

about 1538, Grafton, the printer, undertook to print the Great Bible, for which purpose he went to Paris, there not being sufficient men or types in England; he had not, however, proceeded far when he was stopped in the progress of this "heretical book," upon which he returned to England, bringing with him presses, type, printers, and bookbinders, and finished the work in 1539. Henry VIII. had many books bound in velvet, with gold bosses and ornaments; and in his reign the stamping of tools in gold appears to have been introduced. In the reign of Elizabeth, some exquisite bindings were done by embroidery, the queen herself working the covers with gold and silver thread, spangles, &c. Count Grolier seems to have been a great patron of the art on the continent, and all his books were bound in smooth morocco or calf ornamented with gold. The style of the books of Maioli was very similar to that of Grolier, or those of Diana of Poitiers, the specimens done for her being among the finest ever produced, and were no doubt designed by Petit Bernard. Roger Paine was the first Englishman who produced a really good binding, and some of his best works, such as French romances, were powdered with the fleur-de-lis. His books on chivalry had suitable ornaments; on poetical works he used a simple lyre, and carried the emblematical style of binding as far as emblems ought to be used. The following bill of his for binding a work is a curiosity, and shows how moderately he charged:—

"Vaneria prodium Rusticum, Parisiis, MDCCLXXIV.

"Bound in the very best manner in the finest green morocco, the back lined with red morocco. Fine drawing paper and very neat morocco joints inside. There was a few leaves stained at the fore-edge, which is washed and cleaned. 0 0 6

"The subject of the book being 'Rusticum,' I have ventured to put the Vine Wreath on it, I hope I have not bound it in too rich a manner for the book. It takes up a great deal of time to do these Vine Wreaths; I guess within time I am certain of measuring and working the different and various small tools required to fill up the Vine Wreath, that it takes very near 3 days' work in finishing the two sides only of the book—but I wished to do my best for the work, and at the same time I cannot expect to charge a full and proper price for the work; and hope that the price will not only be found reasonable but cheap. 0 18 0

Civ. Eng. & Arch. Jour.

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*Note on the Action of a Solution of Caustic Soda upon a Stone-ware Jar, by Mr. TRENHAM REEKS.*

Having been puzzled in the analyses of some bronzes and iron ores, with the presence of an excessive quantity of alumina, I was induced to examine the reagents employed, and found that this excess originated in the soda, which had for some time been standing in an earthen-

ware jar. I send a piece of this jar, which exhibits a thick coating, nearly all composed of silica, the alumina having been dissolved out by the soda.

Chem. Soc. Mem.

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*Experiments on Crystalization under Extreme Pressure.* By W. S. WARD.

This was merely a statement that a number of experiments had been made since the last meeting of the Association, with a view of determining if a speculation then thrown out was correct. Common salt, muriate of ammonia and other salts were exposed, in solution, to a pressure of 100 atmospheres; but no difference in their crystalizable powers were apparent. It was therefore proved, that under a pressure equal to that found in the depths of the Mediterranean no crystalization from pressure would take place. London Athenæum.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

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*Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, showing the progress of the work during the year ending October, 1847.*

This work, commenced many years ago by our government, and prosecuted since then with greater or less energy, is one which, whether we consider its importance to our commercial interests and means of defence from aggression, or the greatness of the undertaking, and its influence upon our national reputation for science and skill, ought to attract the notice of every one of our citizens. Yet, until the appointment of the present superintendent, the existence of such a survey was scarcely known, and even yet we fear that its great interest and importance have not received the attention which they deserve. We therefore desire to devote a short space of our Journal to call the attention of our readers to this great work, not only on account of its intimate bearing upon the pecuniary interests of the community, but because, from the vastness of the design, and the difficulties of its execution, as well as from the admirable skill with which it has been heretofore conducted, it is an honor to our country, and entitles us to take rank, in our contributions to useful human knowledge, with our sisters of earlier civilization; an object of ambition at least as honorable as that of rivalling them in their military achievements.

The object of the Coast Survey, is to procure an accurate chart of our extended and dangerous sea-coast, in which every prominent ob-