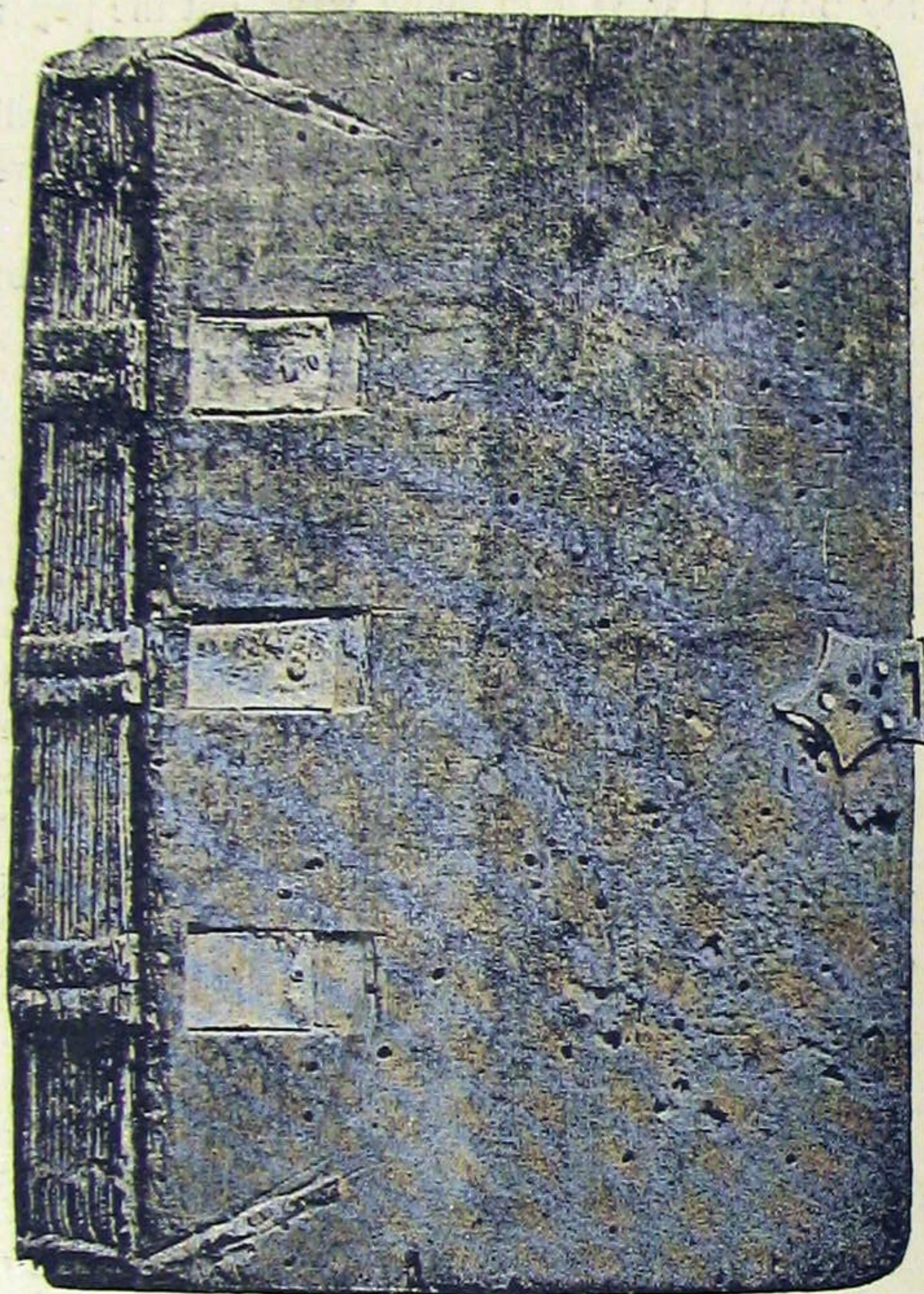


Note on an Old Binding.

Now and then an old binding comes sufficiently to pieces to enable us to see how it was originally made. No doubt, generally, the manner of sewing leaves together and fixing them between boards by means of bands, has been always the same as it is now, but in details many interesting differences are often found.



OLD BOOK WITH BANDS AND HEAD-BANDS FASTENED IN A VERY STRONG WAY.

A little octavo book in the British Museum, "*Opuscula Sancti Bonaventurae*, Brixie, 1495," in a contemporary binding, is remarkable for the very excellent way in which the bands are fastened to the boards. The bands are of strong leather, and each one is brought under a little bridge into a slot cut in the thickness of the boards, and fastened down with little wooden pegs. The back, and half the sides of the book, have been covered with leather, and one side having come off, the work underneath is shown. The construction and work is all so well designed and strongly done that even now, after the lapse of some hundreds of years, there is little sign of weakness either in the sewing or in the bands, and the book opens perfectly. The back is quite flat.

The manner of fixing the head-bands is worthy of note, and as will be seen by reference to the illustration, they conduce materially to the strength of the binding—which now-a-days they usually fail to do.

CYRIL DAVENPORT.

[Old books thus bound are not so rare as our correspondent seems to think. Several examples have passed through the hands of one of our principal binders during the last half-dozen years.—ED.]