

The Library.

The Library of Ralph Thoresby.

THORESBY'S name remains familiar in his native town, Leeds, whose topography and history were the main occupation of his later years; and his life and its incidents possess a general interest, rendering them worthy of a more wide-spread acquaintance. In his own day he attained a literary celebrity which is remarkable when we consider the position he filled in a provincial town then of no great magnitude, and chiefly noted for its manufacture of cloth. This celebrity owed much to a museum of coins and other curiosities, the foundation inherited from his father, he himself largely adding to it: and its catalogue, under the title of *Musæum Thoresbyanum*, forms a valuable augmentation of his great topographical work, *Ducatus Leodiensis*, published in the year following the death of Queen Anne.¹ This museum catalogue is not restricted to a record of the curiosities that constitute a museum in the common acceptance of the word; it extends to a quantity of manuscripts and printed books, which, although many of them curious enough, we should rather assign to his library.

Thoresby first gives a list of the various editions of the Bible, and portions of the Bible, in his possession. This, with some particulars relating to them, takes up fifteen of his folio pages. Nine Latin manuscripts head the list, the last of them an anonymous quarto in verse. Then follows a collection of printed Bibles, some in Latin, some in English, dating from the year 1498 to the contemporary publication of Matthew Henry, the commentator. And these had been more to their owner than bibliographical curiosities. Thoresby, who records his having read through the entire Bible about a score of times between his marriage in 1685 and the year 1723 (two years before his death), particularizes his use, among others, of the following editions:—

Tyndall's "Pentateuch in *English 8vo.* printed at different Places

¹ There are some copies of *Musæum Thoresbyanum* as a distinct volume.

as the Times would permit; at the end of the *fyrst Boke of Moses called Genesis* is added, *emprinted at Mariborow in the Land of Hesse, by me Hans Luft, the Yere of our Lorde mccccxxx. the xvii. daye of January.*" No place, time, nor printer is named with any of the other four books. This Pentateuch had been presented to Thoresby by a Mr. Richard Beard of Shrewsbury; and, from the descriptive particulars given, it is evident the copy was a complete one, which, says Archdeacon Cotton in his work on "Editions of the Bible and Parts thereof," is "very rare indeed." He mentions one in possession of Dr. Daly, Bishop of Cashel, that had been supposed to be the only complete copy known, but questions if "the late Reverend Viscount Aston did not possess a similar one?"

"*The Bible in Englishe, that is to say, the contents of all the Holy Scriptures, both of the old and newe Testament, according to the translation that is appointed to be read in Churches. Imprinted in London in White Crosse street by Richard Harryson An. Dom. 1562.*" This was Cranmer's Bible and one of those objected to by the Rhemist Translators of the New Testament. Cotton asks "if there were two different impressions of it in this year?"

"An ancient edition of the Bible, in Quarto," says Thoresby's Diary; probably that entered in his catalogue,—"*The English Bible, in 4to. 1569, as appears by the Title of the N. T. in which year Archbishop Parker's noble Edition of the Bible was first published, yet is this the old Translation.*"¹

"*The Byble whych is all the Holy Scripture, in which are containyd the old and newe Testament truelye and purely translated into Englyshe by Tho. Matthewe 1537, and now imprinted in the yere of our Lorde MDXLIX. (Folio London) by Tho. Raynalde and Will Hyll. . . . That the name of Tyndall (who was burnt for reputed Heresy) might not prejudice the Book, the name of Tho. Matthewe (Prebendary of St. Paul's, who dedicated it to the King) was used, though Tyndall had translated all but the *Hagiographia*, which was done by *John Rogers*, the Proto-Martyr, in Qu. Mary's reign, who added Notes, &c."*

"Another edition of the *English Bible* in *Folio*, of the very same year 1549; but by the different character, and that *Shibboleth* tank for thank, it appears to have been printed beyond sea, and, I presume at Zurich; M. Le Long mentioning one in *Fol. Tiguri* (1549

¹ Parker's, or "The Bishops'" Bible, was first published in 1568, and again in 1569.

vel) 1550."¹ And there was also another curious edition, now known to have been also printed at Zurich, which Thoresby thus describes :—

"The *English Bible* in 4to, but printed beyond sea, as appears by the Form of the Letters ; every other Page is numbered in Capital Numeral Letters. The *Psalter of David*, *Solomon's Ballets*, and the first four chapters in the *Lamentations* are divided into four Sections, like verses. What is not in the *Hebrew*, though it be in the *Septuagint*, is not made part of the chapter, but an *Apparatus* thereto ; so Chap. I of *Proverbs* begins at the 8th verse of the present edition."

To the list of Bibles there is appended a rather curious notice of early Concordances,² not among those mentioned by Le Long, but possessed by Thoresby,—“as that of *Robert Fitz-Henry*, of which there are two editions in 4to. 1578 and 1613, by *Chr.* and *Rob. Barker*, the former Printer to Qu. *Elizabeth*, and the latter to K. *James*. He also,” Thoresby continues, “omits the noted *Mr. John Downham's Concordance to the last Translation, allowed by his Majesty's special Privilege to be printed and bound with the Bible in all volumes*. Here are both the *Folio* edition 1629, and that in 8vo. 1663. Also *Mr. Sam. Newman's* (who resided in these Parts of *Yorkshire*) An. 1650, *Fol. Lond.* of which the later Editions are commonly called the Cambridge Concordance : That of *Rob. Wickens* was printed at *Oxford*, 8vo. 1655.”

Various editions of the Book of Common Prayer conclude this section of Thoresby's Catalogue. The first edition of Queen Elizabeth's he pronounces “very rare” ; but the one he most valued was, doubtless, that given to him by Sharp, Archbishop of York, in 1699, when Thoresby severed his connexion with the Nonconformists, and wholly joined the Church of England. It was a folio edition, “a curious one,” which the Archbishop states in an accompanying letter to have been bought by him on leaving London for York, and afterward used in his Chapel at Bishopthorpe. It still exists in its old morocco binding, with the initials “R. T.” written upon the title-page, in the possession of Dr. Gott, Dean of Worcester, and formerly Vicar of Leeds.

Thoresby next catalogues his manuscripts, an extensive and varied collection, classified in folios, quartos and octavos. A prefa-

¹ James Le Long, the French historian and author of *Bibliotheca Sacra, sive syllabus omnium ferme Sacræ Scripturæ editionum*. It was first published at Paris in 1709, two vols. 8vo.

² The first edition of Cruden's was published in 1735.

tory note informs us that a portion of these had already been inserted in a catalogue of English MSS. printed at Oxford in 1697, the year of Thoresby's admission to the Royal Society.¹ Some in Latin head the list, and to the particulars of one volume, containing four distinct manuscripts, there is this curious addition,—“This once belonged to *John Vicars* Rector of *Newton* near Tadcaster.”² The Catalogue of whose Library I shall add from his Autograph, to satisfy the curiosity of such as desire to know the Rates of Books before the Art of Printing was invented.” The works which constitute the said Library number twenty-two, and the price of each is affixed. Most costly of all are the works of St. Augustine, in six volumes, Three pounds. Least in price, *Sermones Jacobi Voraginis*, in two books, Two-shillings-and-eightpence; and the works of Macrobius, Twelve-pence. *Opera divi Hieronymi*, in four books, and *Opera Dionisii Chartusiani*, in five books, each Thirty-three-shillings-and-fourpence. Opera Plutarchi and Dionysii Areopagiti, each Six-and-eightpence. Bede, in two books, Ten shillings; and *Thomas de Aquino super Sententias*, in four volumes, Four shillings.

Immediately afterward comes a work bought by Thoresby himself at the first auction of books held in Leeds (by Simmons of Sheffield, bookseller, in 1692). He does not tell us how much he gave for it, but *Scala Mundi* was an historical work, extending from the earliest age of British history to the 12th year of King Henry the Sixth, which he held in high estimation; and it received special mention by his friend Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, in the “Historical Library.” So Thoresby writes,—“That this is a book of great value appears by the character given of it by a Right Reverend Author, who all will allow to be a most competent Judge, and who is pleased to mention it, with others of great value referr’d to by Archbishop *Usher*, Mr. *Selden*, &c.” Seventy-two years after the Leeds auction *Scala Mundi* again came under the hammer, at Bristow’s sale of Thoresby’s coins and manuscripts in London; and its companion in one lot was the relic of the Rector of Newton-Kyme’s library, preceding it in Thoresby’s catalogue, as here mentioned. Both manuscripts were on vellum, the first one having many letters painted and gilt. They sold in 1764 for Nine shillings to a buyer named Collinson, according to a priced catalogue possessed by E. Hailstone, Esq., of Walton Hall, Yorkshire.

¹ This publication is mentioned in some of Dr. Edmund Gibson’s letters to Thoresby, written at the time.

² Newton-Kyme.

Altogether, the manuscripts fill nearly thirty pages of Thoresby's catalogue. A large proportion are topographical, and many have interest and value relating to general history, particularly from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the Civil Wars and the Revolution. For example :—

"Instructions from Qu. *Elizabeth* for Sir Francis Walsingham Ambassadour to *France*, with letters to and from the Lord *Burleigh*, Earl of *Leicester*, Sir *Tho. Smith*, and other Chiefe Ministers of State, about the French affairs, and the Queen of *Scots*, *An.* 1570, 71, 72."

"Letters of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord *Verulam*, Viscount St. *Albans*, and Lord High chancellor of *England*, written during the reigns of Qu. *Elizabeth* and *K. James*." They were the gift of Richard Hewet of Stockton, Gentleman ; and Thoresby adds this note,—“Those in the latter reign are since published and illustrated ; with an excellent Historical introduction and Observations by *Rob. Stephens*, Esq.”¹

"The Proceedings of the Lord President Thomas, Viscount *Wentworth* (afterwards Earl of *Strafford*) and Council in the North, from 7 Sept. 1629 to the 15 Jan. 1632, in two Volumes, being the Books of Compositions for the Mannors, Lands and Goods of Recusants ; the *Originals* subscribed by the Parties compounding."

"The *Informations, Examinations and Confessions concerning the Yorkshire Plot*, 1663, under the Parties own Hand. This is the Original taken before Sir *Tho. Osborne* (afterwards Duke of *Leedes*), Sir *Jo. Dawson* (afterwards Lord *Downe*), Sir *Jo. Goodrick*, Sir *Jo. Armitage*, Sir *Godfrey Copeley*, Sir *R. Mauleverer*, Sir *Tho. Wentworth*, Sir *Rob. Hilyard* and other Justices who have attested the several Informations, under their own hands. The Present of the Judges Associate."

As may be supposed, a number of Thoresby's MSS. of this class related to the topography and history of Leeds, and of the County of York. One of these, given by its author, must have been of especial local interest,—“Notes and observations of Mr. *Robert Nesse* of *Leedes*, late Sergeant at Mace, concerning the late Wars” ; and with it was another set of “notes” by him, on the Corporation, Charters of Incorporation, and Elections under them. Among the 8vo MSS. was “The first Register of *St. John's Church* in *Leedes*, bought of the memorable old Clerk,² after it was first transcribed into the new

¹ Who published, in 1702, a complete edition of Lord Bacon's Letters, with notes.

² In the Church Porch was an inscription for “*Robert Taylor* the first Clerk, who dyed 7 Jan. 1695, aged ninety-two years and eleven months.”

Register." There was also in folio, bound up with Libri Pascales of two noted Vicars of Leeds, Robert and Alexander Cooke, and their immediate successors,—“The *First Register* of Births, Weddings and Burials, Temp. *Hen.* 8.” How this came to be a deposit in Thoresby's Library does not appear, unless, like the next in the Catalogue, the original “Boke of Accompts” of the Churchwardens from 1583 to 1628, containing autographs of the Vicars and other principal inhabitants of the time, it was given to him by a family connexion whom he calls cousin, Marmaduke Hicks, four times Mayor of Leeds. But it is very desirable that the present whereabouts of this “First Register” should be discovered, if still in existence. The earliest volume of the Register now kept at the old Parish Church of Leeds does not commence until the year 1572.

“Scotland's Sovereignty Asserted,” published in 1693, is the translation of a Latin treatise by Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton, Justice-Depute, from a manuscript lent by Thoresby for the purpose, and now among the Lansdowne collection in the British Museum; but it was a rather inaccurate transcript, and not the original MS., if we may rely upon a statement in the printed book.

One very curious manuscript was a “*Corpus Christi Playe* in antique English verse,” the gift of Henry Fairfax, Esq., whose Father of the same name became 4th Lord Fairfax on the death, without male issue, of the famous Parliamentarian General. “Some of the Trades themselves in the several scenes,” says Thoresby, “are antiquated, as are the names of others, *Bowers* and *Fletchers*, *Wefferes*, *Cappers* (*Hatters* added in a later Hand), *Estrenerers*, *Gyrdillers*, *Thylletheekers*, *Spicers*, *Shavers*, *Parchmynners*, *Shermen* and *Wyne-Drawers* were of old, but *Merceres* added at the End as modern, *Richard* the Father of Bishop *Morton* of *Durham* being the first of that Trade, at least in these Northern Parts of *England*.”

Another folio manuscript, No. 34 in the Catalogue, would probably interest many readers even now. It is thus entered:—“*A Discourse of Ambassages compiled by Sir Henrie Unton* (who was twice Ambassadour from Qu. *Eliz.* to the King of *France*) which treats of the good Gifts an Ambassadour must be endowed with, both as to the Body and Fortune; of the Number of Ambassadors, of his Preparation for, and Behaviour in his Journey, and before a straunge Prince, dureing his Abode in a straunge Land, and at his Departure; that Ambassadors are Safe by the Law of Nations; whether excusable yf found to practise any Thing against it during his Ambassage. Of the Interceptors of Ambassadors Letters; and, lastly, of the

Privileges of Ambassadors in their own Country after their Return."

There were several manuscripts relating to the Isle of Man, including a description of the Island and its condition in 1653, by James Chaloner, and by him "dedicated to *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, then Lord of *Man* and of the Isles, wherein he celebrates his Lordship's Respects to *Antiquities*, in patronising with Purse and Countenance Mr. *Roger Dodsworth* in that his singular Piece, the *Monasticon*." And there was "a briefe historie" of "*Manne, from the firste inhabiting thereof, until the same came into the handes of the Englishe Nation, collected, translated, and faithfully framed by Sam. Stanley; dedicated to Hen. Earl of Derby.*"

The original compositions of this class extended to Ireland, and worthy of note is,—"*A Description of the County of West Meath, by Sir Henry Piers of Tristernaugh, in the said County, Baronet, done at the Request of the R. R. Dr. Anthony Dopping Bishop of Meath. It is the Original, and was presented to me by his Grandson Sir Hen. Piers, Bart.*" Sir Henry Piers was an occasional visitor of Thoresby's, and related to his wife by a distant marriage connexion.

Some idea of the value of this collection of manuscripts may be formed from the instances here given, but they are far from indicating its variety and extent. Excluding a very large collection of autographs and autograph letters, deeds and other ancient writings, there were in all two hundred and sixty volumes of manuscripts, many of them containing a number bound up together. The subjects comprised were sacred and secular, philosophical and scientific, beside those of the character already spoken of. There were Sermons, Polemical Treatises (Roman Catholic and Protestant), Genealogies, Heralds' Visitations, Cartularies, Diaries, Journals of Travel, Meteorological Records, Tracts and Miscellanies, some original manuscripts that had been published, more which had not, besides transcripts from originals, many by the hand of Thoresby himself.

The list of printed books which he gives is confined to books printed before the end of the 15th century. It is introduced by a passage of sufficient bibliographical interest to warrant insertion here at length. Concluding the catalogue of manuscripts Thoresby says,—"*Books published in the Infancy of the Art of Printing being frequently inserted in Catalogues of this Nature, as particularly appears by that choice one of the Lord Bishop of Ely's (in Cat. librorum Manuscriptorum Angliæ, Tom. II. p. 379. &c.) in his Lordship's inestimable Library, which I have often beheld with Admiration, I shall insert a few of those valuable Remains that have fallen to my*

Share, which were printed before the year 1500.¹ Herein I shall omit a Fragment of the *Liber de consolatione Theologie per fratrem Johannem de Tambaco, An. Dni. M.CCC.LXVI.* as either the Time when the Author wrote it, or a Mistake in the Press, none pretending to show any printed book of that Antiquity. And *Guido de Monte Rocherii*, mentioned No. 102, amongst the *Manuscripts*, though every first and last leaf in a *Quaternio*, being Parchment, is no conclusive Argument to prove it so; the Printers as well as Writers of Books sometimes intermixing Parchment with Paper for Strength's sake; and I have a *Mass-Book* printed after the same Manner, so late as the year 1516."

The earliest of the Catalogue under the heading "Ancient Printed Books" is dated in the year 1475,—"*Jacobi Januensis legenda aurea, alias Historia Longobardica vocitata. Impressum Parisiis per Udalricum Gering.*"

The next is a quarto, containing the Breviloquium and Biblia Pauperum of Bonaventura, printed at Venice in 1477, "the Capital Letters painted as in MS."

From the Press of Saxton there were,—"*The Pylgremage of the Soule translatid out of Frenche into Englysshe, and empynted at Westmestre, by William Caxton, and fynyshe the Sixth Day of Juyn the yere of our Lord MCCCCLXXXIII, and the first yere of the reigne of Kyng Edward the Fyfthe.*"

Thoresby notes the shortness of this reign, "but one Month and twelve Days." Its extent has been variously calculated, and if its commencement be assigned to the day of Edward the Fourth's death, 9 April 1483, the dating of this book makes it longer than Thoresby states. Sir Harris Nicolas's reckoning, from 9 April to the 26th of June following, is well substantiated; but, even then, how

¹ Dr. John Moore, Chaplain to Lord Chancellor Finch, afterward Bishop of Norwich, and thence translated to Ely in 1707, was on friendly terms with Thoresby, who frequently visited him when in London. In the Review of his Life for the year 1701, Thoresby writes: "Dr. Moore, Bishop of Norwich, showed me some very great curiosities in his invaluable library, both manuscript (as prayers written by Queen Elizabeth's own hand, a volume of Letters of Lord Burleigh) and printed, with the emendations of the noted authors, written *propria manu*, as Jos. Scaliger, Dan Heinsius, Junius, Casaubon, Bishop Pearson.

"Amongst the entirely printed books I was surprised to find one, *Liber Catholicon, ANNO. MCCCCLX. almâ in urbe Moguntinâ*, which is five or six years before Tully's Offices, hitherto reputed the first printed book."

This appears to be the same with "*Balbi de Janua Summa quæ vocatur Catholicon. Moguntia J. Gutenberg, 1460,*" of which a copy in the Earl of Hopetoun's library has just been sold at Sotheby's.

many other books are known to have been published in the reign of King Edward the Fifth?

"*Le Livre Royal, or book for a Kyng reduced out of French, by Wyllyam Caxton 1484. Fol. The Figures are painted.*"

"*Higden's Polychronicon, printed by William Caxton, who having chaunged certayne Wordes, which in these dayes be neither usyd, ne understanden* (Lib. Sept. p. CCCLXXX.) added to last Book of his own Composure, till the yere 1460. *Fol.*"

"*The Boke of Eneydos compyled by Vyrgyle whiche hathe be translated out of Latyne into Frenshe, and out of Frenshe into Englishe, by me Willm. Caxton. Fol. 1490.*"

"Waltere Hylton's *scala perfectionis* englished and printed (by Command of Margaret Countess of Richmond, Mother to K. H. 7.) in *Wyllyam Caxton's Hows by Wynkyn de Werde. Anno Salutis 1484.* To which is annexed *the traytte abreged of the arte to lerne well to deye; translated oute of Frenshe in to Englishe, by Willm. Caxton MiiiiClxxxX.*"

The remainder were principally either religious or medical works, printed at Venice, Louvain, Nuremberg, Paris, London and elsewhere. Besides an English version of "The Ship of Fooles," printed in 1508, Thoresby had *Sebastianni Brant Stultifera navis Narragonice. Argentine A. 1497.* Of another book, "a very large Folio, printed at Cologne in 1485, *Destructorium Vitiorum a cujusdam Fibri Lignarii filio,*" he says in a note,—“The Author's name appears to be *Alexander an Englishman*, and particularly of *Worcestershire*, the 25th. cap. 6 Partis, and the 17th. of the 4th.”

Having gone through, in detail, his collection of the earliest examples of typography, Thoresby continues,—“It would be too tedious to mention those of the next Century, else there are some very rare to be met with, that were printed before and after the Reformation, as a *Mass-Book* with the word *Papa*, and the Festival of *St. Thomas of Canterbury*, expunged upon the memorable Visitation 1548.” He, however, further mentions others, including Ptolemy's Geography with Maps, 1511 and 1522, and various works upon coins, medals and antiquities. But there must have been a very considerable residue of this valuable Library of which no record is given. Notwithstanding Thoresby's pecuniary losses and straits, he contrived to spare money for books, particularly on his visits to London. When there so early as the year 1680, a young man of twenty-two and still in trouble for the recent loss of his father, he mentions “buying books and pictures of good and great persons”; and in his Diary for May, 1695, he wrote,—“bought many books

(cheap I thought, which made me throw away too much money) near Gray's Inn." Again, a couple of days afterward, when about to return home,—“took leave of Mr. Hill, bought some valuable pamphlets of his kinsman, and at Parkhurst's putting up books.” On other occasions he speaks of time spent at the book-sellers Parkhurst, Wright, Alsop, Churchill and Batley. In Moorfields he bought a very rare edition of the New Testament in English, printed in 1536, a quarto volume which is thus described in his catalogue:—“After the Title prefixed to the Epistles is a large Prologue, there are small Pictures in the *Gospels*, and larger of the Visions in the *Revelations*. At the end are added the *Pistles* taken out of the Old Testament, which are read in the Churche after the Use of *Salisbury*, and a Table to find the Epistles and Gospels.”¹

The price paid for this is not mentioned. In his last visit to London, in 1723, he made some purchases on easy terms enough. He entered in his Diary for the 8th of April,—“at Baitman's, the noted booksellers, and at the auction with Mr. Mattaire.” It does not appear that he bought anything then; but on the 13th is added,—“Looking amongst some pamphlets; bought several Bishops and Archbishops sermons at pence a-piece”; and two days later,—“to Mr. King's; sought out more valuable books at penny a-piece, as many as came to 4s. 2d.”

There is little doubt that Thoresby's Library had as much benefit from his purse as the extent of its contents would allow; yet it is equally certain that, like his museum, it owed no less, and probably more, to the kindly generosity of friends and acquaintances. “Don.” recurs often in his Catalogue. Without either brilliant talent or high education, he was a man of the highest principle, great simplicity and amiability, as industrious as he was unpretending, and by no means destitute of good sense and solid attainments. There must have been something more than ordinarily estimable in Thoresby, or he would never have been valued as he was by men far above him in social rank and scholastic standing, nor have made the favourable impression upon more casual acquaintances which the contributions to his remarkable collection indicate. Then, he really excelled in his knowledge of coins; and his assistance was both applied for and given towards publications of magnitude, demanding research. This in part accounts for a number of valuable works he had, as the Author's gift.

Christopher Wren, the son of Sir Christopher, presented his “*Numismatum Antiquorum*” to Thoresby; George Hickes, D.D.,

¹ This edition is not in the list given by Archdeacon Cotton.

his "Thesaurus" with Sir Andrew Fountain's "Numismata Saxonica" annexed; Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, his "Historical Library," besides a Saxon Heptateuch, that is, the five books of Moses with Joshua and Judges added, for a dozen copies of which the Bishop subscribed; and from Edmund Gibson he had a copy of the new edition of Camden's Britannia, although the catalogue only mentions other two, one of which Thoresby had purchased for the sake of Camden's autograph in it. His record of another gift is rather amusing,—“after dinner walked to the Strand to Mr. Smith's, but he being abroad, I spent most of the time with Captain Stevens, who giving me his Monasticon Hibernicum, I treated him at Tavern (2^a).” Thoresby was not by any means penurious, but he had good need to take thought of expenditure.

These last mentioned presentations were, as before said, in return for services rendered; but many of the numerous contributions to Thoresby's collection, bibliographical and otherwise, lead to a supposition that the donors imagined it would be more lasting than it proved to be. And Ralph Thoresby himself most probably designed its preservation, when, in a will made the year before his death, he bequeathed to his eldest son of the same name, Rector of Stoke-Newington, all his "Library and collections of manuscripts maps prints coins antiquities and curiosities natural and artificial of what nature or kind soever, and other goods and chattels in my Museum and Repository or either of them." Alas! leaving the remainder of Musæum Thoresbyanum for ultimate dispersion at home, Ralph Thoresby the Younger removed to Stoke-Newington the library and coins. These he retained until his sudden death in 1763, and next year the coins and manuscripts were sold by auction at Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, by Whiston Bristow; the printed books at a bookseller's, well-known in his day, Thomas Payne of the Mews Gate.

In the Leeds Library there is one small quarto volume of historical Tracts in MS. which contains Thoresby's autograph, and this volume is not specified in his printed catalogue. Doubtless, his library received many additions after "Ducatus Leodiensis" was published. Bishop Nicolson's presentation copy of the "Historical Library" is in the Chetham Library at Manchester. There are in the British Museum two curious manuscripts which Thoresby probably obtained from some of the Fairfaxes. These he entered in his Catalogue:—

“A Book of *Musical Compositions* pointed to Tunes in four Parts, by *Robard Fairfax*, Doctor in Musick; Sir *Tho. Phelyppis*, *Will. Newark*, *Gilbert Banaster*, *Will. Cornysh jun.* *Ric. Davy*, *Sheringham Browne*, and *Edm. Turgess*.”

"*Certayne Tables showing the breake of the daye, with the Twi-light, the rising and setting of the Sunne, the lengthe of the daye and night, for every daye throughout the yeare for ever, servinge for the Elevation of the Pole 54 gr. and 30 mi. Whereunto is joyned a Discourse of the yeare with a Description of the 12 Monthes and Signes, and also a lytell Treatise of the 7 Planets, wythe other Rules and Tables serving for a general Calendar, for ever, collected by Oswald Whittington Student in the Mathematics. Finished at Denton 1584, and dedicated to Sir Tho. Fairfax, one of Her Majesty's honourable Council established in the Northe.*"¹

In possession of Mr. Hailstone, beside the priced Sale Catalogue already referred to, are several other relics of Thoresby and his Library :—

Seven of nine folio MS. volumes, Lot 27 in Bristow's sale, and bearing in the autograph of Thoresby, "containing the Names of all such Persons as have come from beyond the Seas, as also the places from whence they came, and where they intend to lodge, together with their Business, taken by Order of the Parliament, 1655." The nine volumes were sold by Bristow for eighteen shillings.

A curious 4to of 158 pages, containing a History of the Parish of Leeds of uncertain authorship, and some other MSS., with several rare prints inserted. It has on the title-page,—"*E Libris Rad. Thoresby.*"

The presentation copy of *Vicaria Leodiensis* to Lady Elizabeth Hastings, with whom Thoresby was intimately acquainted. Her donation of one thousand pounds brought about the long-talked-of erection of a new church in Leeds, with an account of which the *Vicaria* concludes. Mr. Hailstone's copy, formerly in the Sledmere library, contains this inscription in Thoresby's hand,—"*The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Hastings is humbly requested to accept of this from her Ladyship's most obliged humble servant, Ralph Thoresby.*"

The greater part of Thoresby's library must now be widely scattered, and can only be traced in comparatively few instances. It is likely that many of his volumes occupy shelves on the other side of the Atlantic.

THE AUTHOR OF *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer ;
His Town and Times.*

¹ Add MSS. 5465 and 18602. Denton Park, Yorkshire, came to the Fairfaxes through the mother of the above Sir Thomas ; Isabel dr. of John Thwaites.