

German Pig-skin Binding—A.D. 1612.

THE plate on the opposite page represents a style of binding which prevailed in Germany at the close of the sixteenth and the commencement of the seventeenth century. The material used was pig-skin, which has always been found very durable. The book is entitled *S. Gregorii Nazienzeni Opera*: Antwerpiae, Johannem Keerborgium, 1612. (Size 14 by 9 inches.) The binding is coeval with the printing. In the centre of the cover is the figure of *Justice*—this was often used. A variety of other subjects are found on volumes similarly bound, such as *Jael and Sisera*, *Judith with the head of Holofermes*, *the Crucifixion*, *the Resurrection*, portraits of Luther, Melancthon and others.

The block from which this plate is printed is of interest as having been produced by photography and electricity without the aid of any graving tools, from a negative taken by Francis Bedford, the well-known architectural artist, more than twenty-five years ago.

The inventor of the process, Paul Pretsch, who was superintendent of the Imperial printing-press at Vienna, called it *Photo-galvanography*. It was very similar to that now in daily use called *Phototype*. Paul Pretsch, also produced some plates for printing at the copper-plate press, but, failing as a commercial speculation, the invention was not at that time carried further. Messrs. Dawson and Messrs. Boussod, Valadon and Co., now work it with much better results, quite successfully.

Testimonial to Mr. William Bockett.

WE have received the following letter from the President of the "West-End Day Working Bookbinders' Society," and insert it with pleasure. We wish it to be clearly understood that our columns are always open to interesting communications from any of our brethren in the craft.—ED.

5, *Lascelles Place, Broad Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.*
FEB. 11, 1888.

To the Editor of THE BOOKBINDER,

SIR,—Will you kindly notice in your next issue that the London Journeymen Bookbinders are getting up a testimonial as a tribute of gratitude and respect for the long and faithful services rendered by the Secretary of the "West-End Day Working Bookbinders' Society," Mr. William Bockett, who has served in that capacity for thirty-seven years, and has always given the greatest satisfaction.

It is scarcely necessary to point out that such a long period of service obviously deserves recognition. All who have come into contact or had any dealings with Mr. Bockett in the discharge of his duties will testify that a more efficient, faithful, or painstaking secretary, or a more courteous gentleman, it would be difficult to find. Mr. Bockett, I may add, is well known both in London and the provinces. Should any of your readers be desirous of contributing to the above worthy object, subscriptions (by Post Office Order or otherwise) may be transmitted to, and will be duly acknowledged by Mr. D. Mitchell, Hon. Treasurer, 40, Manor Road, Lorrimore Square, West Newington; or Mr. J. Starie, Hon. Secretary, 14, Northampton Row, Clerkenwell, E.C.

Thanking you in advance, and with best wishes for the future welfare of *The Bookbinder*,—I am, &c.

HERBERT G. CALEY,
President of "The West-End Day Working Bookbinders' Society."

