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"IF I HAD MY WILL--"

WHEN the Birmingham Free Library was opened in 1866, George Dawson made a speech in which he declared: "If I had my will, there should not be a single cheap book in this room. If you want cheap books, buy them. The object of a Library like this is to buy dear books—to buy books that the lover of books cannot afford to buy; to put at the service of the poorest, books that the richest can scarce afford; . . . to bring together in this room a supply of what the private man cannot compass, and what the wisest man only wants to put to occasional use. One of the greatest offices of a Library like this is to keep at the service of everybody what everybody cannot keep at home for his own service."

That constitutes a good description of what the Robinson Treasure Room has been devoted to and of the sort of service it can be expected to render. The Associates have, from their very inception, enabled the Library to buy dear books, to buy books that neither the student nor the member of the faculty can afford to buy,—and to put at the service of us all, books that even rich men can scarce afford. The Kelmscott *Chaucer* is now selling for well over a thousand dollars, but the Colby copy is at the service of the poorest student in the college.

One member of the faculty has been heard to say that he wishes we might have a Dawson Club, or a Dawson Committee among the Library Associates: that is to say, a group devoted to the principle that "the object . . . is to buy dear books, . . . books that the richest can scarce afford." Certainly a simple way of improving the Library's ability to buy dear books is to increase the membership of the Library Associates. At the annual meeting in June, one member stated that she had for some time been of the opinion that the Associates' organization was a "closed corporation" and that membership was open only to those who received individual invitations. It is true that many *have* joined by person-

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al invitation, but let no reader of these pages hesitate because of not having been specially invited. See the statement on page 3 of the cover.

Better still, let each member of the Associates act as a committee of one to invite one or two others to join. Can you win two members for us before October?



THE "NEW COLOPHON"

VISITORS to the Treasure Room in the college library have often shown interest in the current issue of the *Colophon*, but more often than not they have also shown unfamiliarity with it. This book-collector's magazine, bound in stiff covers like a book, ought to be known to every Colby Library Associate.

The word "colophon" comes from the name of a city in Asia where artists were so well known for expert work that the ancient Greeks invented one of their many wise sayings, in which they spoke of "putting a colophon to anything," meaning "putting the finishing touch to it." After the invention of printing, this "finishing touch" came to mean the page at the end of a book, on which the printer "signed off." "Finished by me in Venice on the twentieth day of October, 1492. Praise the Lord!" So reads the "colophon" in one of the books in the Colby Library. Before the use of title-pages had become common, the colophon was not infrequently the only way of dating and placing the publication of a book.

The word "colophon" was chosen in 1930 (or shortly before) as the title of one of the most ably edited periodicals devoted to books, and to books-about-books, and to book-collectors, published in America; and for ten years prior to "Pearl Harbor" it delighted the hearts, even though it depleted the purses, of many a bibliophile all over the country. The war put an end to its quarterly appearances; but