of the miraculous deliverance of Anne Greene, who being executed at Oxford Decemb. 14. 1650, afterwards revived; and by the care of certain Physicians there is now perfectly recovered. . . . Written by a Scholler in Oxford. . . . The second impression."

Roman Paper and Ink.

Although the writing materials of the ancient Romans were crude enough, when compared with the elegant stationery of to-day, they wrote charming letters and books whose fame will live for ever. There was no haste in epistolary efforts in those days; writing was a serious business and involved an amount of preparation favourable to thought. The materials used as paper were of three kinds: the rind of a plant or tree called papyrus, parchment made of skins, and wooden tablets covered with wax. Pieces of the thin rind of the papyrus were joined together when damp, pressed, dried in the sun, and rubbed until smooth. Long rolls of sheets pasted together were sold. Some rolls of papyrus sheets nearly fifty yards in length are now preserved in one or two museums in Europe. When a book was finished, a stick was fastened to the last sheet and all the sheets were rolled together in a way similar to that in which we roll our maps. The name of the book was written in red ink on a piece of papyrus which was attached to the roll. The second kind of paper or parchment was made from the skins of sheep and goats. The hair was taken off and the skin made smooth by the use of pumice. A remarkable fact in connection with writing on parchment was that the ancients often used the same piece twice or even three times. They did this by rubbing or washing the writing off. The third kind of writing material was a waxen tablet, used for almost any purpose, but chiefly in writing letters and making notes and by schoolboys for writing exercises or working out problems. The tablets were made of wood, generally beech, fir, or citron wood, covered on one side with wax. In order to prevent the wax of one piece from rubbing against that of the other when they fastened two pieces together with wire, they left a rim around the wood. The wire fastening the backs of the tablets served as a hinge. When a writer had finished his letter he placed the tablets together, bound them with a strong string, tied this into a knot, placed wax upon the knot, and stamped it with his signet ring. The ink used by the Romans was of various kinds. When they used paper made from papyrus they wrote with ink composed of lamp-black and gum. With parchment they used a mixture of gum and oak galls. Sometimes they made an ink by boiling the dregs of wine. It is said that occasionally they used as ink the black fluid emitted by the cuttlefish. Ovid tells us that people occasionally wrote with fresh milk, and that the characters could be seen only when coal dust was sprinkled upon the paper. Single and double inksstands, the latter for ink of two kinds, some round in shape, others hexagonal, with covers, were found at Pompeii. Pens were made from a reed of nearly the same shape as our old-time quill pen. It was split like our pens, and named "cloven-footed." Certain Asiatic people use this reed even now. With the waxen tablets, a sharp iron instrument called a stylus was in use. One end was sharpened for scratching on the wax; and the other end was flat and was used as an eraser.