

Rare Book Room

THE Rare Book Room is designed to afford protection to volumes that in case of loss would be difficult to replace. A need for such protection has long been felt, but only within the past year was it practicable to inaugurate it.

Perhaps the rarest item to be found is *Vita et Gesta Alexandri Magni Imperatoris Et Regis Macedoni*, a Latin translation from a Greek original of one of the fascinating Romances of Alexander the Great, and a splendid example of the illuminated manuscripts prepared by the monks in the Middle Ages. There is a beautifully bound volume of *Cento Veduto Di Roma Antiga*—a triumph of the bookmaker's art of today—filled with sketches or scenes in Rome; and a *Valerius*, Venice, 1514, printed by the famous Aldus Press and bound by Zhaensdorf. One can not resist a peep into *Il Codice Trivulziano 1080 della Divina Comedia*, issued upon the sixth centenary of the death of Dante and presented to the Library by "the Italians of the United States."

In this brief survey of the treasures here assembled, one must pass over many rare volumes in Spanish and many others dealing with the history of Texas, and may be content with only a hasty glance or two at *La Relacion de Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca*, Valladolid, 1555, which describes the wanderings in Texas of the first white man to set foot upon her soil, and a *Translation from the Laws, Orders and Contracts, on Colonization from January, 1821, up to this time, in virtue of which Col. Stephen F. Austin has introduced and settled foreign emigrants in Texas, with an Explanatory Introduction, San Felipe de Austin, Texas*: printed by Godwin B. Cotten, November, 1829. This is the first book printed in Texas.

