

XXII.—PYNSON'S CONTRACTS WITH HORMAN  
FOR HIS *VULGARIA*, AND PALSGRAVE FOR  
HIS *LESCLAIRCISSEMENT*, WITH PYNSON'S  
LETTER OF DENIZATION. COMMUNICATED BY F. J.  
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So far as I know, nothing of the kind here first following exists in print; no details of the rates of work and pay of our early printers have reached us; and as these I have been lucky enough to hit on, relate to one of our earliest Latin Phrasebooks,<sup>1</sup> and our earliest English-French Dictionary and Grammar, they may be fairly held as coming within the range of our Society. I do not therefore hesitate to lay these documents before our members, especially as we have already printed a paper by Mr. D. P. Fry (p. 41 above) on the date of Palsgrave's *Lesclaircissement*.<sup>2</sup> The man and the work to

<sup>1</sup> *Vulgaria viri doctissimi Guil. Hormani Cæsarisburgensis. Apud inclytam Londini urbem. M.D.XIX. CVM PRIVILEGIO serenissimi regis HENRICI eius nominis octavi.* On the name, Horman says, "Vulgaria uocat (cum nihil minus sint quam vulgo cognita. sed a præceptore doctissimo iam in rem communem discipulorum ædita) et quibus si non usi fuerint / utentur exinde ni desipere libuerit uulgariter. His cum cæteris commune nomen indidit quando res a vulgo scriptorum est aliena maxime. Sunt enim electa / pura / casta / vereque latina / et e latinorum hominum optimis ac celeberrimis longo certeque iudicio deprompta." Among the wise and ancient saws for the instruction of the Eton youth, is, on leaf 3—"Kynge Henry dothe many dyuers myracles. *Diuus Henricus non una miraculorum specie inclarescit.*" The section on meals contains many passages which illustrate words and maxims in *The Babees Book*, &c.; and altogether the volume is full of quaint and interesting bits, well worth the reprinting that the Early English Text Society promises it. I add here a few extracts for *portpayne, breakfast, piperatus*, &c., from the section *De Triclinariis*. "Put thy lous in a portpayne. *Conde panes in panario / vel canistro / vel canistello*. . Ye shal haue no dynar: but a brekfast or a pytance. *Non opponetur tibi meridianum: sed prandium* (leaf 164). This is very fyne and costly cakebrede. *Spongiatus et piperatus panis est* (leaf 164 back). Of all spicis I loue a nutmygge beste. *Omnium aromatum nucem myrificam (siue muscatam) habeo: vt præcipuam* (leaf 166 b.);" In the next section *De Cubicularibus / & adnezis*, Horman seems to give a bit of his own experience, "It is conuenient / that a man haue one seueral place in his house to hym selfe fro combrance of women . . He that sawe som women out of theyr aray: wolde haue lesse corage to be enamored upon them. . They whyte theyr face / necke / and pappis with cerusse: and theyr lypis and ruddis [cheeks] with purpurisse . . They fylle vp theyr frekyllys: and stretche abroad theyr skyn with tetanother: and plucke out theyr hearis with pynchynge yrons / and styllethre . . They chaunge the naturall colour of theyr heare with crafty colour and sounynge. . Honest women that vse none of these be more goodly: and commended in theyr natural beaute with sobre delynge and good maners (leaf 169.)"

<sup>2</sup> The date of Palsgrave's contract below, A.D. 1523, confirms the priority of Palsgrave over Geoffrey Tory de Bourges's *Champ Fleury*, contended for by Mr. Fry.

whom and to which we are immediately indebted for these interesting records, are Professor J. S. Brewer and his admirable Calendar of State Papers of Henry VIII's reign. It is a work that contains a wonderfully detailed account of all that went on in and about the Court and country in the time it treats of. Everything is there, from the cost of shaving a boy's head, *1d.*, or buying him a shirt, *20d.*, (vol. iii. pt. 1, p. 503), to the cost of the army of England (v. iii. pt. 2, p. 1153-4, etc.); from the King and his courtiers pelting one another with snowballs (v. iii. pt. 1, p. 50), to his grand display on the Field of the Cloth of Gold (v. iii. pt. 1, p. lxxviii-lxxi, and references); from an order for a lady's allowance for breakfast (v. iii. pt. 2, p. 1011), or a present to 'a young maid, a tumbler'<sup>1</sup> (*ib.* pt. 1, p. 500), to Sir Thomas More's beginning of the higher education of women in England (v. iii. pt. 2, p. 629); from the cost of translating a reveller's coat from a woman's garment (v. iii. pt. 2, p. 1555), and the price of a bondman's freedom, £40, (v. iii. pt. 1, p. 498, No. 1519), to the beginning of the Reformation, the fates of Emperors and Popes, the policy of England and the Continent (Introduction pt. 1.) It is a work invaluable not only to the student of history, in its general meaning, but also to the student of literature,<sup>2</sup> antiquities, manners, customs, and social life.

Turning over the leaves of the third volume of the Calendar which Mr. Brewer had kindly given me, I was surprised at the manifold interest of the contents of what I had at first supposed was only a list of dull State papers; and on coming to the notice of Palsgrave's contracts with Pynson, at p. 1522, No. 3680 of part 2, I just walked over to the Rolls, book in hand, and asked Mr. Brewer to let me copy the originals. He then pointed out to me the notice of Horman's

<sup>1</sup> *t. i. a dancier.*

<sup>2</sup> See Index, for Letters of Gawain Douglas, Erasmus, More, Pace, etc., and notices of old romances on tapestry—Siege of Damas, Henryke and Conrake, Amys and Amyloun, Alexander (Pt. 2, p. 1410); also the Story of Moses, and king Medow (Pt. 2, p. 1578, No. 25), David (Pt. 2, p. 1539), Hercules (Pt. 2, p. 1409)—and old books, *Bartilmewe de Proprietatibus Rerum* and *The Chronicles* (p. 1256), a little *Legend Aurey*, *Shepherd's Calendar*, *Æsop's Fables*, etc. (Pt. 1, p. 205), etc., etc.

contract at p. 118, No. 337, of pt. 1, and promised me not only copies of the three contracts, but also of the letter of denization granted to Pynson by Henry VIII. All these, having been read in proof by myself with the originals, are here printed; and I am sure that all our members will join with me in thanking Professor Brewer heartily for them.

INDENTURE BETWEEN PYNSON AND HORMAN, 28 JUNE, 1519.

(*Mr. Brewer's Calendar*, Vol. III. No. 337.

*Record Office, Papers*, 1519, vol. xix, No. 89.)

THYS indenture made / the eyght and twenty day of June / the aleventhe yere of the reigne of Kyng Henry the eight / betwene William Horman, clerke, and felowe of the Kyngys college of owr bleysyde Ladye of Eton / in the countye of Bukingham / on the on partye: and Master Richarde Pynson, bookpryntar, dwellyng in Flete Strete in London / on the other partye. Wyttnesyth that the seyde Master Richarde Pynson / hathe bargaynide, and by thes presentys barganyth / wythe the seyde Wylliam Horman / to. by hym selfe / his executours / or assignes: imprynte for the seyde William Horman / eight hundrede hoole and perfytt bookys / of suche Vulgars as be conteynide in the cople delyverde to the seyde Master Richarde Pynson / in suffycient and suyng<sup>1</sup> stuff of papyr / after thre dyverse letters / on for the englysh / an other for the laten / and the thyrd of great romayne letter / for the tytyllys of the booke / and fyve and thyrty chaptres of the same / to represent goodlye and trulye the mater / and all the stuffe and other thyngeys, att hys owne charge and cost / in suche forme and maner / as afore wytnesse warr assygnye and apointye betwene the seyde partyes / so that the on halfe of the hole summe be sengle quayr, and the other dowble; And that the seyde Master Richarde Pynson / byndythe and promysythe hym selfe by an othe / to the seyde William Horman / that he shall not prynte, nether do, or geve, or cause to be pryntyde any moo / then the seyde nombre / wythein the space of fyve yeres nexte folowyng / wythe-owt the consent and graunt / of the seyde Wylliam Horman. Vnder the priuilege and payn that he hathe grauntyde hym by the grace of owre soverayne lorde the kyng, And that the seyde pryvilege shalbe pryntyde in every of the seyde bokys. And the seyde Master Richarde Pynson doing trulye the premysys, shall receyve and be trulye payde of the seyde William Horman, or hys assygnes, for every hole reme of papyr so imprynte, fyve shilingys of lawfull money of Inglonde, by thes parcellys folowyng. ffyrst att the begynnynge he shall receyve a-fore honde, in partye of payment of the hole, fortye shylingys / and att the day of delyverance of the hole nombre of eight hundrede bookys / the full payment for fyve hundrede bookys / so the forseide fortye shylingys be rekennyde as

<sup>1</sup> Fitting, suitable.

part of the full payment for fyve hundrede. And that day twelue-  
monythe nexte cummyng, full payment for the three resydue hun-  
drede before delyverde. In wytnesse whereof the parties wythin  
namyde to thys presentys have interchangeable set to ther sealys;  
yevyn the day and yere abovesayde.

(On parchment. The seals have been cut off.)

The *Vulgaria* contains 82 sheets, so that Pynson must have got £32 15s. for his work, plus corrections and extras, which were no doubt charged in those days as well as the present. There are 27 double sheets, signed †, A, C, E, G, I, L, N, P, R, T, X, Z, (these i to iiij), a, c, e, g, i, l, n, p, r, t, x, z, aa, cc, (these 1 to †)—and 28 sheets, † †, B, D, F, H, K, M, O, Q, S, V, Y, &, b, d, f, h, k, m, o, q, s, v, y, &, bb, dd, ee, of which all are signed i, ij, or 1, 2, and all, except B, D, and b, are signed ij or 3, on the third leaf, while ee is not signed on the 2nd or 3rd leaf. R ij is signed Q ij by mistake. The first two signatures signed with Maltese crosses contain the Title, Letters Dedicatory and Contents. The Colophon is: IMPRESSA LONDINI PER R[i]chardum Pynson/regium impressorem cum priuilegio a REGÆ indulto. Ne quis hæc imprimat: nec aliubi impressa/importataque / intra regnum Angliæ vendat.

Mr. William Blades, the author of the admirable monograph on Caxton, has been good enough to look at the *Vulgaria* for me, and says:—"There are 82 sheets of paper in the Brit. Mus. copy, the signatures alternating with great regularity,—first 2 sheets, and then 1 sheet, throughout the volume. The position of the water-mark proves the book to be a true quarto, and it follows that eight leaves must represent two sheets, one sheet being put in the middle of the other. This peculiarity of alternating signatures is noticed in the contract, where it says, "one half of the whole sum to be single quires, and the other double." The word *quire* I suppose to have been applied to any small publication with *one back* only, and thence to the sections of a book irrespective of number of leaves. My calculation, then, runs thus:—800 copies of 82 sheets = 65,600 sheets, which, divided by 500, gives 131 reams;—which, at 5s. per

ream, = £32 15s. Money was reckoned twenty years ago as being only one-tenth the purchasing value of what it was in 1500, so I reckon it now as one-twelfth. This would make Pynson's £32 15s., equal to £393 of our money, or £4 17s. a sheet." The modern price would be about £188 12s., Mr. Austin says, or £2 6s. a sheet, for composition, printing, and paper, for the 800 copies.<sup>1</sup> Even allowing that Mr. Blades's multiplier of 12 is too great for the diminished value of money now, the difference of these payments for printing enable one to understand the lament to me of the manager of a large house over the good old printing days, when you charged what you liked, no questions were asked, and masters made a comfortable little fortune in ten or twelve years.

Of Palsgrave's contract with Pynson there are two drafts, no doubt because the first did not secure to the author the entire control of his book which he wanted for the reason stated further on.

#### INDENTURE BETWEEN PALSGRAVE AND PYNSON, A.D. 1523.

(*Mr. Brewer's Calendar*, Vol. III. No. 3680, *Record Office*.)

##### I.

(*First Draft*.)

This endenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the moneth of \_\_\_\_\_ the yere of our lorde god M<sup>v</sup><sup>c</sup>xxiiij and in the xv yere of the Reygne of our souerayne Lorde Kyng Henry the viij<sup>th</sup> bytwene Master John Palsgraue / Prebendary of the Cathedraff Church of Saynt Paule of the Cytte of London on the oon<sup>n</sup> partie, and Richard Pynson, Cyttezeyn and stacioner of the forsaid Citte on the other partie / Wytnessyth, that the saide Richard Pynson, his executours or assignes, shall prent, or doo to be prented, for the forsaid Master John Palsgraue his executours or assignes the Sum of Thre skore Realmes of paper, the saide Thre score Realmes<sup>2</sup> to be

<sup>1</sup> The size of the *Vulgaria* is post 4to., a smaller size than foolscap. The type is in two sizes: we call them English and Pica; and I calculate half for each:—

Composition, one sheet (8 pages) .....	12s.
Presswork, 800 = 2 reams .....	16s.
Paper (common) .....	16s.
Pressing.....	2s.

46s. per sheet.

800 copies, 82 sheets, £188 12s.—S. AUSTIN.

<sup>2</sup> Thre score Realmes *written over lix quayers stryck out*.

printed, and fully furnysshed and correctyd, within thre dayes next to-fore our Lady Day next ensuyng the date herof, The saide Master John Palsgrave payng unto the forsaid Rychard Pynsoñ, his executours or assignes, for the paper, seruauantes Labours, and pryntyng, for euery Realme pryntyd, w[h]iche conteynyth in all v C Shettes of paper, vj s viij d, to be payd in manner and fourme followyng, that ys to say/ Whaif the sayde bookes be printed, whyche by estimacioñ wyll amount to Thre skore Reames of paper/ Of the whyche lx Realmes the saide Richard Pynsoñ couenauntyth, promyttyth and grauntyth, and hym and his [exe]cutours by thise present endentures byndyth, that he, his executours or assignes shall friely geue vnto the forsaid Master John Palsgraue/his executours or assignes, vj bookes of the forsaid lx Realmes, parte of theñ to be for the use of the kyng our Souerayne Lorde, and the resydue to be dystributed at the pleasure of the said Master John Palsgraue, his executours or assignes, amongyst his frendes, where hym shall lyke or please to consyne them at his pleasure, The residue of the forsaid bookes whiche shall hap to be left of the abouesaid quayers of paper, shall rest and remayne in the custody and possession vnder Lok and key, at the wyll and pleasure of the abouesaid Master John Palsgraue / Prouyded alleway that the forsaid Richard Pynsoñ may at all tymes haue sufficient bookes to sell, to suche a nombre as the forsaid Master John Palsgraue and the aboue named Richard Pynsoñ shalbe agreed vppon, vnder and vpon this condicioñ hereafter followyng, that ys to say, for euery Realme pryntyng ouer and aboute the forsaid bookes Reserued to thuse and pleasure of the aboue Master John Palsgraue, viij s viij d, and all the /resydue to be the said John, as his proper goodes, in recompence /of the charges he hathe bene at for the makyng of his cople and in recompence of his labours and inuencyoñ.

Furthermore hit ys agreed, couenauntid, and condiscended bytwene the parties aforesayd, that the forsaid Master John Palsgraue, at his Labour and sute, optayne a pryuelege that there shall none of the Kynges subiectes, by the space of iij or iiij yeres, imprynt the saide boke, nor none sell theym, tho they be impryntyd ellys where/

Also the saide Richard Pynsoñ couenauntyth, promyttyth, and grauntyth, that he on his behalfe shall make all his diligence in hym possible to furnysshe and made an end of the forsaid worke/ without any further delay, the Kynges bookes first excepte and reserued / whiche vj bokes so beyng reserued and kepte/owte of [the] sum forsaid, shall remayne vnto the vse, commaundement, and pleasure of the forsaid Master Palsgraue// Also prouyded that yf yt fortune or chaunce the forsaid Master John Palsgrave to be absent by occasioñ or attendaunce by hym to be gevyñ by the Kinges grace, my Lorde Cardenalles commaundement, or by commaundement of the Kynges Counsayth, by the space of iiij [or] v<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> or no following v, has been struck out.

dayes, mo or lesse, by reason of his seruyce duely proved, that than that matter shalbe no cause of letche of this bargayn.

[*Note at the foot of the page in a heavy sprawling hand:—*]

The sayd Pynson after [vj]<sup>a</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> of every Reame.

[*The previous draft is in the hand of Thomas Cromwell's clerk.*

*The following is in Cromwell's own hand, and is written on the backs of both leaves of the preceding document.]*

## II.

(*Second Draft.*)

THIS ENDENTURE & cetera betweene Maister Johñ Pal[s]graue Clerke, oñ the oñ partye, and Richard Pynson, Cytizen and stasyonier of london, oñ the other partye, wytnessyth that the sayd Richarde hath couenauntyd, grauntyd, and hym self by thes presenttes byndethe, that he, that sayd Rycharde, his executors and assignes, shall Inprynt, or cause to be Inpryntyd, oñ boke callyd "lez lesClar-cissementt de la lange Frauncoys,"<sup>1</sup> contay[n]ing iij sondrye bokes, where-in ys schewyd howe the saide tong schould be pronownsyd in reding & spekyng, and all-so syche grammaticall rules as concerne the perfection of the saide tong, with ij vocabulistes, oone begynnyng with Englishe nownes & verbes expowndyd in frenshe, and a general vocabulist contaynyng all the wordes off the frenshe tong expownd in Englishe,<sup>1</sup> wherof the Cope Remaynyth in the handes of the sayd Maister Johñ Palsgraue of and ffor Inpessyon; of the which boke the sayd Maister Johñ Palsgraue promysyth, grauntythe, and hym self by this presenttes byndeth, to paye or Cause to pay to sayd Richarde, for everye Reame of papyr contaynyng xx<sup>ti</sup> quayres<sup>2</sup> of papure, and after stanclyn,<sup>3</sup> Signed and Subscribyd asswell with the hand of the sayd Mr. Johñ Palsgraue, as with the hande of the sayd Rychard Pynson, that is to saye, aswell ffor the Stufe as for the Inpryntyng of euer[y] Reame of Suche paper, vj s viij d of gud and lawffull money of Inglonde, In manner & forme ffolowing, that ys to say: that all the sayde bokys, at such tyme as thaye shalbe ffullye and entyerlye accomplysshyd and ffynshyd, which by the consent and agreement of bothe partyes shaft amowntt vnto the holle nombre of vij<sup>o</sup> and ffyfte boke[s], shaft than be Indeferently nomberyd, as well by the said Maister Johñ Palsgraue as by the said Richard, and then the holle nombre off vij<sup>o</sup> & ii<sup>4</sup> bookes so beyng nomberyd, shall Remayn in the handes of the sayd Richard Pynson, to be solde at suche pryce or pryces as the sayd Maister Palsgraue and the saide Richard schall indifferently sett apoñ the bokes,—after the iust

<sup>1-1</sup> This passage is written between the original lines.

<sup>2</sup> Originally—"v<sup>o</sup> levys;" which was first corrected to "v<sup>o</sup> shettas," and then to "xx<sup>ti</sup> quayres."

<sup>3</sup> Or "scantelyn"?

<sup>4</sup> So in MS.

numbers off quayres that every off theym̄ se[h]all contayne, Sett vppon̄ everay boke<sup>1</sup>—the saide bokes to remayn̄ in a chamber within the saide Richardes howse, where-off the kay schall be in the custodye off the said Master Joh̄n Palsgraue or his assignes, whyche from̄ tyme to tyme schaff reckyñ howe many off the hoole saide soñ off vij<sup>o</sup> & ĩ bokes they take owt & the same number expresse in wryghtyng, to whyche eyther off theym̄ or theyr assignes schaff signe, for the avoyding of all maner dowtes that myght ryse apon forgettfullnesse; and at suche tyme or tymys as the sayd Richarde Pynson hath takyñ and Resayuyd of and ffor So many bokes as he shall sell, as moche monay as schall content hym for euery<sup>2</sup> Realme, as well the stuff as other labours, after the Raate off vj sol and viij d the realme /ouer and aboue xxs whyche the said Master Joh̄n Palsgraue hath all-redy geuyñ to the saide Richard, as in earnest off thys bargyñ & cōuenante, thañ all the residewe off the bookes off the saide vij<sup>o</sup> & l bookes to be the saide Master Joh̄n Palsgraues, as hys owne propyr gooddes, to suffer to remayne in the handes off the saide Richard, to sell theym̄ for hys vse, and to be accountant vnto hyñ for syche monay as he schall receyue, or elles he or hys assignes to take theym̄ away and conuaye theym̄ to any place that on-to hyñ schall seme conuenient, In recompense for the charges that he haue bene att, and allso labours that he hath ta[ken].

Farder more hyt ys agreed betwene the saide master Joh̄n Palsgraue and Richard Pensoñ, that the sayde Richard schaff imprint euery hoole workyng day, for the more speding off the saide work, a schete off paper on bothe the sides. and not to cesse for none occasion̄ (except the Kynges grace haue any thynges to be pryntyd) tyll the saide hole worke be full fynyshyd. the said Rychard to begyñ to print the saide worke as to-morowe,<sup>3</sup> whyche schalbe the day off Januarye in the yere off our Lord as ; and the saide master John Palsgraue byndith hym,<sup>4</sup> that other he or hys assignes schall so from tyme to tyme deliuer hys cōpye correctid to the saide Richard, or hys compositours, that the saide worke schall not be stopp'd on hys behallff.

Farder more hyt yt agreyd that the saide Richard schall vse good fayth in the printing off the saide worke, and suffer the saide Joh̄n Palsgraue, or hys assignes, to correct the proff or euer that he for any hast print the hoole nomber off any off the saide leuys, and that he schall prync<sup>5</sup> no mo bookes, nor parcell off boke,—sauff oone off the fyrst [two leues conteyning]<sup>6</sup> the saide worke to geue to my Lord Cardinall,—but the said vij<sup>o</sup> & ĩ; and that he schall, whan the bokes be completly fynyshyd, geue vj off theym̄ to the said John Palsgraue fr[eely to]<sup>7</sup> geue where schall plese hym.

<sup>1</sup> The draft is very confused here, owing to the numerous corrections.

<sup>2</sup> "for euery" is repeated in the MS.

<sup>3</sup> On the day struck out.

<sup>4</sup> And his assignes struck out.

<sup>5</sup> So in MS.

<sup>6</sup> ? no. ? whether these words are not meant to be struck out. They have a light line through them.

<sup>7</sup> Defaced.



Of the *Esclaircissement* actually printed and published, Pynson seems to have printed only the first two parts, of two sheets and a half (signed A in four, B in two, C in four,) and 59 leaves, then mistakenly called folios. After these comes the third part, with a fresh numbering of leaves from 1 to 473, and the colophon is—

“Thus endeth this booke called Lesclaircissement de la langue francoyse, whiche is very necessarye for all suche as intende to lerne to speke trewe frenche: The imprintyng fynysshed by Iohan Haukyns the .xviii. daye of Iuly. The yere of our lorde god M.CCCCC. and .xxx.”

Ames says that this is the only book known that was printed by Haukyns, and observes—“The book itself, which is very scarce, is divided into three parts, or books. The first beginning on ‘Fo. primo’ and signature A, treats entirely of the pronounciation, which concludes on ‘Fo. xxiii. ¶ Thus ende I of my .iii. bokes, the fyrst,’ etc. The second, treating of the nine parts of speech, begins on Fo. xxxi. and ends on Fo. lix. and has another leaf, with only Pynson’s large device. These two parts seem to be the same as [those] mentioned in the author’s epistle dedicatory to the King, to have been presented to the princess Mary, &c., and probably printed by Pynson.”

The reader will have noticed into how much greater detail of stipulation Palsgrave’s cautious and suspicious nature led him than Horman. The Prebendary of St. Paul’s evidently did not trust ‘the said Richarde’ further than he could help, and would keep the ‘kay’ of the said Richarde’s room in his own pocket. The reason of all this precaution is given in a letter to Secretary Cromwell, the drawer of the contract, by a ‘most humble servant’ of his, S. Vaughan, who writes thus to him from Antwerp, on the 13th of April, 15

Rient worshipfull Sir, I humblye commende me unto youe, and praye youe, that whereas I am muche desirous t’atteyne the knowlage of the Frenche tonge, which is to me so muche the more difficulte as neyther by any sufficient instructor, ne any treatise heretofore made, I maye be easily lede to the knowlage of the same, and at my beyng at London made not a letle labour to Mr. Palsgrave to have

one of his books whiche he made concernyng the same, whiche in no wise he wolde graunt for no price, that ye wilbe so good Master to me as to healpe me to have one of them, not doubtyng but though he unkyndly denyed me one, he will not denye youe one.

I perceyve that Palsgrave hathe willed Pynson to sell none of them to any other person then to suche as he shall comaunde to have them, lest his proffit by teching the Frenche tonge myght be mynished by the sale of the same to suche persons as, besids hym, wern disposed to studye the sayd tongue.

If I had one, I wolde no lesse exteme it then a Jewell, wherfore I hartely praye youe to healp me to one, and for the same I shall sende youe some other thing to youe of mucche more value. If it please youe to cause Willyamson to bring the same to my brother, William Pratt, he will convey it to me at all tymes.

Syr, I humbly comēde unto your goodness the memory of my lovyng frende, Willyam Claye, who intendith on thisside Whitson-tyde to departe towards England, and wyll resorte unto youe, for to desire youe to be good Maister vnto hym in his right, and none otherwise. I departed from London upon the Tewysdaye, and came to Andwerpe the Saturdaye then next following, where I remayn your most humble and obedyent servant. And thus I hartely praye for the contynuance of your health and prosperete. At Andwerpe, the xiiij daye of Aprell.

Syr, I remember Mr. Palsgrave gave youe one of his books, whiche if it please you to geve me, I wer mucche bounde to youe.

Your most humble Servant

S. VAUGHAN.

To his right worshypfull Maister,  
Mr. Crumwell in London.

(*Original Letters*, ed. Ellis 3rd Ser. Vol ii. p. 214-215.<sup>1</sup>)

So much then for Palsgrave's keeping his book to himself, his friends, and his pupils. Let us hope that the desirous

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wheatley pointed this letter out to me. Sir H. Ellis gives an interesting biography of Palsgrave, at p. 213-14. Mr. Brewer's *Calendar* has also (vol. iii. p. 1523, No. 368.) a notice of Palsgrave's Bill in Chancery to make John Wilcocks, executor of Harry Wylcocks, pay 44*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for dilapidations to the parsonage of Ashfordby, Leicestershire, in the benefice of which Palsgrave was Wylcock's successor. In vol. ii. pt. 2 of the *Calendar*, p. 1459, is an entry from the King's Book of payments—"John Polygraphe (Palsgrave), clk., schoolmaster to my Lady Princess, year's wages, 6*£* 13*s.* 4*d.*" On p. 1460 is another entry, 'John Polegrave, schoolmaster to the Princess of Castile, 66*s.* 8*d.*' On 3rd April, 1515, Mary, Queen of France, writes to Wolsey from Paris, and 'begs that her servant, John Palgrave, M.A., may have Eglysfeld in the diocese of Durham, or the archdeaconry of Derby, now to be vacated' (Brewer's *Calendar*, vol. ii. pt. 1, p. 93). On the 13th of Nov., 1514, Mary had written to Wolsey, 'begs his favour in behalf of John Palsgrave (? the Dictionary-maker's son), that he may continue at school. Had willed him to remain at Paris after he was discharged from her service. Wishes to do somewhat for him. Would have been glad to help him, but her estate is not yet made.' (*Cal.* vol. i. p. 926.)

Vaughan got a copy of *Lesclaircissement*, and that some lucky grubber among MSS. will find for us that "general vocabulist contaynyng all the wordes off the Frensh tong expownd in Englishe, wherof the cotype remainy[d] in the handes of the sayd Maister John Palisgraue." We should exteme it a Jewell indeed.

With regard to the rate of work, a sheet a day, at that early time, 1523,—or at least a year before 1530 (when the book was published,)—must be taken as a very good pace indeed. I assume that the second contract, though only in draft, must have been right in its details, as these evidently imply previous consultation with Pynson.

As to the cost of binding in 1521, we may judge from one of the King's payments in April: "To John Taverner, stationer of London, by the sergeant of the vestry, for binding, clasping, and covering 41 books for the King's chapel, 4*l*." (Brewer's *Calendar*, vol. iii. pt. 2, p. 1545).

Lastly, here is the Letter of Denization granted by Henry VIII. to Pynson, A.D. 1513.

*Denization of Richard Pynson.*

(Privy Seal, 30th July 1513,  
Mr. Brewer's *Calendar*, No. I. 4373, Record Office.)

*Memorandum* quod. xxx. die Julij anno subscripto, istud breve liberatum fuit domino Cancellario Angliæ apud Westm-nasterium exequendum.

HENRICUS, Dei gracia Rex Anglie et Francie, et dominus Hibernie / Reuerendissimo in Christo Patri Wiñielmo, Cantuarensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati. et apostolice Sedis Legato, Cancellario nostro, salutem. / Vobis mandamus quod, sub magno sigillo nostro, literas nostras patentes fieri faciat[is] in forma sequente. Henricus, Dei gratia, et cetera / Omnibus ad quos, et cetera, salutem, Sciatis quod nos, de gratia nostra speciali, ac ex certa sciencia, et mero motu nostris, dedimus et concessimus, ac per presentes damus et concedimus, pro nobis, et heredibus nostris (quantum in nobis est) dilecto nobis Ricardo pynson, in partibus Normandie oriundo, quod ipse ad totam vitam suam sit indigena, et ligeus nostri, et heredum nostrorum / et quod ipse in omnibus tractetur, reputetur, habeatur, teneatur, et gubernetur, sicut fidelis ligeus nostri, infra Regnum nostrum Anglie oriundus, et non aliter, nec alio modo, quod

*quibus ipse Ricardus Pynson omnimodas acciones reales personales et mixtas, in omnibus curiis nostris, et Jurisdictionibus nostris, habere, et exercere, eis quibus gaudere, ac in eisdem perlicitare, respondere, et defendere, ac perlicitari, responderi, et defendi possit, in omnibus et per omnia, sicut fidelis ligeus nostri, in dicto Regno nostro Anglie oriundus. / Et quod ipse Ricardus de cetero in futurum colore seu vigore alicuius statuti, ordinacionis, seu comessionis facti seu faciendi, non artetur, teneatur, seu compellatur, ad solvendum, d[an]dum, faciendum vel supportandum, nobis aut alicui heredum nostrorum, seu cuicumque alteri, aliquas alias taxas, tallagia, seu alia onera quecunque, pro bonis, terris, tenementis, vel persona sua, preter talia et tanta, qualia et quanta, alii fideles ligei nostri infra Regnum nostrum Anglie oriundi, pro bonis, terris, tenementis vel personis suis proprijs, solvant, dant, faciunt vel supportant, aut soluere, dare, vel supportare, communiter consueverint, et teneantur; et quod ipse Ricardus habere et possidere valeat omnes et omnimodas libertates, franchisesias, et priuilegia, ac eas uti et gaudere possit infra dictum Regnum nostrum Anglie, iurisdictiones et dominia nostra quecunque, adeo libere, quiete, integre et pacifice, sicut ceteri fideles ligei nostri infra Regnum nostrum predictum oriundi habere, possidere, uti, et gaudere, debeant aut valeant, absque perturbacione, impedimento, molestacione, seu calumpnia nostri, vel heredum nostrorum, Justiciariorum, Escaetorum, Vicecomitum, aut aliorum officiariorum et ministrorum nostrorum vel heredum nostrorum, quorumcunque / Aliquibus statutis, ordinacionibus, actubus, prouisionibus, siue proclamacionibus, in contrarium ante hec tempora factis siue concessis, aut imposterum fiendis seu concedendis, aut aliqua alia re, causa, vel materia quacunque, non obstantibus / Prouiso semper quod predictus Ricardus Pynson homagium ligeum nobis faciat, ac lottum et scottum contribuat, sicut ceteri ligei nostri contribuant / Et hoc absque aliquo fine seu feodo preterquam feodum magni sigilli nostri nobis consuetum in hanaperio nostro, seu aliter ad opus nostrum vel heredum nostrorum reddendum vel soluendum / In cuius Rei, et cetera / Datum sub nostro priuato sigillo apud Manerium nostrum de Richemount, xxvj die Julij, anno Regni nostri quinto. /*

R. PURDE.

*(This document is entered on the Patent Roll of 5 Henry VIII., part 1, membrans 18).*

In 1520 Pynson signs a receipt for an annuity of £4 (Brewer's *Calendar*, v. 3, pt. 1, p. 365, l. 10), has an order to print '4000 letters, and as many briefs,' for John Robinson, on May 10, 1523 (*ib.* pt. 2, p. 1269, No. 3015), and gets £16 6s. 4d. 'for printing proclamation bokes concernyng Saintuaries,' in Febr. 1521 (*ib.* Pt. 2, p. 1544). There are

other entries relating to Pynson in the prior volumes of Mr. Brewer's *Calendar*, as—

- 1510, 3 May, Signed Bills.  
 1030. To the Abp. of Canterbury, Chancellor.  
 Warrant to deliver to Richard Pynson, the King's printer, a true copy of the statutes lately passed in parliament, that he may print them. Greenwich, 3 May 2 Hen. VIII. *Sealed*. (Cal. i. p. 154).
- 1512, 20 June, S.B.  
 3253. For Richard Pynson, the King's printer, annuity of 40s. from Michaelmas last. *Del*. Westm. 20 June 4 Hen. VIII. *Pat*. 4 Hen. VIII. p. 2, m. 24.
- 1515, 27 Sept., Signed Bills.  
 954. For Ric. Pynson, the King's Printer. Annuity of 4*£*. *Del*. Croydon, 27 Sept. 7 Hen. VIII. *Pat*. 7 Hen. VIII. p. 2, m. 15.
- 1516, Record Office.  
 2736. Fees and Annuities paid by the King. Ric. Pynson, printer, for life 4*£*. (Brewer's *Cal*. v ii. pt. 1, p. 875.
- In the King's Book of Payments are—  
 1511, March: To Pynson, for printing of informations to the Commissioners taking musters, 10*£*.  
 —, July: Pynson, printing statutes and proclamations, 6*£* 13*s*. 4*d*.  
 1512, July: Ric Pynson, printing books of statutes for the army over sea, 100*s*.  
 1513, February. Ric Pynson, King's printer, 10*£*.  
 —, June. Pynson, printing and binding 1600 books of "statutes of war," 16*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*.  
 —, 25th Dec. Pynson, printing of the enterdityng of Scotland, 40*s*.  
 1514, June. Pynson, printing 100 parchment rolls of the last subsidy act, each containing four skins, 10*£*.  
 1515, March, Pynson, printing 450 skins of parchment, containing "the Acts of retendors of the statutes of Winchester," 6*£*. 13*s*. 4*d*.  
 —, Dec. Pynson, for printing 100 parchment skins and 125 leaves of paper of the last subsidy, and for printing the statutes, 18*£*.  
 1517, May. Pynson, printing books concerning the subsidy, 31*£* 13*s*. 4*d*.
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