

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS' REMOVAL

Not One of at Least 300,000 Books Injured—Old Building Almost Deserted.

Charles Scribner's Sons have almost finished their removal from 743 and 745 Broadway to their new building, built of white limestone and graceful with classic simplicity, on the east side of Fifth Avenue, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets.

There were 300,000 books, at least, to be packed in trays and boxes, besides the manuscripts, letters, and accounts of a business of fifty years. The wholesale department was reduced in the old building to the estimated proportion of books which it might be necessary to deliver for two or three weeks, the old manuscripts were placed in separate safes, and gradually the retail department was limited to the demands of a day, until the old building was like a desert and the new one was as well furnished as if it had been gradually furnished for a decade.

The removal lasted a month, and was executed with so much order, with such method, that the mistakes which were made were insignificant, and that of all the delicately beautiful volumes which were transferred from the old building to the new—missals, books of hours, incunabula, bindings of the old masters, and of Cobden-Sanderson, new editions in covers fresh as the lilacs of May—not one was even imperceptibly damaged.

Not one! The book lovers, who keep their treasures in eiderdown and dread a removal more than the other enemies of books enumerated by Blades, will be interested in the fact that the most extraordinary books of Scribner's were packed in open boxes—but they were packed by the young men who know them, and they were under constant surveillance in the fifteen blocks of their voyage.

There were no accidents. The six floors of the new building are in their appointed order. The packing department is in the basement, the retail on the first floor, the offices occupy the second floor, above them are the Magazine, the subscription-book, surplus stock, and mailing departments. The shelves are made of glass, rounded at the edge, because glass is less than wood amenable to dust and not as implacable a wearer of binding edges.

The heart that there is in inanimate things is no longer impressive in the old building, now that the books have quitted it. It beats in the new building. But it was in the old that Hours at Home, Scribner's Monthly, (now The Century,) and Scribner's Magazine were founded, and that founders of American literature met.

The house of Scribner was removed there in January, 1875, following the march of the city up town, from 654 Broadway, from Grand Street, from 377 Broadway, at the corner of White Street, and from 145 Nassau Street, where it was founded in 1846.

In 1846 the annual rent paid by the house of Scribner was \$400. Its annual rent now must be figured by the taxes and interest on a property the cost of which is more than \$500,000.

Charles Scribner's personal attention to the innumerable details of the removal, and the charm of his active interest in the graces of the new building must remain an agreeable incident of the event, which he has led, in the memory of those who saw him yesterday.

The event is an important one for New-York. The removal of Charles Scribner's Sons takes from Broadway and pays to Fifth Avenue the homage of an enchanting literary atmosphere.