

## Our Coloured Illustration.

THIS is a good example of the *inlaid* patterns of bookbinding which became the fashion in the sixteenth century, when coats of arms and monograms were frequently introduced. These are, of course, of much value at the present day, as they serve to tell the date of the book and the name of its possessor. Traces of the Grolier style still prevail in this example, in which the broad white lines are formed by strips of thin leather very carefully laid in. There are many examples of beautiful inlaid bindings in the British Museum which we hope to be able to describe in an early number. An imitation of this style in painted and enamelled surfaces was afterwards introduced.

## Tree = Marbled Calf.

THE operation of "tree-marbling" is managed in the same manner as that described by us in our last number, but the flow of water instead of running from the back to the fore-edge, as best it may, must be made to flow from head to tail, and from the sides of each board towards the centre. To assist this, the boards of the book are slightly bent, and the rods upon which the book is placed must be slightly elevated at the top; a little water being squeezed from a sponge at the top and centre of each board, must be allowed to run down; water is then thrown on with the birch, causing the necessary flow towards the centre and lowest part of the boards. The larger quantity of water being in the centre of the boards prevents the fine spray of iron striking on the leather and there remaining white, the water thrown on with the birch in irregular patches causing or forming the branches giving the appearance of a tree formation. It will thus be seen the whole result is caused by the manner in which the water is allowed to run. The best effect is obtained by using very little water, only just sufficient to make the blotches of water join each other, and thus have a distinct but gradual flow towards the lower edge of the boards. It is absolutely necessary to have as fine a spray as is possible to fall from the brush with iron solution, or the lines will be very thick. This does not matter so much with the brown or tartar solution.

Of the many statements that have been quoted respecting the discovery of marbling, we are inclined to think the following the most likely; that a bookbinder was sprinkling some books when a bird which hung up in its cage overhead, threw or splashed some water on the books; the water running, took some of the colour with it and formed veins—this has been improved upon from time to time. But even this is rather vague and hard to believe, as first the books must have been in a favourable position for marbling, viz., tilted, which position is very unfavourable and unworkmanlike for sprinkling; again, the colour used for sprinkling is not strong enough for marbling, and could hardly produce veins. (We shall be glad to hear from our many subscribers if they can throw any more light on this subject.) There can, however, be no doubt but that it came from Germany. Mr. Clarke, the partner to Mr. Bedford, has had the reputation of making some of the best tree-marbles that have ever been done, and, as far as we have been able to ascertain, made his "trees" without any of the many dodges that are often used with the idea of getting something peculiar. Amongst others that of using a tallow candle, just dabbing it on the centre of the boards, thus preventing the water resting on the spot touched—the idea being to form a (so-called) knot.

We have been informed by an American subscriber that tree-calf has been overdone in that country, and that nearly every binder has been ornamenting his books in tree-calf. This has certainly not been the case in England, the reason being that so very few know how to produce a "tree" properly. We trust, however, that by following our directions the difficulty will be overcome. A short time ago, an engraved wooden block was brought into the market to block a "tree" in black; it did not, however, find favour, as each side was exactly like the other, and altogether the effect was stiff and formal, very different to the beautiful and varied forms of the natural flow of the water process.

To tree-marble calf on the skin for half bindings, the skin is prepared by paste washing, colouring and glairing as done on the book, the skin is then laid upon a board, the board being slightly elevated at one end, water is then thrown on evenly all over, and sprinkled with the iron and brown. Should a longer flow or stem be desired it can be had by placing under the skin a few small stones, or pieces of wood, the leather resting on these divert the flow of water into another channel; but on no account may the leather touch iron, or it will, as all bookbinders know, or should know, stain it badly.

After the leather has been marbled it should be washed freely, using a sponge and plenty of water.

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## Archibald Leighton.

### THE FIRST BINDER IN CLOTH.

THE name of Leighton has been associated with bookbinding in London since the year 1764, when an Archibald Leighton from Aberdeen commenced business in Cold Bath Square, Clerkenwell.

His first wife (Margaret Mudie) died in 1781, having borne him fourteen children, and it is said that the elders of the Scotch Sandemanian Church (of which he was a member) urged that it was his duty to take another wife; he pleaded that he knew of no one worthy to succeed to the one he had lost, whereupon they engaged to find him one, and sent either to Glasgow or Dundee for a Miss Euphan Dougal, to whom he was soon afterwards married.

Of this second marriage there were nine children, the subject of this memoir being the eldest son, who was fifteen years of age when he lost his father, to whose business he had been apprenticed. It is a curious physiological fact, that whereas the first family of fourteen have so multiplied that they are probably the progenitors of nearly all in London who bear the name, the second family of nine have in comparison hardly increased at all.

After the death of Archibald Leighton the elder, the business was carried on by the widow in partnership with her step-son, George, who finally established a separate business in Vineyard Gardens, Clerkenwell. Another step-son, John, established a business as bookbinder in Brewer Street, Golden Square, where the business still exists. Eventually the parent business was removed to Exmouth Street, Clerkenwell, where it was carried on by Archibald Leighton the younger, in partnership with his mother, as Leighton and Son. Here the business capacity and energy of Archibald Leighton soon manifested itself, and,