable to French workmanship.

The contents include a preface by M. Mézières, of the French Academy, and souvenirs from the Communées (1,713 in number), and from the various societies and journals in the three departments. There are sixty original illustrations in crayon, pencil, pen-and-ink, and water-colour, by well-known artists. The text throughout is given in both the French and Russian languages.

The binding is the work of three Lorraine artists: René Wiener, Victor Prouvé, and Camille Martin. The design is worked on citron-coloured morocco—the colours of Russia and Lorraine, and forms a mosaic of various coloured leathers intersecting throughout, following the design and setting as by pyrogravure, with admirable effect.

The front cover is by Victor Prouvé, and includes a female figure, blonde, in a violet-coloured dress, presenting a pansy. The words, "La Lorraine à la Russe" are in raised gold letters on chocolate ground, with transverse armorial band in red. The broad transverse band across the cover bears three large silver alerions.

The design on the other side is by C. Martin, and shows the Lorraine shield as a central piece. This is worked in colours, the olive branches entwining it being also in two greens—the different shades of leaf and fruit. In the lower left-hand corner, on a red penon, is the word "Pax" (peace) in gold—accentuating the olive-branch symbol of peace.

The thistle—the Nancy emblem—occupies the corners, while the clasp is in the form of an alerion, the whole of the metal being in oxidised silver, the work of a Nancy goldsmith.

As commemorative of the festivities and the friendly feelings displayed, no less than as a specimen of work produced by the province, the album cannot fail to do Lorraine infinite credit, and the Livre d'Or will be prized wherever its ultimate destination may be.

The accompanying illustration is from a block kindly lent by the editor of Revue des Arts Graphiques.

There is a good deal to be said in favour of the appeal for the employment of women in libraries, which Miss James, of the People's Palace, made to the Chicago Congress of Librarians. There are only twenty-one libraries in England with women for heads, and but forty in which they are employed at all. Considering their success in America in this work, it certainly seems time for some such training school or apprenticeship system as may prepare them for a work for which they are frequently well qualified.

MESSRS. JULIUS FRANK & OHLMANN send us their latest pattern book of skytogen imitation, the new material for bookbindings, fancy articles, pattern cards, and other manufacturing stationery goods. We may say that we have given this material a thorough trial, and find it as claimed to be—tough, flexible, and hard-wearing, and one of the very best substitutes in the market for leather and cloth. In the new pattern book a considerable variety of new shades of colour and new grains have been added, and to give increased facility to the trade a permanent stock of about 128 varieties, in rolls, is kept at the London warehouse, 18 St. Thomas-st., Borough, S.E.

It is worth notice also that most of the grains shown in the new book can be adapted to the cheaper qualities, such as calf papers, "C.C." leather imitation, cambic, etc., all of which are shown in the special book containing about 120 fancy designs. The manufacturers caution purchasers to see that the trade mark of the Aschaffenburg Coloured Paper and Glue Co. is on every roll, as already inferior imitations are in the market.

ORIGIN OF MEASUREMENTS.—The "foot" is named from the length of that member in a full-grown man. Some say that it was so called from the length of the foot of a certain English king, but it is believed to have been a standard of measurement among the ancient Egyptians. The cubit is from the Latin cubitus, an elbow, and is the distance from the elbow to the end of the middle finger. Fathom is from the Aryan fat, to extend, and denotes this distance from tip to tip of the fingers when the arms of an average-sized man are fully extended.

Every writer who composes a very successful work gives employment to a large number of papermakers, printers, proof readers, pressmen, bookbinders, booksellers, shopmen, clerks, and draymen. What an army of men Dickens has thus employed? What millions of money has he put in motion? It would be difficult to estimate how many copies have been printed of the works of Dickens.

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