ومن حيث خرجت فول وجهك شطر
المسجد الحرام
الله
وانه لحق من ربك وما الله بغافل عما تعملون
ومن حيث خرجت فول وجهك شطر المسجد
الحرام وحيث ما كنتم فولوا وجوهكم شطره
لئلا يكون للناس عليكم حجة الا الذين ظلموا
منهم فلا تخشوهم واخشوني ولاتم نعمتي
عليكم ولعلكم تهتدون كما ارسلنا فيكم
رسولا منكم يتلوا عليكم ايتنا ويزكيكم
ويعلمكم الكتاب والحكمة ويعلمكم ما لم تكونوا
تعلمون فاذكروني اذكركم واشكروا لي

Koran, ii. 144-147 (XVIth Cent.)

BULLETIN OF
THE JOHN RYLANDS
LIBRARY
MANCHESTER

VOL. 2 JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1915 No. 3

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

LOUVAIN LIBRARY SCHEME.

THE response to the appeal on behalf of the Library of the University of Louvain, which we made in our last issue, has been most encouraging, revealing as it does how deep and widespread is the desire to assist in any effort which has for its object the restoration, at least in some measure, of the resources of the crippled university, and of its equipment and organization for teaching and study.

Already upwards of three thousand volumes have been either received or definitely promised, and we have pleasure, elsewhere in the present issue, in recording the names of the donors, together with the description of the gifts which had actually reached us, at the end of June.

It may be said, therefore, that the foundations of the new library have actually been laid, but we must see to it that the superstructure is a monument worthy of the incomparable bravery displayed by our noble ally in her fearless if ineffectual resistance to the overwhelming hordes of barbarians which were hurled against her and which it is intended to signalize.

We are glad to hear that an International Committee is in process of formation, with a view to co-ordinate the many efforts that are being employed in this country, and also on the continent, to assist in bringing about the restoration of the devastated library. Under the direction and influence of such a committee, the success of the scheme is more than assured.

FORTHCOMING SERIES OF LECTURES.

The following syllabus of lectures has been arranged for the ensuing session. It should be noticed that the first lecture will be given towards the end of September, and not on the second Wednesday of October as is usually the case :—

EVENING LECTURES (7.30 p.m.)

Wednesday, 29th September, 1915. "The most Recent Discoveries in Crete." (Illustrated with Lantern Pictures.) By Ronald M. Burrows, D.Litt., Principal of King's College, London.

Wednesday, 10th November, 1915. "Armageddon: a Study of the 'Revelation of S. John the Divine'." By Arthur S. Peake, M.A., D.D., Professor of Biblical Exegesis in the Victoria University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 15th December, 1915. "The English Civil Service in the 14th Century." By T. F. Tout, M.A., F.B.A., Bishop Fraser Professor of Mediæval and Ecclesiastical History in the Victoria University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 12th January, 1916. "The Modern View of Warren Hastings." By J. Ramsay B. Muir, M.A., Professor of Modern History in the Victoria University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 9th February, 1916. "The Influence of the Egyptian Practice of Mummification on the History of Civilization." (Illustrated with Lantern Pictures.) By G. Elliott Smith, M.A., M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in the Victoria University of Manchester.

The following three lectures have been arranged in commemoration of the Tercentenary of the Death of Shakespeare:—

Wednesday, 19th April, 1916. "The Globe Playhouse." (Illustrated with Lantern Pictures.) By William Poel, Founder and Director of the Elizabethan Stage Society.

Wednesday, 26th April, 1916. "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Artist: Illustrated by the 'Merchant of Venice'." By Richard G. Moulton, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Literary Theory and Interpretation in the University of Chicago.

Friday, 28th April, 1916. "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Thinker: Illustrated by 'Romeo and Juliet'." By Richard G. Moulton, M.A., Ph.D.

AFTERNOON LECTURES (3 p.m.).

Tuesday, 12th October, 1915. "The Origin of the Cult of Apollo." By J. Rendel Harris, M.A., Litt.D., LL.D., Director of Studies at the Woodbrooke Settlement, Birmingham.

Tuesday, 4th January, 1916. "National and International Ideals in the English Poets." By C. H. Herford, M.A., Litt.D., Professor of English Literature and Language in the Victoria University of Manchester.

TERCENTENARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH.

It will be noticed that we have made special provision for the commemoration of the Tercentenary of the Death of Shakespeare, the actual date of which falls upon Easter Sunday (23rd April). Many of our readers will welcome the opportunity of listening to such an authority upon Shakespeare's Theatre as Mr. William Poel, and we take this opportunity of thanking him for so readily consenting to make a special journey from London for the purpose. Professor Richard Moulton's lectures are in many ways unique, and need no words of recommendation. They are looked forward to with eager anticipation from year to year by the regular members of our audience, and we would suggest to them that they should be early in their places next April, if they do not wish to suffer disappointment.

In connection with this commemoration it has been decided to arrange an exhibition in the library of the works of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries, in which we shall make a point of calling attention to some of the books which influenced Shakespeare. We shall endeavour to find time to prepare a small descriptive and illustrated catalogue of the exhibition, for sale at a few pence.

KURÂNIC MANUSCRIPTS.

We print some further notes from the pen of Dr. Mingana upon several manuscripts of outstanding importance amongst our collection of Arabic texts of, and writers upon, the Ḳurân. One of the texts appears to furnish evidence of the need for a textual criticism of the book.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN MANCHESTER.

The Eighty-Fifth Meeting of the British Association is to be held in Manchester commencing on Tuesday, 7th September, and ending on Saturday, 11th September. The customary duration of the meeting will be thus shortened, in consequence of the war. The ordinary excursions will be abandoned, and the evening entertainments will be given up. In order, however, to give the members an opportunity of meeting each other the City Council have invited the Association to visit the School of Technology on the evening of Wednesday, 8th September, when the buildings, machinery, and equipment will be shown. On

the occasion of the last meeting of the Association held in Manchester, in 1887, the John Rylands Library was not yet even contemplated. It has been felt therefore that there are likely to be many of the members visiting Manchester next month, who would welcome an opportunity of inspecting the library and such of the special treasures as may be placed on exhibition for the purpose. To this end the Governors are issuing invitations to about three hundred and fifty members to meet them at the library on the afternoon of Thursday, 9th September at 4 o'clock.

MANUSCRIPT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Since the publication of our last issue, a large number of interesting manuscripts have been acquired for the library. Unfortunately the demands upon our space are such as to preclude anything but the briefest possible reference to them. We must therefore reserve the fuller description for a subsequent occasion. On the Oriental side there are nearly a hundred Pali and other manuscripts on palm leaf, metallic lacquer, or paper, including a number of rare and unpublished texts, together with a small group of unknown works in Bali character, from the Bali Island, beyond Java. These were acquired through the instrumentality of Professor Rhys Davids, and are the fruits of upwards of thirty years' assiduous collecting by a scholar, who was in constant intercourse with other scholars in various parts of the East who alone could have assisted him in getting together such a remarkable collection.

Of Syriac manuscripts there are thirty consisting of Biblical, patristic, and liturgical works, several of which are of great rarity and importance, acquired through the generous help of Dr. Rendel Harris. Of Western, or Latin and English manuscripts a collection of eighty volumes of records have been acquired, of which the outstanding item is a volume of the 15th century Cartulary of Fountains' Abbey, which has been lost sight of for some time, and apparently was unknown to Dodsworth, Dugdale, and the later editors of the "Monasticon". Two volumes of the Cartulary are in the British Museum, and a third is in the possession of Lord Ripon. The present volume is in a perfect state of preservation. It contains nearly 500 folios of vellum, and still retains its interesting 15th century stamped binding. The other volumes in the collection consist, for the most part, of 17th century transcripts of State Papers such as : Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, Rolls of Parliament, Inquisitiones post mortem,

Pleas of the Crown, etc., but include a number of very interesting original documents which may prove to be of considerable historical importance, such as Court Rolls, an Ancient Rent Roll of Oswestry, a Book of Offices under the Crown, 1613, the Statutes of Savoy Hospital, etc., etc.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS.

We have found it impossible to redeem our promise to print the portion of the list of the most important of the recent accessions to the library which remained over from the last issue. We have had to reserve a final section, dealing exclusively with the additions to the department of History, with the promised index to authors, for publication in the October issue.

"THE YOUTH OF VERGIL."

The present issue contains an elaborated text of the interesting and suggestive lecture on "The Youth of Vergil," delivered by Prof. Conway at the library, to a large and appreciative audience, on the 9th December, 1914.

A limited number of reprints of this lecture, in separate form, have been issued, and may be purchased of the usual agents for sixpence.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Readers will be glad to learn that our next issue will include an expansion of the lecture entitled "A Mediaeval Burglary," which was delivered by Prof. Tout in January last. The text will be illustrated by three facsimiles. Of this lecture also a limited number of reprints will be obtainable at the price of sixpence. Those of our readers who were privileged to hear Prof. Tout on the last occasion, will welcome the announcement of a further lecture by him during the ensuing session.