

HURD & HOUGHTON.

Among the most skillful of the publishers of the day may be counted Hurd & Houghton of New York. The firm is composed of Mr. Melancthon M. Hurd, formerly of Sheldon, Blakeman & Co., Mr. Henry O. Houghton, the eminent printer of Cambridge, Mass., and Mr. Albert G. Houghton, formerly an active business man in Alabama. Business was commenced by the two former in March, 1865, and on the first of January, 1866, the other member of the firm joined them. Mr. Houghton was for many years the printer of works for other establishments, and on his entering into arrangements with Mr. Hurd a large amount of business was immediately secured. They commenced with a full edition of Dickens's Works and Lord Bacon's, the latter being the best extant, and added such authors as Montaigne, Carlyle, Pascal, and even Madame de Staël to the list. Mr. Hurd is a native of Bridgeport, Conn., where he was born on the 21st of January, 1828. He entered on a thorough course of study, and was nearly prepared to enter at Yale College, when his failing health compelled him to seek another mode of life, and he entered the bookstore of B. Blakeman & Co., in Bridgeport, where his father was then a silent partner. This was in 1844. A year after the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Hurd obtained employment in the railroad business, where he continued for several years, leaving it finally to purchase the same store in Bridgeport where he had formerly been a clerk, and which in the meantime had passed through several hands. Here he continued until 1856, when he was invited to enter the publishing house of Sheldon, Blakeman & Co., of New York, where he continued until February, 1864, and during the remainder of that year made preparations for entering the firm with which he is now connected.

Mr. Henry O. Houghton is a graduate of Harvard, and well known as the conductor of the most artistic and one of the largest printing offices in America. Three hundred workmen are employed, and all the processes of book-making except the production of the raw material are carried on under the roofs of their buildings in Cambridge. The type is chosen with skill, the printers are excellent, and the proof-reading is very exact, so that when a page leaves the compositors it is done as well as can be, and the pressman and binder perform their parts equally well. Forms are imposed only by eights, sixteens, and thirty-twos, so that there is not that lumpy and