

OLD BOOKS.

At the Iowa Central Sanitary Fair, held in September last at Muscatine, we observed, among the multifarious articles exhibited, some *old books*, stated to be from the library of Judge Tuthill, of Cedar County.

Upon a close examination of the antique looking old *tomes*, so venerable in their appearance, we concluded they deserved something more than a passing notice, and although not an adept in bibliographic lore, will endeavor to give a brief description of them.

The first we especially noted, was a complete and perfect copy of the celebrated YEAR BOOKS, which, as all well informed lawyers know, contain the first reports of the legal proceedings in the English Courts.

This copy of the first edition (*editio princeps*), in block letters, 7 vols., folio, printed by Richard Tothill, London, 1555 to 1575, and is considered exceedingly rare. I. W. Wallace, in his interesting work entitled "The Reporters," (Phil. 1855,) says he has never been able to find more than one complete copy of the Year Books, prior to the great one published by subscription in 1678-80; of which latter he remarks that he knows of but two copies in the United States, one in the library of Brown University, Newport, R. I.; and the other belonging to Charles Chauncey, Esq., of Philadelphia.

Then there was a copy (*editio princeps*) of LITTLETON'S TENURES, in block letter, printed by Richard Tothill in 1556, and of FITZHERBERT'S ABRIDGEMENT, also in block letter, and printed by Richard Tothill, London, 1577.

These three works appeared to be perfect copies and in fine order—a remarkable circumstance, when it is considered that some three hundred years have elapsed since they came from the press. We were told, however, in explanation, that they were printed by a collateral ancestor of the present owner, and they may have been handed down as heir-looms in the family.

There also was an excellent copy of that rare old work, *Sammes' Antiquities of Great Britain*, folio, illustrated with

quaint old engravings, published in London, 1676; and then a beautiful specimen of early French typography, in a copy of the works of Gregory the Great, entitled *Gregoric Magni*, printed in Paris, 1521, and in the original hog-skin binding.

But the finest specimen of early printing, was a well preserved copy of a *Dictionarium Groecum*, printed in Venice, in 1497, being one of the celebrated Aldine edition, so highly prized by all bibliographers. This rare volume is in Gothic and Roman type, with written paginations, bound in stamped vellum, and the ancient clasps still attached. The bold and clear printing of this work will compare favorably with many of our modern books, although published within fifty years after the art of printing was discovered.

We were not until now aware that any of our literary friends in this State, had sufficient antiquarian taste to enrich their libraries with a collection of such rarities. ANON.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, Dec. 6, 1864.

The annual meeting of the Iowa State Historical Society, was held this evening at the Society's rooms, Vice President F. H. Lee in the Chair. Benj. Talbot was appointed Secretary pro tem. On motion of Rev. Mr. Howe, Mr. Brainerd was credited with one dollar, the annual fee, in consideration of his courtesy in publishing notices of the society's proceedings.

Dr. H. Murray, N. H. White, Chas. E. Borland, Rev. G. D. A. Hebbard, Rev. Dr. Fuller, Rev. Mr. Ashley and H. S. Welton, having been duly nominated, were elected members of the society.

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