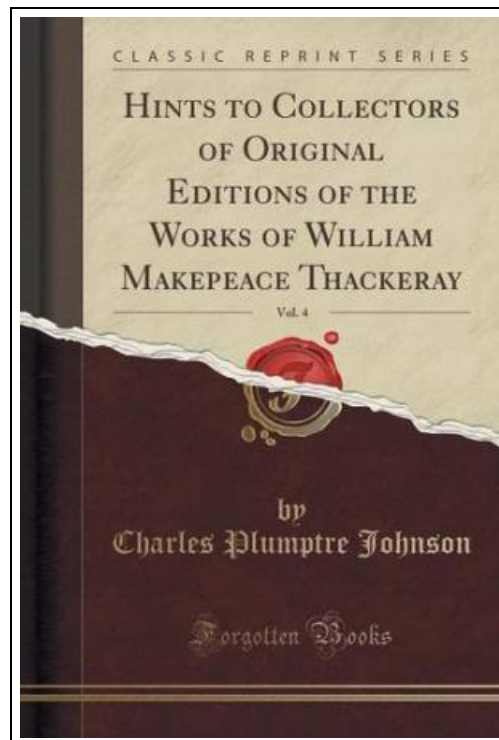


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Hints to Collectors of Original Editions of the Works of William Makepeace Thackeray, Vol. 4 The value of books appears to depend chiefly upon three things - namely, their intrinsic literary, or artistic, worth; their scarcity; and lastly, but, I think, chiefly, the fashion for the time being, among book collectors. It is one of the humiliating facts about book collecting that, in so many cases, the real worth of a book, which should surely be the first consideration, seems to have less influence on its market value than has either its rarity, or fashion. The explanation of this fact I take to be that so many people still collect the books that other people want, rather than those they want themselves. Would such prices be obtained for specimens of early block-printed or Black Letter books, for Editiones Principes of the Greek and Latin authors, for a Psalmom Codex, if only those who wanted to read the books in question wanted to have them? It is no less than a crime for some ignorant nouveau riche to outbid a learned scholar for a valuable book, for which perhaps he has been looking for years, simply that it may be put into a glass case, and pointed out to an admiring, though envious, circle of sycophants, as having been bought from such and such a noted library at such and such an exorbitant price. Would that the bookbuyer's first object were to acquire such books as he and his friends can read and understand! This brings me to my subject, and to my object in writing and issuing these Hints to collectors of Thackeray S...

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