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It is difficult to find fault with anything about the book, but on page 23 there is an allusion which might lead one to believe that Lexington, Va., is on the Shenandoah, and on page 97 Gen. Jubal A. Early is given the initial "B" in the place of "A."

S. S. P. PATTESON.

CAXTON'S "LIVES OF THE SAINTS."

THE GOLDEN LEGEND; or, Lives of the Saints as Englished by William Caxton. London: J. M. Dent & Co, Aldine House. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1900. Seven volumes. 50 cents each.

This delightful reprint of Caxton's "Lives of the Saints" is at length brought to an end with the appearance of the seventh volume. The work has an interesting history. The basis of these "Lives" is the Latin original of Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, in the thirteenth century—*Legenda Aurea*, the "Golden Legend," he called it. This was later turned into French by Jean Belet, and then worked over again in French with certain additions by Jean de Vignay about the middle of the fourteenth century. A century later this last French version was made the basis of an English "Lives of the Saints," and with this before him the first and greatest of English printers, William Caxton, produced his own "Golden Legend" in 1483 or 1484, at the same time that he was busy, among other books, with the "Fables of Æsop" and with Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," "House of Fame," and "Troilus and Cressida."

Renewed interest in all matters pertaining to Church history will of itself give this convenient reprint a hearty welcome, but its interest to the literary worker is no less. The "Golden Legend," in one or other of its versions, was everywhere known and read in the Middle Ages and a whole literature based upon the "Lives of the Saints." Chaucer knew it well, and refers constantly to one and another of its "Lives," and his graceful legend of St. Cecilia is taken directly therefrom.

The seventh volume of this reprint contains an index by which any name in the series can easily be referred to.