THE PRINTER OF BORDE'S 'INTRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE.'

N^o several of his other books Andrew Borde refers to the printing of his 'Introduction of Knowledge,' which was issued in or shortly after 1548 by William Copland.

In the 'Breviary of Healthe' he writes: 'In my Anothomy in the Introduction of Knowledge, whiche hath been longe a pryntyng, for lacke of money and paper; and it is in pryntyng with pyctures at Roberte Coplande, prynter.' And again 'as it appereth more largely in the Introduction of Knowledge, a boke of my makynge, beyng a pryntyng with Ro. Coplande.'

In the 'Pryncyples of Astronamye' we find 'latt them loke in a book namyd the Introduction of Knowleg, a boke of my makynge the which ys a printyng at old Robert Coplands, the eldist printer of England.'

Finally, in the 'Dyetary of Helth' we read: 'But yf it shall please your grace to loke on a boke the which I dyd make in Mountpyller, named the Introductory of Knowledge, there shall you se many new matters, the whiche I have no doubte but that your grace wyl accept and lyke the boke, the whiche is a pryntyng besyde saynt Dunstons church within Temple barre, over agaynst the Temple.'

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Now the three first quotations clearly and definitely state that the ‘Introductory of Knowledge’ was printed by Robert Copland; but so far as I am aware, no bibliographer has noticed that the last quotation affords direct information to the contrary. The printing office ‘beside S^t Dunstan’s church, over against the Temple,’ was of course William Middleton’s, the George, which had previously been occupied by Pynson and Redman; Copland’s office, the Rose Garland, was on the opposite side of the street, and much further east. In the colophon to the ‘Recuile of the Histories of Troie’ of 1553 it is said to have been printed ‘in Fletestrete at the Signe of the Rose Garlande nyghe unto Flete brydge.’ Besides this we have still more definite information. Amongst other property left by will by Thomas Alsop in 1557 was ‘2 messuages and 1 garden . . . in the several tenures of William Copland, stationer, and Dionisius Bayly, spurrier, situate in the parish of S^t Bridget in Fleetstreet, London, to wit, between the tenements of John Conyngham and Thomas Jacson, on the east, the tenements of George James and Thomas Pole on the west, the tenement in the tenure of Sir Thomas Grey on the south, and the highway of Fleet Street on the North.’

The next point to settle is the date when these various statements of Borde’s were made. The earliest seems to be that in the ‘Dietary of Helthe,’ for it is made in the dedication, which is dated 1542, and the book itself was printed about the same time by Wyer for John Gowghe, who died in 1543. In 1542, then, Borde stated that his ‘In-

roduction of Knowledge' was being printed beside St. Dunstan's Church, that is at Middleton's. The 'Breviary of Healthe' was probably written about the same time as the 'Dietary,' and was 'examined' in Oxford in June, 1546, but no edition is known to have been printed earlier than Middleton's of 1547, and no copy of this seems to be extant. Borde's two references to Robert Copland occur in the text of this book, and there was nothing to prevent their being added any time before 1547. When the 'Pryncyples of Astronamye' was written we have no clear evidence, but the printing may be ascribed to 1547.

There is one interesting point to be noticed. A new edition of the 'Dietary of Helthe' was printed in 1547 by William Powell, Middleton's successor at the George. It contains a re-written preface by Borde dated May, 1547, and he omits the passage 'the whiche is a pryntyng besyde saynt Dunstons churche within Temple barre, over against the Temple.'

Does this mean that by this time an edition of the 'Introduction of Knowledge' had already been issued by Middleton, or had the work been transferred from Middleton to Copland, and did Borde hesitate to advertise that fact in a work issued by Middleton's successor?

In 1542 Middleton's press was an active one, and was quite equal to issuing Borde's book at once, and yet from these various quotations it would appear that a work which was in the press in 1542 was still unfinished in 1547-8.

After W. de Worde's death in 1535 we hear

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little of Robert Copland, and it is doubtful whether after this time he engaged in practical printing. His name is found in only one book as a printer, the ‘Pryncyples of Astronamye,’ ascribed to 1547, and I think it is quite probable that a careful examination of this book would show it to be the work of some other printer.

Copland we know was very poor. In the subsidy assessment of 1544 his goods were valued at only one pound, the lowest of any printer or stationer in Fleet Street, while Berthelet stands at £400. The ‘lacke of money and paper’ which Borde speaks of would certainly apply to him, and he may have been working slowly at an illustrated edition of the ‘Introduction.’

With our present knowledge it is impossible to account for these conflicting assertions of Borde, and they can only be left for future discoveries to explain.

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