

ROWFANT LIBRARY.

BROWNING FIRST EDITIONS TO BE SOLD AT SOTHEBY'S.

Although all the bibliographical rarities of the late Frederick Locker-Lampson's choice library at Rowfant have long since crossed the Atlantic there yet remained a considerable number of interesting presentation copies and other desirable rarities in the way of modern books. These, or some of them, will be sold at Sotheby's on March 4.

Especially important are three Browning first editions, "Paracelsus," 1835, "Strafford," 1837, and "Bells and Pomegranates," 1841-6, the last-named in the original eight parts, of which the fifth is the second edition. All three works are inscribed by the author to Frederick Locker, and the first two named have numerous corrections in the author's handwriting. The copy of Matthew Arnold's "The Strayed Reveller," 1849, is not a presentation copy, but it is inscribed by the author "To F. Locker, on his purchase of this book at a price beyond its value—non equidem invideo, miror magis." The copies of the works of Meredith, "Poems," 1851, William Morris, "Love is Enough," 1873, D. G. Rossetti, "Poems," 1870, R. L. Stevenson, "A Child's Garden of Verses," 1885, Dickens, A. C. Swinburne, and Tennyson, are all of association interest, and in each case bear autograph inscriptions by the various authors. Of Tennyson's "The Lover's Tale," privately printed in 1868, apparently only one other copy appears to be recorded. The set of Kate Greenaway's "Almanacks," 1883-1895, want only two to make it complete, and all are presentation copies, either to Mr. or Mrs. Locker.

The same sale will include some books from the Rev. Stopford Brooke's library notable among which are some first editions of Shelley, Byron, Wordsworth, and Browning; a collection of early editions of Bunyan's works from an unindicated source; a very fine copy of Sir William Davenant's "Works," 1673, with the original MS. Indenture regarding Davenant's Theatre, October 2, 1639; and Sir Richard Paget's copy of Caxton's "Myrrour of the World," 1481, bound by Roger Payne, unfortunately not quite perfect.