

II.

Stringed Instruments.

WITH A KEYBOARD.

Clavichords, Virginals, Pianofortes, &c.

VIRGINAL, Italian, in a cedar-wood case. [1580.]

Messrs. W. E. Hill & Sons.

The finely-carved rose and the ivory ornamentation are special features in the appearance of this instrument.

SPINET, Italian. By Giovanni Celestini. VENICE. 1593.

Sir George Donaldson.

The Italian Spinetta, like the harpsichord and virginal, is sounded by means of a mechanical plectrum (jack and point of quill). It was long supposed to have derived its name from the point 'spina.' It has since been conjectured that it owes its name to the maker Spinetti (about 1500), who introduced the oblong or virginal form of the instrument.

VIRGINAL, Italian, formerly belonging to Queen Elizabeth.
Cedar wood.

Second half of the 16th cent.

The Victoria and Albert Museum.

The interior is decorated with a band of arabesque painted in carmine and blue on a gold ground, and the front with panels of similar ornament, having also on the left the royal arms of Queen Elizabeth, and on the right a dove, crowned, holding a sceptre, and standing on a root of an oak tree. There are fifty keys with jacks and quills, thirty of them mounted with ebony, with stamped and gilt ornament on the ends, and the rest inlaid with silver, ivory, and various kinds of wood. The outer case of deal, covered with crimson velvet and lined with yellow silk, is fitted with three engraved and gilt locked plates, and inside of the rising flaps