

members of the Taylor family were inspired by their sisters' example to write, and their father wrote *The Biography of a Brown Loaf*, while "Mrs. Taylor of Ongar" produced *Practical Hints to Young Females, Maternal Solicitude for a Daughter's Best Interests*, and *The Present of a Mistress to a Young Servant*.

The Library holds early or first editions of most of the Taylors' works, including another small and amusing book from Ann's library that appears to be by her—"Signor Topsy-Turvy's Wonderful Magic Lantern; or The World Turned Upside Down. By the author of My Mother, and other Poems".

Ann Taylor's commonplace book cannot be called very exciting. Bound in green roan, measuring 19½ x 16 cm., and kept in a green morocco slip-case, it contains verses written on Christmas Days from 1855 to 1862 as a kind of "chain" or "circle" game by Mrs. Gilbert and the assembled family. "We have always been faithful to anniversaries," says her note, and she goes on to explain the beginning of the custom. "Josiah and James in a long walk on that [1855] Christmas morning, concocted a couplet suitable to each of the party (17 in number) then to assemble; I believe I added a few, but so little is remembered that I fear I can make no entry." Of Ann's versification Edith Sitwell says, "Everything in these verses is as neat as can be, excepting, occasionally, the verses. These are a little apt to bend at the waist." The two following quotations are among the more readable lines:

"Another Christmas, and we meet  
Unchanged, or only more complete;  
Should changes come, why still, I guess  
We may be, neither more nor less!"

In 1856 these rather pleasant lines are given to the baby Annette:

"Dear little one, long may you live to remember  
The joy of these bright Twenty-fifths of December;  
I don't mean plum puddings, nor apples, nor filberts,  
But dear Aunts and Uncles, and Grandmama Gilberts."

Four pocket-books of Ann Taylor, for the years 1804, 1807, 1829, and 1850, each measure 12 x 8 cms., and are bound in crimson roan with a folding flap and clasp. They are very attractive little books, with engraved plates, stories,