

IV.

NOTE RESPECTING THE BOOK-STAMP OF ARCHBISHOP HAMILTON OF ST ANDREWS, 1548-1571. BY MR HENRY LAING.

An impression of this was lately sent to me under the mistaken idea of its being the seal of the archbishop, but it is evidently a book-stamp, the original of which is in Dr Rawlinson's collection in Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The originals of these book-stamps are rare, one specimen only is to be found in the Museum of the Society; and this one of Bishop Hamilton of St Andrews (1548-1571), being the earliest I have met, it occurred to me to make this electrotype copy, which I beg to present to the Society, in the hope it may be thought worthy a place on the shelves of the Museum, till supplanted by the original.

Such book-stamps were in use long before the time of Bishop Hamilton. Impressions on the books of earlier bishops and other collectors are met with. Schevez, archbishop of St Andrews, who lived in the fifteenth

century, is believed to have first introduced their use in this country. Numerous examples exist in the public libraries and private collections.

This stamp of the archbishop has the coats of Hamilton and Arran, quarterly, and is surrounded by the following inscription :—*JOANNES HAMMILTOUN, ARCHI-EPISCOPUS SANCTI ANDREÆ* ; and on a ribbon below the shield, *MISERICORDIA ET PAX*. These stamps are mostly the armorial bearings of the owner, as in this instance, or they were some well-known device or emblem, as the salamander in flames, on the books of Francis I.

It would be a very interesting work, and not without its value, to describe the different stamps that have been used by collectors from the earliest periods. The only instances that can now be given are those on the books of Queen Mary, James VI., Bishops Schevez, Gordon, Reid, and Hamilton, the Regent Murray, Earl Bothwell, all of which are known by the impressions on the covers. The arms of Scotland are impressed on the books of Queen Mary ; and the not less celebrated Bothwell has his paternal coat, with the ensignia of his office as High Admiral, all executed in a splendid style on the cover of his books. Excellent specimens of both these are in the choice and valuable collection of James T. Gibson-Craig, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.