

PRINCETON ASSOCIATION HORACES.

By Howard S. Leach, Librarian's Assistant, Princeton University Library.

The Patterson Collection of Horaces at Princeton consists of 757 items, of which more than 140 have association interest. Eighteen of this number belonged to Wilhelm Hirschfelder, editor of Horace, and have in several instances his manuscript notes. There are Horaces which belonged to Browning, Mrs. Browning, Thomas Gray, Wordsworth, Gladstone, Earl Carteret, and Louis XIV., and Louis XV. of France. Both Robert and Mrs. Browning owned Pickerings. Mrs. Browning's copy is inscribed "E. B. B.'s Book R. B.". Browning's copy was presented to him "by his attached friend and admirer Thos. Powell". Another Horace belonging to Robert Browning was presented to him by Ernst Benzou. The collection contains a life of Horace, in manuscript, and "Manuscript notes on Horace" by Robert Browning Sr., whose fondness for Horace makes it likely that Robert Jr. was introduced to this ancient author at a very early age.

Wordsworth is recorded to have said (Knight, Letters Vol. 2, page 318): "Horace is my great favorite: I love him dearly". We would wish to believe that our copy of Horace which once belonged to him was responsible for his mention of Horace in "Departing summer" (line 58) and in "Liberty" (line 92). It is only natural, with his liking for nature, and country quiet. Wordsworth should have been influenced by Horace.

An item of considerable contemporary interest was added last year. It is a translation in MS. of Ode 3 of Book 2 by Robert Louis Stevenson. The translation was made when Stevenson was about 18 years of age and is done in three different metres. So far as is known, this is his only attempt at translating Horace. That Stevenson was a lover of Horace is attested by this translation, and by the fact that the odes are given second place in his list of ten favorite authors; but that even Horace was not sufficient to express his joy in out-of-doors is made evident in one of his letters (to Mrs. Sitwell), where he says: "I had a Horace with me, and read a little; but Horace, when you try to read him fairly under the open heaven, sounds urban, and you find something of the escaped townsman in his descriptions of the country, just as somebody said that Morris' sea-pieces were all taken from the coast".

A small Horace of interest to Americans has been in our library since the time when it possessed only a few more than fifteen thousand volumes. It bears on the fly-leaf the autograph "Joannes Witherspoon", sixth President of Princeton University and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His autograph appears again on the title page.

The Patterson Collection contains many association translations. Among these are two copies of the odes translated by Sir Theodore Martin, one with his autograph, the other with an autograph letter, a copy of the French translation of Fauque de Jonquières, presented by him to Conte Siméon, himself a translator. The English translation of William Thomas Thornton, with two autograph letters inserted, was a presentation copy to Col. Martry. There are two presentation copies with autographs of Edouard de Linge and one with the autograph of Eccleston du Faur. John Boyle, Earl of Orrery, famous for his letters to his son at Oxford criticising the works of his friend, Dean Swift, autographs a copy of his own translation.

Other Patterson items are: A Baskerville Horace, presented by Walter Scott to F. Ritso; a Latin text which belonged to "Mark Rutherford" has his manuscript notes on the margins as well as his book-plate.

Two volumes have royal associations. One, which belonged to Louis XIV. of France, has his arms on the cover, and a border design with crowned fleur de lys at each corner tooled in gold. The other is from the Talleyrand Library. It bears the arms of Anisson-Duperron, Ancien Directeur de L'Imprimerie Royale, and the royal arms of France. It is evidently a proof copy sent to King Louis XV.