

lent to the Cymmrodorion Society of London, and by them printed in facsimile. Again, this account of St. Bridget of Sweden, printed at Nuremberg, 1481, is very curious, especially the illuminated frontispiece, with the 'S.P.Q.R.' of Rome in one corner, and the arms of Sweden in the other. Then the library includes a first edition of Fortunatus's Italian Grammar, is rich in subsequent editions in some of Aldine's, and has a dictionary of 1477 by Adam de Roduila—(?) Adam of Rothwell. These are one or two examples, and only that, of the rare books in the collection, quite aside from philology."

"Altogether, how many volumes are there in the collection?"

"At least 25,000, and I should say that fully thirty alphabets are spread through them. The prince, who was his own librarian, had a linguistic scheme in his mind, and arranged his books accordingly. So intimately did he know his books that when ill in bed he could send for one by telling how many it counted along in a given row. Only the prince knew his plan of arrangement, and so when I started to go over the library I had nothing to help me."

Now, it struck me, every volume was about as familiar to Mr. Collins as Charing-cross is to the average Londoner. Even an Esquimo pamphlet—yes, indeed, there exists such a thing—which he went after, he discovered in half a minute.

"If anybody wants to buy the library, say to present to the nation, how much," I queried, "would it cost?"

He told me the value that has been placed on the collection, and it is not a small sum, yet it might be larger.

It is to be hoped that, if the British Museum does not secure Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte's Library, someone will follow on a smaller scale the splendid precedent Mrs. Rylands set in buying for the public the Althorp collection complete.

THIS year the Bookbinders' Guild of Leipzig celebrates the 350th anniversary of its organisation, when the annual meeting of Association of Guilds of German Bookbinders is also to convene in the historic city of authors, printers, and volume casers. To fitly commemorate the double event, the Leipzig Guild has resolved to hold an exhibition of binding from August 5th to 12th, 1894. All arrangements are entrusted to Moritz Göhre, the guild master. In this connection the wire and thread sewing machines from Leipzig, which were shown at the Columbian World's Fair in Chicago, must be briefly noted. A real novelty is a thread stitching machine for account books, which sews any ordinary thickness of leaves with a double thread. The sewing is done in such a manner that the book after it is sewed can be cut into smaller books. Thirty oscillations each minute are made by the table; six note or pocket memorandum books being sewed at each oscillation.

IN Copenhagen there is open an exhibition of new inventions, organised by the Industrial Society of Copenhagen. The formal opening took place on Friday, January 5th.

## Russian Bookbindings.

RECENT notes on Russian bindings show that there is among the Muscovites strong evidence of Oriental taste in their book coverings. Great solidity is apparent in the more ancient bindings, and they seem to be indestructible. Time was not counted dearer than skill when those massive old volumes were put together, and substitutes for rag paper were then unknown or scarcely thought of. Glue has been taken from the back of such a binding, and found to be so good that, if dissolved in water, it might readily have been used again. At the beginning of the present century it was a fashion in St. Petersburg and Moscow to ornament church books richly, but the Eastern style had vanished, and there was a tendency to adopt the French tooling. Owing to the importance of the leather trade in their country, Russian binders have had the advantage of obtaining cheap, strong, book covers. Almost all Russian books are bound in leather; cloth is very rarely seen, and even paper bindings usually have a leather back. Pamphlets are uncommon, but the thinnest of them have a cover. Wire stitching, however, is in ordinary use. A unique style in Russia is a white back with the title lettered or blocked in black ink. Special mention should be made of the fact that Russian binders never cut their work down, but always leave the margins as wide as possible, and in this they are right.

THE following lines were written by a friend of Montgomery's in 1881. They shew in curious fashion how friendship sometimes links the past and present together:—

### Gower and Ʒ (1320 and 1881).

FATHER of English poetry, I greet you!  
Stretching a chain of names (mine last) to meet you:  
Lydgate you knew, and following him as third,  
Lydgate knew well the printer Wynkyn Worde:  
Wynkyn knew Fraser, he Sir Thomas More,  
Whose hapless fate he lived not to deplore:  
Too well Sir Thomas knew the tyrant Harry,  
Whose daughter Bess the chain will downward carry.  
To Shakespear, and to his and Milton's friend,  
Sir William Davenant, so to Dryden tend,  
To Pope, Sam Johnson, and to Hannah More;  
She knew Montgomery, with whom a score  
Of times I've sat, survivor of a band  
Connecting near six centuries hand in hand.

D. WALKINSHAW.

"THE PRINTING OF MODERN BOOKS," a paper read before the Bibliographical Society by Chas. T. Jacobi, the manager of The Chiswick Press, has been reprinted by the author, in a charming old-style manner, with rubricated title-page, "for presentation only."

MR. W. IBBOTSON announces that with the New Year he removes his bookbinders' supply stores from 10 Paternoster-square to 64 Goswell-road, E.C. (opposite to Clarkhouse Buildings).

HERR W. KRAUSCH, bookbinder, in Magdeburg, recently celebrated his jubilee (fifty years) as an employing bookbinder.