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HOSMER, ESQ. ILLUSTRATIVE OF EARLY  
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND STANDARD  
AUTHORS; WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
BY LEONARD & CO. BOSTON, MAY 7, 1861,  
AND THREE FOLLOWING DAYS**

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Catalogue of the Choice Collection of Books, Forming the Library of Zelotes Hosmer, Esq. Illustrative of Early English Literature and Standard Authors; Which Will Be Sold by Auction, by Leonard & Co. Boston, May 7, 1861, and Three following Days by Leonard & Co.

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CATALOGUE  
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BOSTON:  
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1861.

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The proprietor, Zelotes Hosmer, Esq., is well known to Collectors of Early English Literature, and to them the announcement of his name, in connection with the sale, will be sufficient to insure a careful examination of the catalogue; but to general purchasers, we wish to point out some of the works, as well as the character and condition of the whole collection.

Mr. Hosmer has, during many years, devoted the spare hours from his business, to the formation, and enlargement of his very Choice Library, and although he has not made what may be called a large or extensive collection, he has been able to secure a great many very Rare Books, of many of which, duplicates cannot be found in this country; together with choice editions, and fine copies of Valuable Works; a large portion having been purchased through the agency of those careful and experienced bookbuyers, the late Messrs. William Pickering and Thomas Rodd, and after their decease, the present Mr. Thomas Boone, of London; he has thus been able to obtain fine, clean, and perfect copies, carefully collated, often with extra leaves, portraits or plates, many of them as fresh as when originally published.

The special aim of the proprietor has not been directed to secure merely rare books, but rather those of increasing interest, as well as permanent value, and such as lead, and illustrate the Literature of the period, generally of the times of Elizabeth, James, and Charles I. Many of the works it would be difficult if even possible, to purchase during a lifetime, and still more so to American collectors; an instance is cited in Collins' "Pilgrim's Progress," which had not appeared in any English Sale Catalogue for upwards of twenty years.

In addition to the Scarce Books, his desire has been, as opportunity offered, to secure fine editions, or choice copies of Standard English Authors; many of which are on large paper, of which only a small number were printed, and the cost of them proportionably greater; as instances, we call attention to the fine, uncut, large paper copies of the well known "Oxford Classics;" the various Bibliographical Works of Dibdin, Ames, and others.

The Books are nearly all, without exception, in the finest possible condition, and generally in elegant and expensive bindings, by the best known workmen, and the works collated and perfect.

After saying thus much on the character and condition of the Collection, we proceed to specify some of the works, naming some of those authors rarely found in Sales Catalogues in this country, among them, Brachwitz, Brexon, Chapman, Davies, Decker, Greene, Gascoigne, Hall, Heywood, Jordan, Lilly, Nashe, Rowland, Sturley, Quarles, Wither, and others.

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IN THE COLLECTION may be noticed several rare editions and fine copies of the Greek and Latin Classics, generally from the Aldine, Elzevir, and Junta Presses. Others from the presses of Gutenberg, Swaynheym & Pannartz, Jenson, Pynson, and Wynkyn de Worde.

OF STANDARD AUTHORS, although there are many fine editions, large paper copies, etc., (as witness, the copy of Dryden,) it is not deemed necessary to refer to them, as the above transcript from the catalogue, will sufficiently point out the character of the whole collection, which is believed to be one of the most select and valuable ever offered to public competition in this country.

In now submitting the catalogue, we have only to say, that every care has been taken to give as full a description of the various works from the title as was consistent with the size and purpose of a sale catalogue; the condition of the works, has been always carefully noted, so that parties who may send orders to purchase through agents, may not be disappointed on receipt of their books. Of course, errors as to dates, etc., may have been overlooked in correcting for the press, or in transcribing for the catalogue, but nothing material is believed to exist, and the whole is now respectfully submitted by

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