

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

20 OCT. 1905—28 MAY 1906.

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XLVII.

BEING No. 3 OF THE ELEVENTH VOLUME.

(FIFTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)



Cambridge :

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON : G. BELL AND SONS.

1907

Price Ten Shillings net.

knowledge of Bowtell or his circumstances, for he states in his dedication (fol. 364) that the transcript was made "by an old Librarian of Trinity College Library known as John Bowtell of Cambridge who for years was allowed to travel at the expense of that University and for the benefit of mankind."

The acquisition of his uncle's business undoubtedly secured for Bowtell an excellent connexion with the University and College Libraries. Old residents still have a vivid recollection of meeting handcarts piled with books which Bowtell despatched at his will and pleasure from the University Library to be rebound at his workshops. But I fear that he failed to maintain long the high level of his predecessor's reputation as a craftsman. His duties at the Library absorbed much of his time,—according to tradition, *seven* days a week, from sunrise till sunset—and the management of the business naturally devolved upon his sons, who lacked the energy, industry, and pride in good work, which are indispensable to commercial, let alone artistic, success. And so, when the stress of competition finally arrived in the thirties, Wiseman's business speedily gained what the Bowtells' lost; as Wiseman's business steadily thrived and prospered, so that of the Bowtells steadily dwindled and decayed.

Thursday, 1 February, 1906.

The Reverend the President in the Chair.

Dr GADOW delivered a lecture on Aztec Civilisation and its origin.

Monday, 5 February, 1906.

W. M. Fawcett, M.A., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr CYRIL DAVENPORT gave a lecture on Bookbinding in England, illustrated by lantern slides.

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