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The First Complete Jacob Abbott Bibliography

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tinged. Haggard Egdon appealed to a subtler and scarcer instinct, to a more recently learnt emotion, than that which responds to the sort of beauty called charming and fair.

"The delicate child born in the seven-roomed house at Higher Bockhampton on June 2, 1840, confounded the doctors. He grew up on that lovely and silent spot between woodland and heathland, and took it and the six counties around into his heart and into literature. Nothing distressed him more towards the end of his life than the fear that his birthplace might become shabby and overgrown. Now that need never happen."

I have quoted these remarks by special permission of the editor of the Manchester Guardian.*

THE FIRST COMPLETE JACOB ABBOTT BIBLIOGRAPHY
reviewed by JOHN A. HUMPHRY
Librarian, Springfield (Massachusetts) Public Library

The appearance of A Bibliography of Jacob Abbott by Professor Carl J. Weber is a significant contribution to the tremendous but still incomplete body of knowledge known as bibliographical history. This work should prove useful not only to collectors, but also to librarians, bibliographers, and other bookmen. It marks the first attempt to compile a complete list of Abbott's works, including the British publications. A. Edward Newton and Amy Lowell were interested in the Rollo books; Jacob Blanck began a bibliography of the juvenile titles by Abbott; Rollo G. Silver has done a bibliography of Abbott first editions; Abraham Lincoln read and commented upon the histories; but up until now, no one has made a definitive bibliography of all of Jacob Abbott.

* Mr. Sanders, editor and ardent Hardy collector, has sent the foregoing contribution from Parkstone, Dorset, not far from Hardy's "Sandbourne" (Bournemouth).
The work is prefaced with an interesting introduction which gives background to the writings of Abbott and from which one can see, because of Abbott's Maine connections, how appropriate it is that the Colby College Press undertook the publication. In addition to this eight-page introduction, considerable pertinent critical comment is scattered throughout the bibliography by men of such literary prominence as Cardinal Newman, Fletcher Osgood, and Professor W. W. Lawrence.

If the usual bibliographic information is not always as complete as it might be, practically all copies are located so that interested persons will know where to consult a particular title. The form might have been improved if more attention had been paid to consistency. For example, in locating copies, the name of the American Antiquarian Society is either given completely, is abbreviated, or is partially abbreviated in one of two ways: Amer. Antiq. Soc., Amer. Antiquarian Soc. On the same page a copy is located once in Brown Library and a second time in Brown Memorial Library.

The book has an index of titles. This is essential if maximum use is to be made of the work, because the books are classified broadly under various headings which indicate the types of books Abbott wrote—histories, the Rollo series, religious material, story books, and so forth. Under each title the various editions are arranged by date. The index includes the titles written by John Abbott erroneously attributed to his brother Jacob. In addition, the index includes titles of the modernizations of Abbott's books. Magazine articles contributed to Harper's Magazine are included in an appendix. Anyone interested in Jacob Abbott will find in this compilation a great deal of information, for the book goes far beyond a mere listing of titles in the Colby Abbott Collection.