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● Book Notes. ●

THE VENETIAN PRINTING PRESS," by H. F. Brown (London: John C. Nimmo, 14 King-William-street, Strand), "an historical study based upon documents for the most part hitherto unpublished," is an excellently got up quarto volume of 480 pp, of which only 500 copies have been printed, and we learn that there is every probability of its being speedily out of print. It is a learned and exhaustive work, giving a complete history of the rise

of the famous Venetian Printing Press till its decline in the 17th and 18th centuries, including twenty-two interesting fac-similes of early printing, the day book of a Venetian bookseller of 1484, transcribed from the original MS. in the Marciana Library at Venice, and the *Mariègole*, or matriculation book of the Guild of Printers and Booksellers, containing the first bye-laws of the Corporation, transcribed from the hitherto unpublished original now at the Museo Civico di Venezia. The gradual growth of press legislation, censorship, copyright and its protection, are noted, and the laws of the Republic on the subject of the printing press and the book trade are collected and published together for the first time. Perhaps Chapter III., "How they Printed," is the most interesting to the modern printer, as shewing the differing characteristics of each printer's types; how they cut their own punches and sold matrixes to those who had not the skill to cut for themselves; and how they printed and managed their own business, etc. We shall probably make some extracts from this part of the book in a future number. The accompanying illustration is a reduced fac-simile of one of the reproductions, a title-page, "CORIOLANUS CEPIO, *Municipi Gesta*, 1477," one of the earliest instances of a flowered border and initial on a title-page. It was printed by Erhard Ratdolt, who with Bernard Pictor and Peter Loslein, printed in company from 1476 to 1478, their productions being remarkable for beauty of type and illustrations. The book is admirably printed by the Chiswick Press.

The Art Decorator, the handsome monthly published by the Electrotype Company, at 80 Fleet-street, E.C., completes its first volume with the December number. H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, has accepted the dedication of the complete volume and Mr. Matthew Bell is preparing a specially bound copy for H.R.H.'s acceptance.

"LONDON CITY," the sumptuous work on the big metropolis announced from the Leadenhall Press, is being eagerly looked for.

Coriolanus Cepio Clarissimo viro Marco Antonio Mauroceno equiti apud illustrissimū ducem Burgundię Venetorū oratori felicitatem.



QVom prefectus triremis ad classem proficisceretur quam felicissimus impetator Venetorum Petrus Mocenicus contra Othomanum Turcorum principē ducebat: uehementer rogasti me/ut quicquid in hac expeditione gestum esset litteris mandarem: affirmans ea te Apollinis oraculo uetiora habiturum que a me scripta forent. Igitur ut tibi morē gererem que ab imperatore Mocenico per quadrienniū gesta sunt annotaui: Tanto enim tempore & ille imperiū gessit/ & ego prefectura functus sum. Quapropter opusculū in quo hec scripta sunt tibi mitto: quod cū perlegeris/ nō minus te egregias imperatoris uirtutes quā magnifica ipsius gesta admiratur certū habeo: meritoque damnabis eorū sententiā qui affirmare solent effœtam esse naturam: nec pro ducere tales uiros quales priscis temporibus extiterūt: omniaque mundo senescente degenerasse: quā falsi sint uel ex hoc maxime apparet. Nam si

TITLE-PAGE OF "CORIOLANUS CEPIO, *Municipi Gesta*, 1477."

— ELKIN MATHEWS, "at the Sign of the Bodley Head," Vigo-street, W., will issue shortly, quaintly printed on handmade paper at the Chiswick Press, a brochure "On the Making and Issuing of Books," addressed to authors and others, by C. T. Jacobi, manager of the Chiswick Press.

