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CURIOUS TEXT BOOK THE NEW ENGLAND PRIMER.

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at the Same Time, The horn-book, which was the simplest form of the primer, was in use in New England down to the time of George II., and it is but rea-sonable to suppose that the Puritans and Pilgrims brought over their horn-books with their other scant paraphernalia of education.

But the printing press that was set up in Cambridge in 1639 was too busy in producing books to allow the single page of the horn-book to hold its place as the chief source of the elementary knowledge of the English language, and the primer-or pri-mer, as the people of New England used to call it, and as many of the people of old New England call it still—soon came in to take its place. There was then no education of children of the kind that is now called secular, for the little learner took in his literature and theology at the same time, for the creed was printed alongside of the alphabet. The New England primer was the gitimate successor of the primers that the Puritans and their fathers and grandfathers to remote genera-

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TUTT'S PILLS cause no

ions had studied in Old England. No one knows when the first New England primer was pub-lished, or by whom it was compiled, or by what artist it was first "adorned with cuts." There is a single copy extant of the Indian primer, in the Natick language, compiled by John Eliot, and printed at Cambridge in 1669, and the contents of this, Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull thinks, "are substantially the same as there of the stantially the same as those of the carliest New England primers in the English language before they had been 'enlarged' or 'improved' or 'adorned with cuts'" The Indian rimer gives the first six pages to the alphabet, and reading and spell-ing lessons, the words being divided into syllables, and then come the Lord's prayer, with an exposition in the form of a catechism; the Apostle's Creed, with a catechitical expo-sition; Christian Duties for Second States, collected out of the holy Scripture; the Large Catechism; a Short Catechism; the numeral letters and figures, the names and order of the books of the Old and

New Testament. The oldest known fragment of a The oldest known fragment of a New England primer, consists of four leaves only, which made part of the original binding of a book printed by William Bradford, in 1683. These were discovered by Dr. Trumbull, in 1881, and he is of opinion that they came from a Philadelphia reprint of a Boston edition of the primer, which must have been pubished at least as early as 1687.

In Newman's Boston Almanac for 1691, is the following advertisement: There is now in the press and auddenly to be class, a second impression of the New England himer, enlarged, to which is added more Direc-Purely Vegetable Compound, that the 6th, and Verses made by Mr. Rogers, acts directly upon the liver; curing Sal by Benjamin Harris, at the London Coffeethe many diseases incidence to that my.

purely Vegetable Compound, this acts directly upon the liver; curing the many diseases incided to that important organ, and preventing the number of the many diseases incided to the many diseases incided to the many diseases incided to the many diseases merous ailments that arise from its made by Mr. John Rogers, a marry in Queen Marie's reign, had already been printed in Boston in 1685.

They were, in fact, written by Rob-Dyspepsia depidice, Biliousness, They were, in fact, written by Rob-Costveness Meiaria, Sick-headache, Rheupathin etc. It is therefore a ruismithat "To have Good Health identify the prayer of Edward VI., but suggests that it may have been but suggests that it may have been 'a prayer to be said by children, before they study their lessons at school," which was first printed in English, at the end of King Edward's Short Catechism, in 1553. It was omitted from subsequent editions of

the primer. So far as known, the oldest copy of the primer that has been preserved, was printed in Boston, by Thomas Fleet, in 1737. It is entitled "The New England Primer Enlarged. For the More Easy Attaining the True Reading of English. To Which is Added, the Assembly of Divine's Catechism." On the inside of the first leaf, before the title, is a woodcut "of King George the Second;" on the reverse a ghastly image labeled, "The Pope, or Man of Sin." The book contained "The Great Capital book contained "The Great Capital Letters," "The Small Letters," "Easie Syllables for Children," "Words of One Syllable," and upwards to those terrible "Words of Six Syllables," beginning with "A-bo-mi-na-ti-on" and ending with "Qual-i-fi-ca-ti-on." Then come the chief attractions of the primer, the rude woodcuts and their associated rhymes, from

rhymos, from

"In Adam's fall,
We sinned all,"

Down through the alphabet to
"Zaccheus he
Did climb the tree
Our Lord to see."

These are followed by "The Duti-ful Child's Promises," which in later editions are omitted to give room for Special Attention Civen to Filling with: "Who was the first man?" Then come an "Alphabet of Lessons for Youth" in verses, or parts of verses, from the Bible; the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, texts showing the A FULL LINE CARRIED Duty of Children Towards Their Parents," and two pages of verses, a portion of which every child was directed to "learn by heart." One of these was the familiar little

prayer,—
"Now I lay no down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

Which every child did learn by heart, and it became more familiar to English-speaking Protestants than any other prayer in the language, the Lord's prayer only, excepted. Only a short time before his death, the venerable John Quincy Adams said that he had never laid his

head upon his pillow without saying this prayer as his mother had taught him to do in childhood. After the short verses, prayers at lying down, and for the morning follow the "Names and Orders of the Books of the Old and New Tes-taments," Verses for Little Children," heeinning

"Though I am young, a little one,"

And the hymn"Lord, if thou lengthen out my days." Turning the leaf, we come upon the rude type-metal cut of Mr. John Rogers being burnt at Smithfield, "his wife with nine small children and one at her breast, following him to the stake." This statement as to the martyr's progeny is not quite correct, whether the youngest child be reckoned as included as in child be reckoned as included as in the nine or in addition. The true number, verified by the genealogical record, is given by Foxe, who, in 1562, published the first account of the martyrdom in his "Acts and Monuments." He says that Mr. Rogers' "wife and children being eleven in number ten able to go. eleven in number, ten able to go, and one sucking at the breast, met him on the way as he went toward Smithfield." Mr. Rogers was not "burned at Smithfield February 14, 1554, as the primer has it in every one of its innumerable editions, but on February 4, 1555. The verses ac-companying the illustration are the same mentioned in the advertisement of the addition of 1691. The remaining half of the primer of 1737 is occupied by the Assembly's Shorter Catechism.

Between this time and 1768, when the next edition of which we have any knowledge was printed, the great revival of religion had taken place in New England and the primer became distinctly evangelical, rather than anti-papal. Every couplet was made to have a Biblical or doctrinal reference. "The cat doth play and after slay" became "Christ crucify'd for sinners dy'd;" "a dog will bite a thief at night" was exchanged for the dalure desay of the carth "the deluge drown'd the earth around," and the decidedly old En-glish suggestion that "nightingales ing in time of spring" gave way to Noah did view the Old World and Another reminiscence of the mother country under O-"The royal oak it was the tree, that sav'd his royal majesty"—gave place to the more serious reminder that "Young Obadias, David, Josias, all

were pious." There were many later editions of the primer at Boston, Concord, Provdence, Newburyport, Philadelphia and elsewhere, extending from 1770 to 1846, but several of the later reprints have been rather for the satisfaction of the curious than for any serious use. - [Detroit Free Press.

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