

**EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS OF
THE STATIONERS' COMPANY OF
WORKS ENTERED FOR PUBLICATION
BETWEEN THE YEARS 1557 AND 1570.
WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

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Extracts from the Registers of the Stationers' Company of Works Entered for Publication
Between the Years 1557 and 1570. With Notes and Illustrations by J. Payne Collier

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J. PAYNE COLLIER

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J. PAYNE COLLIER, ESQ., F.S.A. AND F.R.S.L.



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PREFACE.

The Editor postpones, until a future occasion, a general Introduction to the series of volumes—for such it must necessarily be—the materials for which will mainly consist of extracts from the Registers of the Stationers' Company.¹ At present, he intends to say no more than is required, by way of explanation, of the portion of the work now presented to the Members of the Shakespeare Society.

It is fit, in the first place, that he should return his thanks to the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants, for the facilities so liberally afforded to him; to the Messrs. Greenhill, for most ready and patient assistance during many visits to Stationers' Hall; and to Mr. Joshua W. Butterworth, F.S.A.,

¹ The present selection excludes only early dissertations upon medical and other sciences, old divinity, and such chronicles, and other works, as are well known in the various extant editions. All that relates to popular poetry and prose, plays, tracts, voyages, travels, and lighter literature, has been carefully preserved. In some instances, the entries appear to have been made by the stationer in anticipation of the printing of a work, and in others just anterior to its publication; but this is a point the Editor reserves for future discussion.

for the permission he was kind enough to obtain, that the Editor might make unrestricted use of such invaluable documents.

They are invaluable, because they contain the most curious and authentic record of the state and progress of letters during several reigns, commencing just anterior to the accession of Queen Elizabeth. There may be people who are disposed to underrate the importance of such information: some of the productions have indeed come down to us, but they are comparatively few; and, in regard to popular and ephemeral literature, nothing can well be more imperfect than our knowledge derived from such pieces as have been preserved. It will be obvious, from our earlier pages, that hundreds of ballads and broadsides, to say nothing of tracts and chap-books, have been lost, all of them interesting, with a view to the state of opinions, feelings, manners, and customs, among the great body of the nation. Perhaps not one in fifty of these has been mentioned by any historian of our early typography; and even an industrious and learned man like Herbert (whom Dibdin implicitly follows, without the slightest examination of his own in this respect) constantly dismisses his account of an early printer by the general and most disappointing intelligence, that, besides the works of greater bulk and consequence enumerated, he published "many ballads and broadsides," the titles and subjects of which are not even hinted at. The titles of all such as appeared in the interval, and were entered at Stationers' Hall between 1557 and