

last one was printed. The original edition of vol. i. was printed at Paris in 1702, and the thirty-fourth (the last volume) at Paris, in 1776. The volumes were edited, successively, by Fathers Charles le Gobien, Jean Baptiste du Halde, Louis Patouillet, Nicolas Maréchal *dit* La Marche, and otherwise, as will appear by our separate description of each volume.

VOL. I.

Father Le Gobien was secretary of foreign missions, and as the first editor of the series, issued vols. i.-viii. But he did not in the beginning adopt the series title. His first volume appeared originally as a distinct work, and with the following title: "Lettres de quelques Missionnaires de la Compagnie de Jésus, écrites de la Chine, et des Indes Orientales. Paris: chez Josse, 1702." A copy is preserved in the British Museum, and covers the period from 1699 to 1701. We have not succeeded in finding a copy of this edition in the American libraries which we consulted.

Certain it is that the next year this volume was reissued as vol. i. with the series title-page. There is a copy at Harvard, and it collates as follows:

"Lettres | edifiantes | et | curieuses, | écrites des Missions | Etrangères par quelques Mif- | sionnaires de la Compagnie | de Jefus. | I. Recueil. | [*Cut*] |

"A Paris, | Chez Nicholas le Clerc, ruë | faint Jacques, proche faint Yves, | à l'Image faint Lambert. | M. DCCIII. | Avec Approbation & Privilege du Roy. | "

Title, with verso blank, 1 leaf; "Aux Jesuites de France," pp. (22); text, pp. 1-136; "Table," p. (1); "Protestation" and "Permission," p. (1); "Privilege," pp. (4); blank, 1 leaf. P. 72 is mis-paged 82. The "Permission" was "Fait à Paris le 28. May 1702," and is signed by Julien Baudran. The "Privilege" was issued "à Verfailles le 13. jour d'Aouft l'an de grace mil sept cens deux;" and the registry was made "23 jour d'Aouft 1702."

Most sets, however, have a first volume printed in 1717. It collates like the 1703 edition, and the dates of permission, privilege, etc., are those of original issuance. But it is a reset, and may be distinguished by the following imprint: "A Paris, | Chez Nicolas le Clerc, ruë Saint | Jacques, proche Saint Yves, à l'Image | Saint Lambert. | M. DCC. XVII. | Avec Privilege du Roi. | "