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To

Mr. Thomas C. Guthrie

with the kind regards

of Mr. Sinclair

25<sup>th</sup> Decemr 1897.









Fifty Years  
OF  
Newspaper Life,

1845-1895:

BEING CHIEFLY

Reminiscences of that Time.

BY

ALEXANDER SINCLAIR,

Of the "GLASGOW HERALD."



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PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

NOTE.—*Like many book "prefaces," this note should be a "postscript," but it is necessary to state here that the greater portion of the book was printed before the latter part was written, and this explains some slight repetitions and divergency of dates between the earlier and later portions: unusual pressure of engagements caused frequent intervals of time,—scrappy as it was at best.*

*The Act for preventing Advertising by Vehicles, &c., mentioned at page 14, refers to London only, and in certain circumstances. Delete "the same" on page 77, line 15. Delete quotation marks page 97, 5th lowest line. The short reference to the Future of Typography, page 122, should have appeared after the article on Composing Machines, page 128. A comma should precede "facsimile," and not after; and a semicolon should be after the word "globe," page 162, line 14.*

TO THE  
AUTHOR

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# Fifty Years of Newspaper Life.

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## PRELIMINARY.

THE origin of what follows was an Address given to the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia, a Society of Compositors who have the laudable ambition of making their workmanship in typography more perfect and beautiful. They asked me to occupy an evening with them in their Course of Lectures; and as the series was meant to be of a practical or informing nature, it was arranged that I should say something on the subject of Newspaper Life, with which I have been in touch during my 50 years' connection with the *Glasgow Herald*. Several of those who heard the Address, and other friends who heard of it, urged that it should be printed; but it seemed to me that if it could interest friends enough to give it such a distinction the subject was entitled to more deliberate and fuller treatment. I therefore venture to deal with it in a more comprehensive form and with kindred material, in the hope that it may form a slight record of the important transition period from long enthrallment to the boundless freedom now enjoyed by what has been called the Fourth Estate of the Realm. As the reminiscences, &c., also are almost all from a Publisher's standpoint, they may supply to some extent matter not contained in Books on Newspapers.

Some of what is given might be said to belong properly to either of the newspaper departments; but a leading newspaper of the present day must have well defined division of labour, and also unity of action. My subject, therefore, involves some commingling of matter in the story, and in consequence becomes rather a thing of shreds and patches. I

am not a *litterateur*, much less a book writer, and at best may try to follow Coleridge's advice to a friend:—"I would inform the dullest author how he might write an interesting book—let him relate the events of his own life with honesty, not disguising his feelings that accompany them." That suggestion, however, involves a little awkwardness in bringing in the element of the autobiographical here and there, but that cannot well be avoided.

The transition time referred to had not quite begun when my connection with the *Herald* was formed in September, 1845. I was then engaged by Mr. Alexander Waters, the managing partner, who, after his death, was succeeded by his brother, Mr. James C. Waters, of Craigton, Stirlingshire, my predecessor.

That transition time was also a transformation period, during which several newspapers which had been published twice or thrice a week developed into "Dailies." The narration of the experience of the *Glasgow Herald* during these changes, although referring chiefly to one paper, may be considered fairly typical of the experience of the leading daily newspapers out of London. While that transformation some years after 1845 was very critical in some cases, the papers gradually took deeper root and grew in character and strength, until, by the evolution and use of the Electric Telegraph and Railway systems, these "Country" papers reached a position somewhat parallel in influence to that of the Metropolitan papers. The chief remaining difference is that the latter give much of their space to foreign news letters, and ignore to a large extent home news, while the ex-London daily papers reverse that method.

The abolition of the Advertisement Duty of 1s. 6d. on each advertisement in 1853, and of the compulsory 1d. stamp in 1855, were both great factors in the making of newspapers; but the latter was supremely important. A few years previous to these events, however, and partly in anticipation of them, the owners of some of the old papers, and many sanguine newcomers, were feeling their way and reconnoitering with



a view to the starting here and there of daily papers. These taxes, with that of 1½d. per lb. upon all kinds of paper, were heavy drags upon enterprise ; and they prevented to a large extent the use of what, on the other hand, were the great advantages of prompt conveyance, quick transmission of news, and better processes of newspaper-production, which were taking practical form about that time in Railways, Electric Telegraphs, and rapid Printing Presses, with duplicated stereotyped pages. In 1845 the first two of these were in their infancy, and the last was little more than a dream. Within 16 years thereafter those hindrances had disappeared, while these means of progress were realised beyond the greatest expectations, and the newspaper world came to be like a new creation. As the hindrances and the helps were vital, and as the rise and progress of the latter came more into evidence in connection with the newspaper, it may not be out of place to refer to them separately.

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## ADVERTISEMENTS, AND THE ADVERTISEMENT TAX.

THE first advertisements in newspapers of this country seem to have appeared in the first half of the seventeenth century. It is stated that papyrus leaves, about three thousand years older, have been found at Thebes, containing an advertisement giving a description of runaway slaves and offering a reward for their capture ; and on some walls in Pompeii the remains of advertisements may be seen. But we have no information as to the tax they had to pay, if any ! There were various methods of advertising in old times, one of which still lingers in the person of the village or town bellman. He was relied upon from an early period as the recognised official for publishing by bell and voice the advertisements of the locality, from London downward. Glasgow had, for a time prior to any record, its scarlet-coated bellman, for which position there were

generally many candidates, and often men of some peculiarity of character or person. One of them last century was Dougal Graham, a Highlander who was said to have been out at some of the civil war fights, including the finale of '45 ; and Bellman Geordie thereafter, who was also a "poet," and adapted his gift to occasional announcements. The office was only abolished twenty years ago. Dumbarton had also a quaint Hielan' bellman or drummer last century. The tradition is that, as he could not read, he had to trust to his memory, and when a company of strolling players were there he was asked to advertise their performance of "Catherine and Petruchio; or, The Taming of the Shrew." Donald, however, went through the town with a local female publican "on his mind," and called out that the playactors would give a grand performance of "Kate Macleish; or, The Turning of the Screw," to which rare invitation a crowd would no doubt appear with lively expectations.

One account says that in England the first tax was imposed on newspaper advertisements, being a charge of a certain amount upon *each line*. The increase of advertisements was very slow, but few and small though they were, the Government, during 1711, pounced upon them and upon paper, because of "finding it necessary to raise large supplies of money to carry on the present war" with France. This tax began on 1st August, 1712, and was 1s. on each advertisement, and enacted to apply for 32 years after. Unless this duty was paid within 30 days there was a penalty of treble the amount and costs incurred. Some years after, the duty was raised to 3s., in 1815 (Waterloo year) to 3s. 6d. in Britain, and in Ireland to 2s. 6d. These taxes remained till 1833, when they were reduced to 1s. 6d. in England and Scotland, while Irish papers were only charged 1s. After many years of keen fighting, in and outside of Parliament, against what were well called the "Taxes on Knowledge," the first to be abolished was that on advertisements. After a resolution to do this was carried in the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the

Exchequer, proposed instead a reduction of the tax to 6d.; but an amendment was proposed by Mr. Craufurd, the member for the burghs of Ayr, Irvine, and Campbeltown, and carried by a majority of 9, to substitute in the schedule an 0 (a cypher) for the 6, so that the tax ceased on the 4th August, 1853. In contending for this entire abolition, Mr. Bright argued that the "miserable sixpence" proposed to be retained would be more than made up by the greater postal correspondence arising from untaxed cheaper advertisements. The forecast of John Bright was soon found to be right; since the Advertisement Tax ceased the postal revenue increased. There was a curious parallel experience with the Advertisement Duty and that on Soap: they both began and ended at the same time, and they had somewhat similar rates of taxation.

THE TAX, "SEPARATE INTERESTS," &c.—In 1845 we paid £1,597 13s. to the Government for its tax of 1s. 6d. on each advertisement, representing a total of 21,302 for the year, or over 205 for each publication, an unprecedented number up to that time. That 1s. 6d. would now prepay for three small advertisements, or one advertisement for four days. If it was levied now on all our advertisements, about £40,000 a year would require to be paid on them to Government; and the grand total from the newspapers of the Kingdom would form a nice item in the Budget. The revenue from the three greatest advertising media in the United Kingdom—the *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Glasgow Herald* (which are a good way ahead of those that follow), would alone amount to above £130,000 in the year. These figures indicate the vast increase of advertising since "the days of the taxing." I must make an exception and explanation to the rule of 1s. 6d. duty on each advertisement. When pricing the advertisements, we had to read them carefully in case there might appear in any one of them the semblance of the interest of more than one person; because if, for instance, an advertisement referred to more than one property for sale which belonged

to more than one person, the Government official would certainly charge us 1s. 6d. for each owner. When adjusting our accounts monthly with the sharp-eyed official, I had many a tussle as to what was more than "one interest,"—a phrase which occasionally appeared at the end of an advertisement so as to anticipate the official's challenge. But we had occasional trouble also in persuading advertisers that, as we would be charged for more than one, we required to charge them accordingly. On one occasion, for instance, an old house-factor was in this position: as he would not admit that he saw the reason why, I gave him a personal illustration, by saying, that if he and another man each wanted a wife, and stated their wants in one advertisement, it would mean two interests (perhaps I should have said four). He paid down without another word for two interests; but I did not learn till he was gone that I was innocently more personal and apt than I had intended to be, as it turned out that he had recently got his discharge from one wife, and was trying to annex another.

In connection with this frequent wrangle over the tax, a contemporary in October, 1845, was provoked to write on this subject as follows:—"A system of increased rigour has been commenced in the perusal of advertisements and paragraphs, with the view of detecting what are called 'separate interests.' In this way advertisements which formerly paid a single duty are mulcted in two or three duties. For example: a teacher announces at the foot of his advertisement he has accommodation for two or three boarders—this is charged an additional duty; a steamboat announcement contains, perhaps, an allusion to an excellent hotel, or to an omnibus for conveying passengers, and in both the hotel and omnibus the lynx-eyed officials profess to descry separate interests, and lay claim to an additional 1s. 6d. for each! But more than this, they have the impudence to interfere with our duty as public chroniclers, and to levy an unwarranted tax on paragraphs of ordinary news, provided only

they contain any intimation whereby they allege private interests may be benefited. Critiques on pictures, announcements of early fruit, which newspapers have been accustomed to insert merely as pieces of news and as likely to interest their readers, have been suddenly discovered to be advertisements and charged by the Stamp Office officials accordingly."

RATES, SIZES, &c., OF ADVERTISEMENTS.—It does not appear what prices publishers charged for advertisements during last century, but they were themselves under the necessity of paying for the theatrical announcements which they inserted. In 1721 the *Public Advertiser* stated that theatres were "a great expense to the paper," those of the Drury Lane Theatre costing that paper £64 8s. 6d., and those of Covent Garden £66 11s. It seems, however, that those papers which had the exclusive right to maintain such a connection made a boast of it. That journal also stated that some papers at that time were in the habit of paying £200 per annum to such theatre managers as supplied them with descriptions of new plays, while the messenger who first brought a playbill received half-a-crown. A reversal of that anomalous state of things took place about the close of last century; for it seems from marked files of the *Herald*, at the beginning of this nineteenth century, that Theatre, Concert, and Lottery Advertisements were charged at the rate of 1½d. to 2½d. per line. Newspapers were then compelled by law to publish advertisements relating to Bankrupt Estates, Game Lists, &c., at 3s. each, irrespective of length; and for more than the first half of this century their rate was limited to 3d. per line for Government Notices, Lists of Bank Shareholders (which were then published annually), &c. The injustice of these fixed rates was that they were so much under those considered fair for all other advertisements.

Until the repeal of the Advertisement Tax, our lowest charge for any advertisement was 4s. 6d., covering three lines and under; now the lowest normal rate is 2s. for three lines and



under. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, and probably before that time, almost all newspapers had to some extent discriminating rates,—the lowest being for advertisements the purpose of which was to earn a living, such as Tradesmen's Business Notices; while the higher rates applied to those which usually represented realised wealth in different forms,—such as Prospectuses of Public Companies, Official Notices, &c. Generally newspaper owners do not covet large advertisements if they can get equal revenue from comparatively small ones, on the ground that the latter are of more interest to readers. The tendency now with advertisers is to have long advertisements in order to gain the attention of readers better, so that there appear even page and two page announcements of trade specialties. The longest advertisement on record in Britain was that of a Conservative Address to the King, in the *Times* of 29th December, 1834, which occupied 24 columns (or 4 pages of 6 columns each). A page advertisement appeared there in 1856, in the form of a petition to Parliament by mercantile firms, &c., against the Sunday delivery of letters in London. It cost £108. Some time after, the *Times* had an advertisement exceeding two pages. It was the republication of a pamphlet replying to an attack upon the British and Foreign Bible Society. It cost £250. Several page advertisements have appeared this year (1895) of which the *Herald* has had a good share, at the *Times* prices.

It is not a rarity to learn of some readers who go over their newspaper from beginning to end, the advertisements included, although the size of many newspapers must very severely tax their time and perseverance. Newspapers, however, are now more than ever daily historians, and contain much information and entertainment in their advertisement columns as well as their news. They tell the facts, and show the enterprise, ingenuity, the manners, fashions, customs, and vagaries of Society, exhibiting a vast quantity of human nature in its infinite varieties;

and those who skip the advertisements miss often not a little. But the vast increase and extent of them at higher rates than were paid hitherto form the best proof that they are largely read, and that those who insert them find from the result that they are more than repaid. \*

In contrast with the experience of newspaper owners of last century, when instead of being paid for the publication of Theatre programmes they had to pay for them, it may be mentioned that the whole libretto of Macfarren's opera of "Robin Hood," occupying  $4\frac{1}{2}$  columns, appeared in the *Times* as an advertisement on 16th October, 1860, for which Mr. Walter and his company were well paid. No doubt, however, the owners of the opera would find themselves more than repaid for their enterprise.

In the year 1865 a new feature in advertising was started by several newspapers opening their columns for small advertisements relating to "Vacant Situations," "Wants," "Houses to Let," &c., at 6d. each, prepaid, for a certain number of words, instead of keeping to a minimum of 2s., the normal credit rate. Some years later we extended this offer to 1s. 6d. for four consecutive insertions,—a system that has been largely welcomed by the public,—and adopted by other papers. To many of these advertisements answers are asked, which generally are to be sent to the care of the newspaper publishers. I find that such replies

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\* After writing this chapter, the following illustration of fruitful advertising happened to come under my notice—a case of frequent occurrence :—Mr. Edward Scott, an extensive Boot and Shoe Maker in Glasgow, when settling a £300 account for the *Herald* and the *Evening Times*, stated to our collector that he never paid an account more willingly, because he had got so much good by it. He also wrote to me as follows :—"I have just had presented to me your charge for two weeks' advertising, which amounts to the sum of £300 5s. 6d., being the largest account I ever paid to any paper for so short a period. It affords me pleasure in giving a cheque for the amount ; and, in doing so, I can assure you that this has been the most successful sale of my business experience. This proves that there is nothing like long-established and tried advertising mediums for announcements, especially if carried out on a large scale."

often fill our letter boxes to the extent of over 6,000 letters at one time, and that there is an average of fully 500 calls per day for them. It is no uncommon case for such advertisers to be humorously alarmed at the quantity they have to carry away, and in consequence to leave many for our waste basket, while their writers are hoping for responses to their applications. Occasionally a disappointed applicant finds consolation in his imagination that he had been replying to bogus advertisements, and has written angrily of somebody somewhere, who tried to befool him.

EDITING OF ADVERTISEMENTS.—It may safely be said that no one outside of newspaper publishing offices knows how the many and various advertisements received have to be watched and considered to prevent a possible fraud upon readers, defamation of character, entangling statements, &c., &c., sometimes by a single word or under a disguise. These might easily involve the proprietors in actions for damages ; but I cannot remember one such case in our experience. Besides these, many fat orders are refused, such as those from quack doctors, indecent or indelicate, baby farming, personal, and “agony” advertisements. These latter, with varying initials, are liable to be misappropriated by susceptible readers to themselves or their friends, and to cause much trouble. It is much more difficult—indeed impossible—for the Editorial department to guard the news columns so effectively, because of their being dependent upon a host of correspondents, not only in the United Kingdom, but at the ends of the earth ; and because the news is of so infinitely varied a character that its bearings cannot be always estimated. Not long ago, for instance, a small paragraph, supplied by one of the News Companies of London, appeared in some 18 daily papers, referring to a case of supposed deliberate and almost habitual wrecking of vessels on the shores of a distant country. For this they were all pounced upon, and had to settle up. Newspapers run more risks in the public interest than the public know.



The editing of advertisements when, as in our case, they are numerous and many of them long, requires to be done, not by one, but by several men—first by the general manager or leading clerk, then by the foreman printer, the compositor, and lastly by the corrector of the press. The first of the two following cases is caught in time, and suspended for examination by the clerk in the public office; and the second, if it escapes there, naturally falls upon the others to correct the punctuation, and prevent it being laughed at:—"How to make £3 a week without any trouble. Enclose eighteen stamps for sample and information to ———." The other is: "Wanted, an experienced Cook to take charge of the Kitchen, &c., of the Hydropathic at ———. Apply with references and if married to the manager."

The medical authorities of the United Kingdom forbid their members advertising in any shape, or by "oblique advertisements," in the form of testimonials to certain compounds. This is in keeping with medical ethics or etiquette, and while it saves newspaper editing of doubtful matter, it prevents advertising by anyone of a large and important class of society. This course would so far suit Leigh Hunt's brother John, who, when starting the London *Examiner*, refused to have trade advertisements, because they were calculated to lower the dignity of their paper.

PERSONAL RISKS.—Besides the burdens of taxation—which window-glass, soap, &c., representing the blessings of sunshine, health, and cleanliness, had also to bear—newspapers and their owners personally had long been under exceptional treatment, as if they were natural enemies to the State. No paper could be legally started until the names of its proprietors had been registered, and at the same time heavy security given by and for them to Government, and as against claims for damages by the public. The capacity of newspapers was rigidly limited by each successive Act, and penalties in connection with that and several other matters abounded. Their owners and publishers were, until April, 1852, ineligible for membership of Town

Councils, and also, by custom as rigid as special statute, they were habitually regarded as unfit for the position of Justice of the Peace, nor were they in England allowed to sit as members of Public Health Boards until 1855. It may be mentioned also, but only as an unavoidable hardship, that they and advertisers were liable to a penalty of £50 for publishing an offer of a reward for the recovery of lost or stolen goods with the words "no questions asked." That is one of the things we continue to guard against, because of its self-evident necessity in the interests of the public; but the legal penalty is still in force.

IMPOSITIONS ON AND BY NEWSPAPERS.—There are many artful dodgers, and "respectable" dodgers too, who attempt to get free advertising, or better than what is paid for, by means of so-called news paragraphs or letters—"A Lieutenant-Colonel home from India," for instance, writing on the extraordinary healing virtue of a special herb used by all the natives. It is rarely they are so frank as one innocent who wrote us lately, enclosing a paragraph for insertion, and saying—"As we do not intend to spend in advertising, we are appealing to the Press to notice our movement in their news columns." There are also attempts to be guarded against in the shape of disguised official, semi-official, and seeming disinterested information; and another kind by those who give an occasional or short advertisement, and make that a plea for getting puffing matter in as news, from a paragraph up to a column in length, on the plan of "give an inch, take an ell."

At the anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Society, in May of this year, Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the Conservative side of the House of Commons, asserted that "Blackmailing by the Press was absolutely unknown in this country." This is too sweeping, for it is only justice to the clever fellows who impose *on* the Press to state that there are also a few cases of imposition *by* newspapers. These are very exceptional to the upright and honourable character of the Press of the United Kingdom. The method of these papers—all or almost all "weeklies"—is to

blackmail those who have an interest in certain advertisements, such as Prospectuses of Companies, by defaming them when they are withheld or puffing them if orders for insertion are given. This threat is well enough understood, although not expressed in such a form as to convict those who try to victimise advertisers. The editor of *Vanity Fair* recently stated that an advertisement in praise of certain mining shares which had appeared in his paper reappeared as editorial news in some thirteen different papers, which was no doubt paid for,—thereby misleading their own readers. This case is somewhat kindred to a very objectionable feature that seems to be growing of giving advertisement paragraphs amongst the news without showing that they are advertisements.

METHODS OF ADVERTISING.—The ingenuity of advertisers to get at the best methods of securing attention of likely customers has taken innumerable forms in matter and style of setting. Many are content with honest simplicity and directness of statements, others believe in the most lavish word pictures of their boundless stores, and “poets” have been employed to tickle the fancy of the public; while there is a tendency to have some advertisements in such prominent type as to make papers very much like placards. It is said that one of the largest London advertisers deliberately misstated in his announcements well-known points in history, with the desired result of getting from 300 to 400 letters per week for a time, expressing surprise that such an ignorant idiot should be kept to write the advertisements; but it paid well.

During the agitation for the repeal of the Advertisement Duty, a good argument urged against it was: Why tax such announcements in a newspaper, and allow those upon walls, hoardings, and advertising vans to escape entirely—the one does not obtrude itself, nor obstruct the streets, &c., as the others do? But when Parliament abolished it on newspaper advertisements, the members recognised the arguments so far as to pass an Act, which came

into force within a month of the other, to prevent advertising by means of vehicles, on horseback, or on foot, in the form of pictures, placards, notices, &c. This Act is very sweeping, and if enforced would have cleared the streets not only of the obstructing advertising vans, but such as the sandwich man, singly or in perambulating troupes; but except perhaps in London it is almost entirely neglected. London, however, is much disfigured by sky-signs, which were not covered by that Act because they were not invented till afterwards; but the Glasgow Town Council put a stop to this dangerous method by getting a clause into their Further Powers Act of 1892, which enabled the authorities to prevent them in future, and to cause two to disappear which had been erected previous to the passing of the local Act.

LOTTERY ADVERTISEMENTS.—The 2½d. a line Lottery Advertisements referred to State Lotteries, which were brought to an end by Parliament on the 18th October, 1826. By means of them the Government Treasury had a revenue of from £250,000 to £300,000 per annum; but the evil consequences to Society were so great, that even a Parliamentary Committee declared that “idleness, dissipation, and poverty were increased, the most sacred and confidential trusts were betrayed, domestic comfort was destroyed, madness was often created, suicide itself was produced, and crimes, subjecting the perpetrators of them to death, were committed.” On the morning after the last lottery, the *Times* said,—“Yesterday terminated the lotteries in this country—may we say for ever? Looking at the Stock Exchange, at the time bargains, and at all the iniquities practised there, we have only to hope that the place of the lotteries may not be supplied by some more mischievous system of knavery.” State Lottery Advertisements from the Continent of Europe are still sent for insertion in newspapers in this country; gambling and swindling advertisements in numerous disguises are also offered at the highest prices, but self-respecting newspapers, even without legal obligation, prefer to guard their readers by putting them in the waste basket.

## THE STAMP DUTY.

THIS stamp, which Government required to be impressed upon every newspaper, varied in price from its first imposition, as also the legal maximum size of each newspaper varied in the succeeding enactments. The tax, with its rigid conditions and penalties, handicapped all newspapers even more seriously than the Advertisement and Paper Duties.

The imposition of the stamp began on the 1st August, 1712, when a penny was charged upon each small sheet. From 1d. the tax went up by stages to 4d. in 1815. The legal size then was made 704 square inches (32"×22"), and the price of the paper to buyers was 7d. That size was about half the size of our *Evening Times*, and its price is—½d. After much Parliamentary conflict the 4d. stamp was reduced on 15th Sept., 1836, to 1d. The Irish papers, however, got a further reduction of 25 per cent., "for," as the Act stated, "prompt payment;" and yet this slur upon Ireland was silently endured! The English and Scottish papers had, however, to pay their stamps before they got them delivered, without 25 or any other discount. The Government also kept the whip hand over them by enacting at the same time that the officials might stop the supply of stamps, and thus stop the paper whose proprietor omitted or delayed to pay the Advertisement Duty.

PROS AND CONS.—The one advantage which the stamp afforded was the right given to the newspaper publisher or the buyer of the paper to post and re-post it during seven days after publication. That was somewhat counterbalanced, however, by the disadvantage to the publisher, that if the stamped paper was not posted or sold he had to bear the loss. The stamp also caused an additional loss by bad debts, and expense was involved in having all the paper made for newspapers from the paper mills sent to and from the Government Stamp Offices in either Edinburgh, London, Dublin, or, I think, Manchester. That necessity involved extra carriage, and the papermaker's



interest upon his account for stamps, and other outlays. That roundabout process sometimes caused critical delays in the delivery of the stamped paper, and left an unprepared publisher so short in his supplies that in the emergency he was constrained to quietly borrow from a neighbour, but this was forbidden under a penalty of £50. A copy of each edition of every paper had to be sent to the Stamp Office free, with the signature of the proprietor or printer across the stamp, as another guarantee that he took the responsibility for the contents. Besides the 1d. stamp on each sheet there was a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp upon each supplement, which some leading papers issued on occasions of extra pressure, as during the year of the Railway mania. During the latter part of that year (1845) I well remember the anxious cogitations in our office, when through the great pressure of prospectuses of railways, and other such matters, there was scanty space left for news about them or on any other subject. At the same time not only did the issue of a supplement involve a heavy outlay for paper and for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, but there was also the difficulty of getting it out in time by our one slow printing press, so that the issue of the main sheet might not be blocked. Supplements of two pages, however, were published in October and November of that year—an unprecedented effort, which our readers greatly appreciated.

ITS REPEAL.—After a prolonged agitation in and out of Parliament, monthly publications were exempted from the obligatory use of the stamp in August, 1853, and *on 1st July, 1855, the compulsory stamp on all newspapers ceased*, leaving its use optional for postal purposes. In the months of July and August of the previous year, 1854, there were 19,115,000 newspaper stamps issued; in the same parallel months of 1855, after their use was made optional, 6,870,000 were sold, but even that option for postal purposes ceased also on 3rd October, 1870. Here ended the last semblance of a tax which prevented many newspapers coming into life and killed many prematurely, while the most of

those which managed to live had only a stunted and struggling life; it limited the range of thought and checked mental stimulus, and stood in the way of both national and international intercourse.

THE STAMPS AND CIRCULATIONS.—Previous to the year when the compulsory stamp ceased, Parliament sometimes published the number of stamps supplied to each paper, and thereby revealed its circulation. It was a compulsory honesty which many did not like, and it was said that in some rare cases publishers tried to get over the difficulty by taking out more stamped paper near the end of the year than they needed, in order to swell their numbers in the Parliamentary Return; but I never heard of such a case in Glasgow. That plan, as might have been foreseen, resulted in reduced numbers the following year, or in their being out of pocket for what they could not utilise. There was one advantage to advertisers by the publication of these official returns in giving authoritatively the actual circulation of every newspaper in the United Kingdom. But now few publishers care to do this themselves, because they know that truthful statements are liable to be compared with exaggerations in other cases.

After exhausting all likely means of getting correct information as to the stamps issued to the newspapers of these early years and thereby of their circulations, I have been fortunate in securing by my friend Mr. Bernard F. Bussy, the *Glasgow Herald* Parliament lobby correspondent, through Sir John Leng (of the *Dundee Advertiser*), and other M.P.'s, the following facts from the House of Commons Blue Books. Besides the Stamp Returns for the newspapers which were published in 1845 in Glasgow and in Edinburgh, and the London *daily papers*, I give their average issue.

It may be premised that the *N.B. Advertiser* and the *National Advertiser* were issued free with advertisements only, and were not newspapers, nor is the *Weekly Citizen* such now, as it contains almost only literary and similar matter; while the *Edinburgh Gazette*, without news, remains the official organ of Scotland.

STAMPS ISSUED TO THE GLASGOW NEWSPAPERS EXISTING IN 1845,  
AND THEIR DAYS OF PUBLICATION :—

	STAMPS.	AVERAGE.
The Glasgow Herald (Mon. and Fri.), -	380,000	3654
„ Saturday Post (Saturday), - -	207,250	3986
„ National Advertiser (Saturday, free),	175,000	3365
„ Courier (Tues., Thurs., and Sat.), -	140,000	897
„ Scotch Reformers' Gazette (Sat.), -	140,000	2692
„ Examiner (Saturday), - - -	114,000	2192
„ Scottish Guardian (Tues. and Fri.),	100,000	962
„ Constitutional (Wed. and Sat.), -	98,000	942
„ Citizen (Saturday), - - -	81,000	1558
„ Argus (Monday and Friday), -	66,000	635
„ Chronicle (Wednesday), - -	56,000	1077
„ Railway and Shipping Journal (Sat.),	13,000	250

THE EDINBURGH NEWSPAPERS OF 1845 :—

	STAMPS.	AVERAGE.
The North British Advertiser (weekly, free),	608,500	11,702
„ Witness (Wednesday and Saturday),	270,000	2596
„ Scotsman (Wednesday and Saturday),	248,025	2385
„ Courant (Mon., Thur., and Sat.), -	253,000	1621
„ Advertiser (Tuesday and Friday), -	143,000	1375
„ Chronicle (Saturday), - - -	138,000	2654
„ Mercury (Monday and Thursday),	101,000	971
„ Journal (Wednesday), - - -	41,000	791
„ Gazette, official (Tuesday and Friday),	15,000	144

THE LONDON DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF 1845 :—

	STAMPS.	AVERAGE.
The Times, - - - - -	8,100,000	25,878
„ Morning Chronicle, - - - -	1,628,000	5201
„ Morning Herald, - - - -	1,608,070	5137
„ Morning Advertiser, - - - -	1,415,000	4520
„ Morning Post, - - - -	1,002,000	3201
„ Standard, - - - -	846,000	2702

It is remarkable that out of all the newspapers issued in Glasgow and Edinburgh in 1845 only the *Glasgow Herald* and



the *Scotsman* continue to live, and with all the evidences of prolonged life.

Of the London dailies it need only be stated that the *Morning Herald*, which has disappeared, was practically amalgamated with the *Standard* under stronger management, and that the *Morning Chronicle* of 1845 *went down*, although the name, in the *Daily Chronicle*, has again recently come to the front. The circulations then of these newspapers still living and their circulations now form a laughable contrast, and at the same time a striking evidence of the advantages of unshackled trade.

LAST CENTURY PAPERS STILL LIVING.—When naming so many contemporaries, it may be well to add here a list of the oldest newspapers which exist now as dailies, with the years of origin in order:—The Leeds Mercury, 1718; the Belfast News-Letter, 1737; the Dublin Freeman's Journal, 1763; the Bristol Daily Times and Mirror, 1773; the Morning Post, 1772; the Glasgow Herald, 1782; the Times, 1788; the Morning Advertiser, 1794.

AFTER THE STAMP—FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?—Before the abolition of the Newspaper Stamp, there was considerable fear expressed that, should it take place, there would be a swarm of low-class papers started over the country, which would be filled with sedition, lewdness, scandal, and other forms of wickedness. These forecasts have had little fulfilment, the evils being much less prevalent since then than during the existence of the restrictive stamp. It is curious now to read the following arguments of a memorial sent by newspaper proprietors to members of Parliament against the repeal of the stamp, and which formed a sample of memorials to the same effect from London and different parts of the country:—"I. That the abolition of the Newspaper Stamp, and the removal of existing legal securities, are calculated to lower the character and injure the usefulness of the Press. II. That the term 'Taxes on Knowledge,' as applied to the Newspaper Stamp, is delusive and untrue. III. That the privilege of free transmission by post is an ample equivalent to

the stamp charge, and tends to the equal distribution of intelligence throughout remote and poor districts, as well as in populous and wealthy localities. IV. That, in the opinion of this meeting, a continuance of the present system is desired by the great mass of the community."

The compiler of these resolutions, I know, lived to acknowledge that what he and others feared as a calamity turned out to be a change which he had no reason to regret. Instead of lowering the character of newspapers when freed from the stamp, as the memorialists feared, those of the present day, in comparison with old times, are remarkably free of the objectionable features prophesied,—barring their rather minute reports of the Divorce Courts, &c.

BETTING, AND ITS REMEDY.—But the chief blot upon newspapers of the present time is that of being parties to the practice of Betting on Horse Races, which has greatly developed amongst all classes. Mr. Gladstone, in writing to the author of "The Ethics of Gambling," characterises the practice as the "false, destructive, and, shall I say, impious principle on which the vice of gambling is radically founded." Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, M.P., when speaking at the last annual meeting of the Newspaper Press Society, referred to the same subject, as follows:—"The Press of Great Britain had made such progress that every citizen might be proud of it as an example of skill and enterprise. They must add to the telegraph and the railway the Press as a great invention of the epoch. What interested him most was a little-noticed point—that was, in estimating the Press as a great social machine and stimulus. What had always struck him as most singular, looked at from an abstract and philosophic point of view, was the manner in which newspapers promoted for commercial purposes subsidised opinion from which they totally dissented. Some papers, for example, recently condemned gambling on the turf, while they gave as news all the odds upon the races. That was a case where the Press subsidised opinions which they thoroughly detested."

Yes, almost all proprietors and editors are "exercised" regarding this blot of the gambling evil attending the publication of the betting news, and they generally would gladly be quit of the whole thing. The difficulties in doing so include that of the irreconcilable competition which prevails, and the lesson gained by the experience some years ago of the Manchester daily papers, which showed not only that the withholding of such matter might end in the stranding of some papers and reducing the circulation of others, but in bringing into the field some sporting papers which minister to the lowest type of sporting men. One of the best of the English provincial papers bravely refused to give sporting news for many years, but suffered almost to extremity, and had to succumb at length, and give sporting also. The remedy against betting lies in the hands of Mr. Balfour himself and other legislators: they may practically stop the evil he refers to by making it penal to publish by newspaper, circular, or otherwise, these forecasts, odds, &c., and by preventing their telegraphic transmission. This would take the heart out of almost all the betting in the country, stop such an education of our youth, and allow the spirit of the evil to die out by starvation.

THE JOCKEY CLUB.—A bold attack is now before the law courts against the stronghold of horse-racing—the Newmarket Jockey Club—on the ground of the betting which goes on in its connection, and from which the leading "tips" for newspapers, &c., are drawn. The Newmarket magistrates, before whom the case first came, have decided that there was no evidence of gambling; but against this the Anti-Gambling League—the prosecutors—have resolved to appeal to the High Court of Justice. Regarding this local decision the *Times* says:—"It is gambling made easy and accessible to all comers. If it were true that betting, as it now goes on, were a necessary concomitant of horse-racing, and if they must stand or fall together, we should be well content that they should fall; but since the worst we have to fear is that the book-maker and his clients will disappear, and that horse-racing will

continue without their support, the prospect is far from terrible. Application was made to state a case, but refused. It is not likely, however, that the business will be allowed to rest at the stage now reached. In so important a matter it is well, for every reason, that some final authoritative judgment should be pronounced." Many other papers also ridicule the defence and the judgment.

A recent correspondent on the betting mania has analysed the "Sporting Selections" of the *Liverpool Daily Post* during 1894. His analysis may be fairly taken as a sample of what might be got from other daily papers. He shows that the outcome of 1918 prophecies was that "the selected horse is first once in about four and a half guesses, it obtains a place in less than half of the prophet's selections (935 out of 1918), while in more than half of his selections (981 times out of 1918) it either comes in later than third or does not run at all. If readers, therefore, wish a safe tip, let them bet against every selection throughout the year, and the balance will be in their favour at the end." But it may be said of these devotees of the goddess of Fortune:—"Though thou should'st bray a fool in a mortar with a pestle amongst bruised corn, yet will not his foolishness depart from him!"

This matter seems irrelevant to the subject of the Newspaper Stamp, but it bears on the early question, whether the repeal of that tax was in all respects for the better or the worse. Anyone who is old enough to compare, will, I think, admit that the present is better.

THE STAMPS THEMSELVES.—Annexed are facsimiles of seven of the newspaper stamps referred to, from the year 1778 until the compulsory use of them ceased in 1855. The dates indicate the year of the paper from which the copies were made and the period when they were current, but not the date when each began. The first, taken from a newspaper in 1778 when it cost  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the price of the paper, including the stamp, was 3d.; that of 1790 cost 2d.; that of 1805 was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the paper 6d; that of 1814 was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the paper  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. The stamp of 1817 reached the

maximum of 4d., and was imposed in 1815, the price of the newspaper also reaching its maximum price of 7d. a copy. The duty was reduced from 4d. to 1d. in 1836, as shown by the copy of the stamp in use during 1845, and until it was abolished. At this period the name of each newspaper was placed on the stamped paper used by it. I cannot tell why discounts are marked on the margins of the three preceding stamps, as there is only mention of discount to Irish papers in the Acts, but I know that while 25 per cent. was continued to them to the end, the English and Scottish papers paid the full penny. It may be observed that the repetition of the word halfpenny in the three first cases forms a primitive way of counting out the total cost of the taxes. The last stamp is a copy of that now used by the *Times*—the only newspaper in the United Kingdom which still does so.

Although formerly no newspaper could be issued unless it had passed through official hands to receive the Government stamp, a curious exception to the rigidity of the rule was made in the case of the *Times*. For some reason it was allowed to use a special stamp, printed along with the letterpress of the paper in black ink. How the usually scrupulous officials of Somerset House reckoned their exact due for the stamps issued in that way was not well known. But whatever mystery there may have been, I learn now that the *Times* continues the use of the printed "stamp" for postal purposes; the Post Office authorities, if not satisfied with the statement of its proprietors, may find the sum due from the newspaper books, or from the locked mechanical indicator of the printing press set apart for the work. This method saves labour and time to both parties: the one in not requiring to affix the usual label, and the other in not obliterating it; while it also suits the *Times*, seeing that probably a greater proportion of their circulation goes by post to distant subscribers than that of any other newspaper in the United Kingdom. It will be noticed that the first three stamps have the motto *Semper eadem*, while the others have the better-known legend *Dieu et*



*mon droit*. The latter might be taken to mean, God and my right to tax ; but *Semper eadem* is inexplicable, unless it was a burlesque

1805.

1778.



1790.



1814.



1817.



1845.



1895.



upon the frequent changes in the upward charges for the stamps ! Perhaps some "Humanity" scholar or antiquarian can explain

it. Another difference appeared, in that the last century stamps contain only the emblems of the rose and the thistle, while the last three have the rose, thistle, and shamrock,—no doubt because the union with Ireland was formed in 1800.

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## THE PAPER DUTY, AND PAPER.

**R**EPEAL OF THE TAX.—No class of the community uses paper to the same extent as newspaper proprietors, so that they are specially affected by whatever influences its price; and this all the more because the price of newspapers is now almost everywhere fixed at a penny or a halfpenny. After the abolition of the stamp in 1855 there was a decided movement all over the United Kingdom for cheaper papers, and more of them than formerly; but as the price of white paper then ruled about 7d. per lb., including the Government tax of 1½d. per lb., the two things desired were not easily adjusted. The removal of that burden on paper was generally expected, and the forces which had done their work in getting the two “Taxes on Knowledge”—the Advertisement and Stamp Duties—repealed, continued to operate until the end was gained in the freeing of paper from all taxation. Mr. Gladstone, in his Budget of 1861, proposed and carried through the House of Commons the abolition of the 1½d. duty on all paper; but that was negatived by the House of Lords. It was a crisis between the two Houses, but, led by Mr. Gladstone, the Commons withstood this interference of the Peers in financial matters, and again presented the clause, which the Upper House then passed; so that not only was the 1½d. abolished, but the prerogative of the House of Commons in financial matters was more decidedly confirmed. The tax ceased on 1st October, 1861.

THE PRECURSORS OF PAPER.—The earliest known records show that “the pleasing hope, the fond desire, the longing after immor-

tality" were deeply seated in the human heart, and in order to secure that immortality for themselves, and for what they considered precious, various substances, from stone tablets and brick down to paper, have been used throughout the ages. Each succeeding period renewed the demand for something more manageable than its predecessor; and perhaps in no case more plainly than in this has necessity shown itself the mother of invention. Josephus, for instance, attributed to the children of Seth, the son of Adam, the plan of carving notices of their discoveries in arts, astronomy, &c., upon two pillars—one of stone to withstand a deluge, and the other of brick to resist fire. That story may or may not be true, but during this half-century the unearthing of cities of Babylonia, Assyria, and of Egypt (the very existence of which had been declared to be inventions without even the basis of a myth) has brought to light many inscribed bricks, tablets of stone, sarcophagi with mummies, and their records of rulers, events, &c., of very distant ages. The method of making these stamped or inscribed bricks—which were also used for correspondence—was so clumsy even for that age that the ancients would no doubt feel the want of a better medium, and would welcome the discovery that slices of the stem of the papyrus (the origin of the word paper) afforded an easy means of corresponding. "The Precepts of Ptah-Hotep," called the oldest book in the world, which is now in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* at Paris, is supposed to have been written about 2500 B.C. on papyrus, and yet, old as it is, it is but a copy of what was originally written by a Viceroy of Egypt of that name about 3366 B.C.

Papyrus slips, however, because of their comparatively fragile nature when exposed, could not continue to satisfy the ever-forward look of the human mind for something better and more durable. An instance of this is given by St. Jerome in the case of a valuable library of papyrus books at *Cæsarea*, which was undergoing decay within a century of its formation, the writings of which two Presbyters set themselves to transfer, as far as



possible, to parchments. It is impossible to tell when this better method was invented, but although it is supposed to have been brought into use less than 200 years B.C. it may be that Pliny referred to it in saying that the first invention of a writing material was achieved upon the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great, about 336 B.C. In any case, it is certain that parchment was in use about 160 B.C. Doubtless on account of the growing demand, as well as the costliness of the supply, many parchment MSS. have been found to have been obliterated and used a second and even a third time for later writings, which sometimes cover much more ancient and valuable matter. The wonder is often expressed—How is it that no very early copies of the Old or New Testaments are found? The answer as to the Old Testament is that the Jews had an unbending rule to destroy all the copies injured by use, or by any error, however small, while the originals or earliest copies of the New Testament were as eagerly sought out and destroyed, as the lives of the first Christians were, by their unrelenting persecutors.

PAPER ITSELF.—The first real approach to our modern paper seems to have been made about 600 A.D., when a kind of linen and cotton cloth was used. One of the earliest specimens of writing upon cotton paper extant is in the Bodleian Library of Oxford, it being understood to date from 1046. Three centuries later we find that the use of paper was not uncommon, and that Chaucer was familiar with it. For instance, in his “Words unto my own Scrivener” Adam, in *Troilus and Cryseyde*, &c., he says of a heroine—

“Whan this was seyde, with paper she sat doun,  
And in this manner made her testament.”

PAPER AND PRINTING.—What may be called the primitive age of paper closed when the great invention by Gutenberg and Caxton wedded for ever paper and printing about 1450. Then each became a supreme necessity to the other, and from that time there was between them a mutual stimulus to improvement, on

the one hand in the methods of printing, and on the other hand in the materials for papermaking. Up to the early part of this century, linen, cotton, and a few other fibrous things continued to suffice for the purpose of papermaking, but the demand gradually led to the miscellaneous "filthy rags" of the world being collected. Now it is estimated that about 400 different articles are turned to account in the manufacture. It will not be difficult for many to remember—if indeed the trade does not yet linger in a few places—the street call of Irish hawkers: "Salt and whitening for ropes, rags, and ould ir'n"; and the temptation to make boys and girls very industrious for a few minutes was greater when the barter was for "black-man" or sugar candy. It may surely rank among the marvels of modern industry that these collected ropes and rags could be transmuted into pure white paper, upon which the greatest thoughts of the age are now made accessible to the humblest reader.

In 1845 the price paid by the *Herald* for paper was 8½d. per lb., while, as already stated, it was 7d. in 1855, and 6½d. in 1860, the year before the 1½d. per lb. duty was taken off. It was reckoned that after that event the cost of paper would at once take a leap down even more than the abolished 1½d. The American Civil War, however, which ran its course from 1861 to 1865, produced the Cotton Famine of that time, and the comparative dearth of cotton, especially in 1862, 1863, and 1864, compelled our textile manufacturers to compete keenly with the paper manufacturers for rags, cotton waste, &c. By this second use of rags (as in the case of the old palimpsests) they tried to "gar auld claes look amaisht as weel's the new" by producing what was called shoddy, and in this way so far lessened the paper-makers' supply.

NEW MATERIALS FOR PAPERMAKING.—In these circumstances the benefit of the abolition of the duty on paper seemed in danger of being lost for a time, until a somewhat doubtful relief was found in the use of what is called China clay, a preparation of

Cornwall limestone, which bulked and loaded the paper, while it greatly lessened its handling power in the case of large sheets. This material temporarily served a need, and it is now found valuable for giving a highly-finished surface on the thicker papers required for illustrations, and for other special kinds of printing and lithographing.

But about the same time the mother of invention brought to hand the material required to give the necessary toughness to the much handled newspaper, in the form of esparto grass; a wild plant, somewhat like the "bent" which may be seen upon our sandy hillocks by the sea shores. This grass grows wild upon the shores and slopes of the Mediterranean, on the Spanish and Algerian coasts, and is remarkable for its strong fibrous nature and comparatively small non-fibrous waste. At present its home price runs from £2 10s. to £5 per ton, according to quality. The demand for esparto increased so much that the native collectors of it became so reckless of their future interest that they grubbed up the stubble, and reduced both the quality and the production. This again prompted the inventive mind to look out for "fresh woods and pastures new," and in 1880 the new resource was found where it had been long thought of, in reducing the most fibrous trees into pulp. This wood pulp forms now the chief material, along with some others to help its texture, for the cheaper printing papers. At the beginning of 1895 the price per ton of chemically treated wood pulp was from £7 to £17, and for that mechanically treated the price was from £2 to £8. Norway and Sweden with their pine forests, are the greatest sources of pulp, but Canada is now making attempts to be at the front, while the United States, especially the Eastern States, go very largely into its manufacture for their own use, as well as for export. For that purpose the American makers in 1894 reduced to pulp, spruce lumber to the extent of 640 million feet, and the work is going on so rapidly that it is estimated that in six years the consumpt of wood there for this purpose will be doubled. The quantity of wood pulp

imported into Great Britain from all sources in 1893 was nearly 215,920 tons, and in 1894 about 277,000 tons.

The same material is transformed also into a great variety of other things, such as wheels for machinery, tiles for mosaic work, paper collars, flower pots, house roofing, ladies' dresses, decorative articles (in this country as in Japan), non-conductors of heat or cold, water pipes, boats, barrels, and even pianofortes. If makers of such things, instead of encroaching upon the supply of wood pulp for such purposes, arranged with many newspaper publishers they might find relief in supplies of waste newspapers at a moderate figure! The use of pulp has increased so much that now it constitutes from 50 to 80 per cent. of the raw material of the paper used for news and other periodicals, the rest being chiefly esparto, to give strength to the paper. It is said that for the paper used by the *Petit Journal* of Paris (which claims the enormous circulation of a million copies per day) about 120,000 fir trees, of an average height of 66 ft., are reduced to pulp during a year. In such circumstances it is probable that the necessity for increased tree culture is upon the world; or is there to be again some new material about to be discovered? More improbable events have happened than going back to the growth of the old-world papyrus for the sake of its fibre. There is ample room and verge enough near the Nile and the Euphrates, where it formerly was indigenous but is now extinct; and in other places, such as by the waters of Merom, in the north-east of Palestine, where for about 7 miles, and near old Bethsaida, there are large living masses to be seen.

THE PRICES OF NEWS-PAPER DURING FIFTY YEARS.—It will be readily understood that during that period, with so many vicissitudes in the supply and demand of paper, with the tax on and off, and with the changes in the choice of material for paper-making, the cost of that used for newspapers changed frequently. The price per lb. supplied to the *Herald* in 1845 was 8½d. for good, durable paper; and it gradually came down to

6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in 1855. From that year onward we have been largely supplied by Messrs. Brown, Stewart & Co., Paper-makers, of Glasgow, so that, by favour of Mr. Brown, I am enabled to give further in the following summary the varying prices during the last 40 years. From 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in 1855, it came down to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in 1860; and in 1861, when the duty of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was taken off, it fell to that extent, but with a struggle by the manufacturers to retain some "tailings" of the tax. In 1871 the price was 4d., but owing to the Franco-German War, and its disorganising effect upon the importation of Continental rags, it went back to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (less 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.) in 1873. It then rapidly fell by percentages on the coppers, until in the latter part of 1879 it was 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. nett, and by further percentage discounts it reached 2d. in 1886. At this point it was generally thought that the minimum figure had been reached, but it has continued to go down by similar stages, and has become so "small by degrees and beautifully less" that news-paper can now be bought for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.—a farthing less than the old duty!

SIZE OF NEWSPAPERS.—Many people outside newspaper circles naturally imagine that their proprietors have grown rich because of the great reductions in the cost of paper from time to time, but they do not know that the size of newspapers, and the expenditure upon their upkeep, have been growing in something like the same proportion. In the Act which came into force on 15th September, 1836, to reduce the Stamp Duty to 1d., and that on Advertisements to 1s. 6d. on each, there was also a limit fixed for the size of the main sheet of each newspaper, at 2,295 superficial inches. That sold at a good profit, but the *Herald*, for example, at a penny, now consists of three sheets of nearly that size, each of which contains more matter; so that it may be guessed that the profit on the paper, ink, &c., cannot be relied upon. The contents of the modern newspapers, besides, are not unpaid quotations as of old, but costly news and contributions in costlier setting; and beyond all that, every year brings fresh demands for more expenditure on fuller news from every part of the world. But a leading news-



paper, if it is to keep its forward position, must be prepared to meet these endless outlays, although they swallow what may be saved in other directions.

SIZE OF PRESENT-DAY "DAILIES."—In referring generally to the present size of newspapers, the following figures may be added as an indication so far, being the total number of news and advertisement columns in each of the papers named during the first five months of 1895 (the time, before the General Election, when this point came before me):—The total contents of the *Times* were 11,514 columns; of the *Daily Telegraph*, 9,660; of the *Standard* 9,030; of the *Daily News*, 10,501; of the *Daily Chronicle*, 9,142; of the *Glasgow Herald*, 12,636; and of the *Scotsman*, 10,822. It is right to state that, as the length and breadth of the columns of these papers vary somewhat, the figures only give a general indication of the case. It may also be stated in this connection, especially in regard to the daily papers out of London, that the sizes on the different days of the week are not alike. Many of their publishers seem to cultivate for advertisements a large size on Saturday, although this may be also somewhat because of the preference of their public; in the case of the *Glasgow Herald*, again, advertisers prefer to hold, more from habit than any superior advantage to them, by the "old days"—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—on which the paper was published before becoming "daily."

AMERICAN PAPERS.—The country that licks all creation must, of course, have big newspapers and advertisements to correspond with its other huge exploits. Newspapers, and very specially the Sunday papers, are commonly 32 pages, and some few even 48 pages on that day. Some years ago, before the recent high-pressure boom had got much start, Mr. Bonnar, proprietor of the *Public Ledger*, a weekly paper, made an agreement with Mr. Greeley of the *New York Tribune* for a page-advertisement in the daily, weekly, and bi-weekly *Tribune*, but after a time Mr. Greeley intimated his intention to give it up. Upon learning this, Mr. Bennett, the founder of the *New York Herald*, expressed his

surprise at Greeley's action, and said he would give, not merely one page, but eight pages—the size of that paper then. This semi-joke reached Mr. Bonnar, who at once offered to take the eight pages for his advertisement, expecting thereby to occupy the whole of Bennett's paper; but, with the audacious enterprise which characterised him, he closed with the offer, and brought out the *Herald* with sixteen pages, five of them in one part and three in another part of the paper forming the *Ledger* advertisement. That, it is said, was the start of the large-sized *New York Herald*. An unusual advertisement of a different kind was given in a New York paper a short time ago, with the appearance of a blank page; upon closer examination it showed, in small type, a statement to the effect that "Messrs. ———, who have engaged this page, cannot use it, because they find themselves overwhelmed already with orders." Both the varying exigencies of advertising and the varying requirements for news space affect the size of newspapers. In the former case the cost of enlarged sizes may be understood to be covered, but when the greater size is caused by giving more news it involves proportionate expenditure without repayment. For instance, after the size of a paper is arranged for the news which must appear, it may happen that important matter comes in and must be given, and although such news may be less than a column in length, it in effect causes not only the addition of that column on one page but upon every page of the complete paper—say of 12, 16 or more pages.

RECOVERY OF PAPERMAKING MATERIAL.—During the latter quarter of this century, thoughtful manufacturers and others have become increasingly convinced of the old truth, that nothing is intended to go to waste. As already stated, much of what is now sought after for papermaking was formerly neglected, and often allowed to become a nuisance; just as in other departments of manufacture there are new processes of restoration. There is coal refuse in its various transformations,—for instance, coal tar, with its foul smell and touch, now made to yield several

of our most lovely colours, besides a condensed sweet, while huge mounds of coal *debris* are turned into fuel, and clouds of smoke, smut, and gases into steam power. Then in the hands of intelligent papermakers the outpourings from their mills, which formerly polluted rivers and streams, yield back to them by the recovery process much of the caustic soda which is a costly requisite in the manufacture of paper, so that he saves by the enterprise about  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum clear profit upon an outlay amounting to about £3,000 for plant. Can even a third of that be made by papermaking without the recovery process, or earned by many other business men in these years? It is a lesson to almost all trades to let nothing go to waste.

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#### THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

**T**HE EDITORS FROM 1782 TO 1895.—The first editor (and proprietor) was Mr. John Mennons, whose wife was a daughter of Bailie (Dr.) M'Nayr, the supposed prototype of Bailie Nicol Jarvie. The paper was started in the year 1782, as *The Glasgow Advertiser and Evening Intelligencer*; thereafter the title was altered to *The Herald and Advertiser*, and it became finally *The Glasgow Herald*,—a mere changing of names, with continuous numbering from the papers previously issued, and not at all a change of identity.

At the beginning of 1803, Mr. Samuel Hunter was announced as partner and conductor. As an editor and an outstanding man generally, he took a leading place in Society, and his kindly humour and ready wit made him personally a favourite, while under him the *Herald* largely gained in influence. His salary as editor was £100 a year, until 1837, when he resigned owing to failing health. Mr. George Outram, then an advocate, was appointed editor, and, no doubt prompted by his professional associa-

tions, produced his volume of "Legal Lyrics," including the well-known song, "The Annuity." Up to this time and till 1845, what is now called the Editorial Department had been manned by the editor alone; while Mr. James Pagan, who succeeded in 1856 as editor, had been the only reporter. He joined the *Herald* during the week of 1839 in which Mr. Hunter died.

Mr. Pagan wrote a History of the Glasgow Cathedral, but it was issued in such an unpretentious form that it failed to win the attention it deserved. When the City of Glasgow Improvement Act of 1866, which involved the demolition of old property, came into force, he rendered important and lasting service, chiefly of a social and archæological nature, by publishing in the *Herald* articles upon the old mansions, &c., with the family and social associations of those who formerly occupied them. These articles included references to many of the county aristocracy, the merchant princes, and the tobacco lords who had made fortunes by raising and importing tobacco from Virginia, and by other Colonial enterprises. In this literary work he was much helped by Mr. Robert Reid (best known under the signature of "Senex"), by Dr. Mathie Hamilton ("Aliquis"), and others, whose retentive and clear memories of what they had heard and known of the past carried them far back into the previous century. These articles, along with additional contributions, Mr. Pagan afterwards collected and edited under the title, "Glasgow, Past and Present"; the whole being published by Mr. David Robertson, Glasgow, in three large volumes. Mr. Pagan died on February 11th, 1870. For nearly 25 years I was much associated with him, as he welcomed friendly talk on all the departments of the paper; but since that time,—also 25 years,—it has been my lot to be without the company of either partner or other member who had been previously connected with the *Herald*. The nearest approach to this period of 50 years in the *Herald* service seems to have been that of a foreman printer, Mr. Lindsay Anderson, whose long service of 40 years Mr. Pagan, on a semi-public occasion, spoke of as exceptional.

There have been in succession to Mr. Outram and Mr. Pagan as editors, Dr. William Jack, now Professor of Mathematics in Glasgow University; Dr. James H. Stoddart, author of "Village Life," and many other uncollected poems, &c.; and our present editor, Mr. Charles Russell. The first, and then the only, sub-editor was added to the staff in 1845. At that time there were no outside supplementary services in the form of paid contributions or correspondence, except the work of one correspondent in Edinburgh, and shortly after that of another in Paisley,—and altogether the literary equipment was on a primitive scale.

EARLY EDITING.—The editorial leaders were generally short, few, and in their treatment of current affairs very mild judged by modern standard; and yet I well remember, in those hot political days, when the editor gave up Protection for Free Trade, there came in upon us such a flood of orders to "stop my paper" that it looked as if the *Herald* would collapse,—a condition of things which recalled the tradition of what took place during the first Reform Bill agitation. The general contents of Scottish and of English provincial papers were then to a great extent quotations, especially from the London papers. These came to hand at Glasgow shortly after 1 A.M., having travelled by railway to Lancaster, and thence by stage-coach. The coach, after dragging its slow length along until near Glasgow, was habitually announced by the lively bugle-notes of the guard, when pressure was put on the horses, and they came spanking along as if they had been rushing at full speed all the way from Carlisle. Their course was "doon the Gallowgate" and past the Saltmarket,—famous in their association with Bailie Nicol Jarvie,—to the Tontine Hotel, Trongate, now occupied as a warehouse by Messrs. Moore, Taggart & Co., or to the Black Bull Hotel, Argyle Street, now part of Messrs. Mann, Byars & Co.'s warehouse. A few short extracts from the London newspapers, say of Wednesday, were made to form a second edition of the *Herald* of Friday morning, so that what was called "Latest News" was truly late as well as very scanty.



DEVELOPMENT.—The process of transformation practically resulted in development for some newspapers, a short feverish life for others, and extinction for several. The *Herald*, which had been published on Monday and Friday since it was founded in 1782, began a third issue on Wednesday, in July of 1855, immediately on the repeal of the penny stamp. At the same time the price of each copy was reduced from 4½d. to 3d., so that the proprietors were enabled to supply the three papers each week at the same cost as that of the two under the old system. This formed a clear and certain step towards the publication of the *Herald* as a DAILY three-and-half years later. It was not only the making of it a thrice-a-week newspaper that foreshadowed coming developments; the spirit of movement was abroad, and in this sphere the higher literary and more “newsy” character of the paper showed a rapid advance upon its former slow and comparatively uninteresting style. Then the unknown quantity and power called Electricity, while getting free of its swaddling bands, was beginning to give youthful evidences of what the Press of the world might expect from it as an all-important auxiliary. But as the work of the Electric Telegraph and that of the Editorial have now such close and extensive relationship, fuller reference to the former will naturally follow this chapter.

At the early period, and before the Press was freed of the obligatory stamp and kindred obstructions, many attempts throughout the United Kingdom were made, in the prospect of that freedom, to steal a march on the Excise by issuing papers without the stamp. The great conflict then being waged with Russia in the Crimea created an intense and general thirst for every line of news on the subject, and caused such an immense demand for papers as to buoy up the owners of non-paying journals with the hope that they would soon see happier days. One gentleman in Glasgow started such a daily paper, but in order to avoid an open breach of the doomed law he changed the first part of its title day by day and retained its surname of ——— *Daily News* throughout. It

was a brave and ingenious attempt, but although the author of it was unsuccessful in this case, he has since been eminently prosperous in London, where he started and now owns three valuable periodicals. Another enterprising Glasgow gentleman about the same time started a competitor, but published his daily paper *with the 1d. stamp* during its remaining legal existence, and sold the paper at the cost of the stamp, the purpose being even at this expense to occupy the ground in advance of other penny papers which were expected. This venture also resulted in failure and heavy loss. And yet these and other efforts to turn to account the greatly altering circumstances of newspaper life at that period tended in a measure to show what ought to be done, and what ought to be avoided.

THE FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN SCOTLAND.—In referring to these attempts to found daily papers, it may be pointed out that they were not the first in the field. The first to occupy the position in Scotland was the journal called *The Day*. It was published in Glasgow, and 112 numbers were issued during the first half of 1832 at 2d. a copy. The editor was Mr. John Strang, LL.D., the City of Glasgow Chamberlain, and author of “Glasgow and Its Clubs,”—a book of rare local interest regarding social club life of old times. The articles were chiefly on literary subjects, and showed the scholarly resources of Mr. Strang and his contributors; but along with them there were generally paragraphs of news. As *The Day* had not the red stamp required on every paper containing news, it is probable that its owners found that while they dared not proceed longer without the penny stamp, they could not get on with it, and so they dropped the paper.

THE GLASGOW HERALD, DAILY.—Of the new daily papers started in 1855, only two or three continued for a time. One of these had split into two, but by-and-bye exhaustion became extinction for one of them, and the longest liver then combined both titles. There was enough of success remaining amid the strife to show, not that these dailies were paying, but that there was the

possibility of the one with the longest purse having "come to stay." It was at the same time becoming evident that the hold which the *Herald* had long had upon advertisers was somewhat threatened. At length the crisis came, when our proprietors found it necessary to take the bold step forward, and publish the *Herald* DAILY, instead of trying to stand still, and thereby sliding back out of sight, as so many had done since the repeal of the stamp in 1855. It was a time when Shakespeare's lines were illustrated by many such cases throughout the United Kingdom:—

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

Towards the close of 1858, the decision was made to begin the daily publication on Monday the 3rd January, 1859. Mr. Pagan, who was then editor and a partner, was deputed by the other partners to call, as a matter of courtesy, upon the managing partner of the then leading Glasgow daily paper, and inform him of the *Herald* proprietors' arrangements, and that the price would be the same as his—2d. per copy—should he agree to continue that price. This was arranged between the representatives of both parties, and shortly after the public were made fully aware of the intended daily publication, the time, and the price.

It was decided to begin the daily issue at 2d. per copy,—not on Saturday, which was New-Year's Day, but on Monday the 3rd January,—while the last paper of the tri-weekly was published on Friday. On that Friday morning, however, upon reaching our office, I was alarmed to find in our contemporary the unexpected announcement that its price was henceforth to be a penny. I at once hurried with the paper to the editor's house, had him roused from his sleep after his midnight work, and showed him the sudden change we had to face. Upon our partners meeting on Saturday, they at once decided to issue the *Daily Herald* also at a penny; and that night the city and other places were placarded

with the announcement of the fact, which on Sunday morning made church-goers stare, and, it may be, feel so much "exercised" as to have their thoughts diverted from what is their ordinary course on that day. As the public are usually interested in conflicts and life struggles for a momentous future, such as characterised the newspaper transformation period, I may be excused for giving this crumb of ancient history, not now as a personal matter, but to illustrate how serious that struggle was. A few years more showed that it was a good thing for the *Herald* that its proprietors had been forced to come down to the popular penny, from the price to which they were at first committed. It made a great impression upon our readers and the general public, and at the same time gave a strong impulse to the circulation, when it was found that the *Herald* could be had six days of the week for 6d., instead of three days for 9d.; or, as it was three-and-half years previously, two days a week for 9d. These are instances of the rapid changes amongst newspapers for the time being, and yet, looking back over the entire half-century, it has been said, perhaps excusably, that though the British Press was "a plant of slow growth and of more modern date than the other Estates of the Realm—the Fourth Estate overshadowed and surpassed them all."

The starting of the Daily, with a slightly increased force in the Literary Department, and with practically no additional service for the great increase in the publishing and advertising work, brought at once a continuous and severe strain upon everyone. There was no longer the blessed lull of the alternate blank days of the tri-weekly period, but instead the unrelieved daily application of our efforts to deal with past publications, and to provide for every new day. The over-pressure in our undermanned condition resulted, before the Spring of 1859 was over, in every one of our Literary Staff being time after time laid aside, and all in the Publishing Department except one. Mr. Pagan, the editor, was almost blind for some ten days, but his mind was too active and determined to allow matters in his department to drift in such a critical state, so

that from his darkened chamber at home he gave his orders. No doubt those who were connected with old newspapers which underwent a similar change would have a somewhat similar experience.

DAILY EDITORIAL WORK.—The editor's duties were now largely increased. His responsibility was infinitely greater than it had been, and the quantity, variety, and sources of the matter to be given to the public, as well as the higher quality of writing expected from a daily paper, all involved the utmost watchfulness and enterprise, and it was fortunate that we had in command an editor of notable sagacity, and of over twenty years' newspaper experience. It has many a time been the misfortune of those concerned in a newspaper enterprise, to discover too late that experience in the work—a long apprenticeship—is essential to the making of a capable newspaper editor; the assumption of the editorial chair by an inexperienced man has repeatedly turned out a failure and a danger to the property he controlled. This is also true of the men in charge of the other leading departments. About this time there were several such cases, and there are still annual crops of these aspirants, but as Byron said—

“A man must serve his time to every trade  
Save censure; critics all are ready-made.”

Instead of the four gentlemen who did the literary work of the paper during the tri-weekly period, the number on the Daily at first consisted of the editor, two sub-editors (who were also leader writers), and three reporters, with two occasional outside leader writers upon special subjects, one of whom is now a judge. The number rapidly increased, until now there are at the head office 15 on the editorial staff, and 15 reporters, besides a goodly number of reliable auxiliaries at hand, while there are also in connection with our branch offices in London, Edinburgh, Paisley, and Greenock, 19 reporters and sub-editors, including 6 Parliamentary reporters, all of whom give us their entire services. During these early years the *Herald* had the advantage of special leaders and



other contributions from able men of all parties, some of them occupying the highest literary and social positions in the kingdom. Besides the number of gentlemen who make up our editorial and reporting forces, there are (as is also of course the case with all leading papers) an innumerable host of regular and irregular paid correspondents and contributors, not only in every part of Scotland but all over the world. Moreover, a great amount of matter is supplied by several news companies in London for every day's paper. In old times no such outlay as all this involves had to be incurred; indeed, it was considered a favour to be allowed to see oneself *in prent*.

THE EDITORIAL WORKING SANCTUM should be considered sacred at night, except when one has something really important to communicate, as it is a time when every moment is precious to the editor and his assistants. But some gentlemen whose work is over for the day forget that, and drop in to learn the *latest*, or to have a talk on things in general. Mr. James Grant, the author of a most interesting "History of the Newspaper Press", who was himself editor of the *Morning Advertiser* for many years, gives a faithful picture there of his experiences of the interior of the editorial department of a morning newspaper. What applied then to a metropolitan paper, is now as applicable to the leading papers out of London, so that it would be difficult to vary Mr. Grant's statement except by slightly modernising it.

First of all, there is the editor sitting in his own apartment, and at his desk. Usually he has lying before him a heap of newspapers, pamphlets, leading articles, either in manuscript or proof, or both, with letters partly private, and partly intended for publication, should they be so fortunate as to meet with the editor's approval. The conducting, or chief, editor only occasionally writes leading articles himself; he has duties enough to perform without that. He has abundant work to do in reading all the original matter which comes before him, as he has to decide upon the fitness of the numerous communications, on every conceivable

variety of subject, which are brought under his consideration, and to alter and otherwise adapt to the tone and policy of the paper such as may in the main be deemed suitable. He would on many occasions, when the press of that sort of matter is great, have a sufficient amount of labour even had he nothing else to do. But all editors of morning papers have in addition a large quantity of correspondence with contributors, which must be attended to. Then there are the sub-editors, and others on the literary staff of the journal, with the head printer, constantly in touch with the editorial sanctum, either to receive instructions with respect to particular points, or to ask questions relative to the views of their chief on the style of setting or adjusting matter. But in addition to all these hindrances to the quiet discharge of the duties of his office which an editor has to meet with, he receives frequent, and often prolonged, interruptions from visits of persons of position in the political world or of social standing, whom he feels he must see. I venture to say, on behalf of the editors of all morning papers, that they regard calls from merely idle, gossippy or curious persons as matters of grave inconvenience, especially when they are protracted, and when the subjects about which the visitors converse are neither important nor urgent.

Then there is this feature in the position of the editor of a morning paper,—that it is one of profound and perpetual responsibility. No one can fully feel the force of this remark who has not occupied the editorial chair of a morning journal. The chief editor is responsible for every error, whether of omission or commission, which occurs in the paper which he conducts.

But in addition to all this are the editor's long and late hours. The time at which he commences his labours varies according to the custom of his journal or his own views on the subject. Some editors of morning journals go at an early hour in the forenoon, and remain in the office till the afternoon; others do not go till the afternoon, and remain till an early hour in the evening, and then return at seven or eight o'clock, or even later, according to

circumstances. Some do not go to the office at all till seven or eight o'clock in the evening, having previously received all their letters and papers at home, and provided a certain amount of what is called "copy" for the compositors to go on with. As a rule, editors of morning papers do not go to bed till nearly three o'clock in the morning. I could name one editor of a morning journal who, for the long period of twenty years, regularly left his own home to begin his editorial labours at ten o'clock in the morning, and remained in the office till two in the afternoon; then left his own house again at half-past six in the evening, and did not go to bed till about three on the following morning. Several times, too, during this prolonged period, he has been two years without a single holiday. Others have been a year without one day of cessation from their labours. With these facts before them, the public will understand that the office of editor of a morning paper, so far from being a sinecure, is one of the most laborious and responsible, and consequently one of the most anxious, which a human being could fill.

The sub-editors' duties are chiefly to prepare for the compositors the "copy" that pours in by parcel or by telegraph from every part of the country and all quarters of the globe, and to write the summaries which put the reader at once in possession of the most important and interesting news of the day. The old practice of giving matter from other papers is so rare now as to be practically a thing of the past. The difficulty with the best morning newspapers is to get space enough for the original matter that crowds in. What would be most fitted for one paper would be altogether unfitted, or less suited, for another; and therefore efficient sub-editors require to be gifted with good judgment. It is, too, an essential part of their duty to abridge reports of any kind which are prolix; or even if they are interesting to the extent to which they are given, the exigencies of the paper as regards space must be consulted, and lengthened reports cut down. This part of a sub-editor's labours is one which, to be

done well, requires great care and judgment, otherwise the matter so abridged will be found disconnected and important portions of it omitted. The chief object to be aimed at in abridging reports is to catch and preserve the "points." When this is done, sub-editors prove themselves most useful auxiliaries on the establishment with which they are connected.

But their hardest and most disagreeable duty is to cut down what is called "flimsy,"—a kind of "copy" to which I shall have occasion to revert hereafter. This being written on the manifold system is always more or less difficult to read; and when the writing is otherwise illegible the sub-editors have work which is alike trying to their eyes and difficult as regards their decision. And of this kind of work they have a great deal to do.

SHORTHAND REPORTING.—Shorthand writing may be said to be the oldest of all kinds of writing, because words and even thoughts were originally expressed or symbolised by rude pictures of animals or other objects, or their modifications, as in the case of the Chinese language with its 50,000 word-symbols; and from these old signs most of the characters of the early alphabets of the world have sprung. What is called Shorthand was in rather a crude state until the Phonographic system invented by Mr. Pitman (now Sir Isaac Pitman) came before the public during the year 1837. Up to that time Stenographic systems prevailed,—few of which could be called systems, seeing that the characters were so arbitrary, and that frequently each writer preferred some contraction of his own to those supplied. The combination of stenographic characters often zig-zagged so much, and were so strangely crooked, that they appeared more like the oldest Egyptian hieroglyphics, than a help to modern intelligence. Pitman's phonography—"sound writing"—is a thorough and beautiful system, and has, because of that and its efficiency, grown to be immensely popular, at least wherever the English language is spoken. Phonography is now taught in many public schools throughout the United Kingdom, and probably in America also. I am, for instance,

informed by Mr. Lauder, Secretary of the Glasgow Athenæum—(an efficient and thriving Institution for educational classes upon various subjects, and for other purposes)—that Mr. Kirkpatrick, the phonographic teacher, had classes there numbering 698 shorthand students during last winter, several of them having gained by examination certificates for reporting at the rate of 150 to 180 words per minute, and one of them even up to 200 words per minute. This indicates that Burns' Captain Grose has now an immense following ready to take down any amount of oratory.

REPORTING half a century ago, except on great occasions, was rarely verbatim or as full as it is now; and, in the case of papers generally, much of it was reproduced more from memory than from shorthand notes. The first development of that branch of newspaper work owed more to the late Mr. Pagan than to any other man, in Scotland at least. He had the stimulus and enterprise of love for his profession, and was much ahead of his time and of the limits of what was then expected. One of his first exploits was in connection with his descriptive report of the famous Eglinton Tournament in Ayrshire, where a large portion of the beauty and élite of the United Kingdom appeared. This report was so full and spirited, and so promptly published after the event, that it awakened a widespread interest. About the time, also, when the agitation was gathering to a head which ended in the Disruption of the Established Church of Scotland, he arranged to give unusually full reports of the speeches made in the General Assembly on Friday and Saturday. These were rapidly transcribed and forwarded portion by portion as he could, and the result—unprecedented at that time—was that they were published in Monday's *Herald*, greatly to the gratification of its readers and others, and as much to the surprise of the Edinburgh newspapers. Formerly such reports, for want of that expedition, only appeared in our next publication on Friday, nearly a week after the speeches were made. In our day, with many reporters for each paper relieving each other, with trains covering the 47 miles



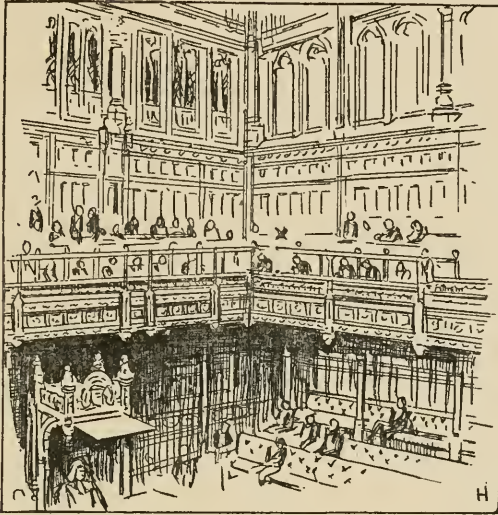
between Edinburgh and Glasgow in 65 minutes, and with the telegraph giving momentary delivery direct into the sub-editor's hands, it is almost impossible for the present generation to believe that Mr. Pagan's single-handed feats are worth recording. And yet such efforts, and his continued interest in the work, not only gave the *Herald* a character for the excellence and fairness of its reporting, which it has not lost, but they also went far to give start and "go" to the great development which has since taken place in the careful recording of uttered thoughts, from "within the book and memory of the brain." Mr. Pagan was selected at an early stage to be the trusted representative of the *Times* to look after its interests in the North. That position for all Scotland is now held by his successor, Mr. Thomas Reid, the present chief of the *Herald* Reporting Staff.

It cannot be said that reporters, qualified for newspaper work, are born not made, because they require almost as much experience as those in other newspaper departments. They must have nimble fingers and excellent hearing to fix down what is uttered and to make it readable, to abbreviate at the moment when required, to give the substance of what is best, to do all correctly, and, while distinguishing between froth and real matter, to act strictly in the spirit of fairplay. No newspaperman requires more tact in getting from other men the facts of a case he is after than a reporter, and in stating them truly. After he completes his short-hand report, he requires to exercise his memory in retranslating the phonographic signs into the words spoken, for his signs usually represent consonants only, and abbreviations of several consonants, or signs of complete words; and should he by lapse of memory read the consonant signs with wrong vowels, different words will of course come out, and probably absurd things may be printed. Such possible inaccuracies are not more probable in the use of phonography than in the old stenography. For such things, and for condensation of speeches, reporters are sometimes blamed; but as they are not only capable men, but are always expected by reputable

publishers and editors to show an eminently judicial and fair mind, the chances generally are that the grumbler himself is not innocent. There have been cases when reporters were so provoked by open and injurious attacks that they have retorted by giving the words of the complainer *verbatim et literatim*, which was no doubt appreciated still less. On the other hand, many speakers have expressed their gratitude when finding in the printed report their stumbling or wordy utterances greatly improved in style and lucidity; with good speakers, however, no such liberty is taken. About thirty years ago, there occurred the case of a Church magnate who delivered such an extreme *pronunciamento* that he was brought to task by his fellow-churchmen. His main defence was that he had been incorrectly reported; but while this enabled him to quiet his Church friends, the statement so incensed the reporters of the different papers interested, that after comparing their notes and finding that they confirmed the correctness of what had been published, they decided to expose the facts to the judgment of the public. By the influence of the editors of the day, however, the exposure was not persisted in. There was an incident in the year 1833, when the House of Commons reporters were severely blamed for unfairness and incorrectness by the great Irish orator, Daniel O'Connell, who upon that ground took the formal method of expulsion by pointing out that he "espied strangers in the House." The reporters left the House—and continued absent—thus leaving the speeches of the members to slip into hopeless oblivion. Parliament and the country, however, could not endure, inside, the still-born speeches, and outside, the death-like silence; and no more could the great Dan, so that he soon made his *amende*, and the reporters resumed their work, greatly to the satisfaction of every one inside and outside Parliament. This power of expelling reporters was withdrawn, in 1871, from individual members, and can now be used only by the passing of a formal motion by the House of Commons. But any visitor to the other galleries, however

distinguished, will find himself immediately prevented taking any notes.

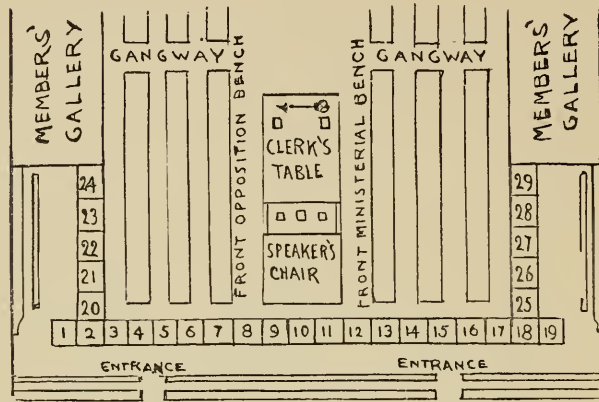
#### SPEAKER'S CHAIR AND REPORTERS' GALLERY.



The reporters' seats in front number from 1 to 19, and were in possession of the Metropolitan Press before the Members' galleries were so far appropriated as to make room for 10 additional seats (5 on each side) to accommodate reporters from other cities of the United Kingdom, and two for News Agencies. Several of the seats in the front row are so low as to place the occupants at a disadvantage, while the reporters in the centre cannot hear the Speaker well because of the canopy over his chair; those on either side facing the Government or Opposition benches can both see and hear better. The *Glasgow Herald* seat is No. 20, at the junction of the side and front galleries below the mark X, where our reporters sit in turn. It is in full view of the Speaker, and faces the Government benches. Four of the side gallery boxes are occupied by the reporters of newspapers which combine to get a report in common.

PLAN AND KEY OF THE REPORTERS' GALLERY AND PART  
OF THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

(As stated in 1894 by Mr. John Store of the "Times" Corps).



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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Exchange Telegraph Co.          | 20. Glasgow Herald.        |
| 2. St. James Gazette.              | 21. Press Association.     |
| 3. Daily Chronicle.†               | 22. Manchester Courier.    |
| 4. Daily Telegraph.†               | Liverpool Courier.         |
| 5. Daily News.†                    | Yorkshire Post.            |
| 6. Daily News.                     | 23. Irish Times.           |
| 7. Morning Advertiser.             | North British Daily Mail.  |
| 8. Times.†                         | 24. Scotsman.              |
| 9. and 10. Times.                  | 25. Central News.          |
| 11. Standard.                      | 26. Pall Mall Gazette.     |
| 12. Daily Telegraph.               | Reuter.                    |
| 13. Morning Post.                  | 27. Liverpool Daily Post.  |
| 14. Debates (Hansard).             | Sheffield Daily Telegraph. |
| 15. Standard.†                     | Aberdeen Free Press.       |
| 16. Morning Post.†                 | Bradford Observer.         |
| 17. Globe and Morning Advertiser.† | 28. Manchester Guardian.   |
| 18. Press Association.†            | Leeds Mercury.             |
| 19. Central News.†                 | 29. Freeman's Journal.     |

† These seats are reserved for Summary writers, while others find seats behind the reporters. The small square spots on the Clerk's table indicate boxes there, one of which contains the Testaments on which the Members are sworn, and the other on the opposite side is empty. Both are frequently used for leading Members to place their papers on when speaking. The mace is near the boxes.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORTING is not the least important work of an accomplished professional, for it tests his mental resources, his literary skill and his range of knowledge, in a way in which no ordinary *litterateur* is tested. A man of the high calibre necessary for this kind of service, who also undertakes ordinary shorthand work, and who has the inward stimulus to look out for informing as well as popular subjects, is much more a master of his profession than one who is tied to a single branch of reporting. Descriptive work is very comprehensive in its application, for it includes many aspects of human affairs, from the oddities and movements of life in Parliament down to those to be found in the Police Court. Many other things come under this class of work, such as specialities in the sciences, in painting and music, engineering and shipbuilding, financial and Stock Exchange transactions and prognostication, sporting and athletics, rifle volunteer and other military affairs, up to international wars, and the exploration of the dark places of the earth. The first news and descriptive correspondent the *Herald* had in London was Mr. William Brown, who undertook the work at a small sum per annum in 1861, when he was an active and highly-prized member of the reporting staff of the *Times*,—the proprietors of which generously provided for him after his sight failed till his death. A man whose tastes and acquirements are congenial with any one department among newspaper subjects, generally falls to be appointed to deal with it, and thereby becomes less or more a specialist. For instance, of our Parliamentary staff one is our lobby member; in London and in Glasgow others specially watch and describe the money and Stock Exchange markets, and it is so with other leading subjects.

Then it will be remembered that within the current half-century the great international conflicts in the Crimea, in America, between France and Germany, &c., begot, as it were, "Our Special War Correspondents," and *that* after the great Exhibition of 1851, when the world celebrated an unusually long



period of peace and entertained the hope that the time had come when men should "study war no more." During these and other wars, Descriptive Reporting, in the persons of William H. Russell, Archibald Forbes, and many other very able and soldier-hearted men, resulted in what may be termed a new era in that part of newspaper work. In view, for instance, of the revelations made by the correspondents of the shortcomings of our Government in providing for our forces in the Crimea, and their help otherwise, they served their country well through the Press. These reporters were far from being easy-chair, dining-out, or club-lounging men, depending on hearsay; they were so filled with the spirit of their work as to risk the heat of the battle as much as, and perhaps sometimes more than, commanding officers, and often to endure hardships as severe as those borne by the soldiers in the ranks. In following up their work they were sometimes brought into scenes, the descriptions of which not only were of great interest to the newspaper reader at the time, but remain eminently historical. During the Franco-German War, Mr. Forbes and Mr. de Lifde—who was then the special war correspondent sent out by the *Glasgow Herald*—found themselves in the immediate presence of an historic scene, that of the surrender of the Emperor Napoleon to Prince Bismarck at the close of the fatal Battle of Sedan, on the 2nd September, 1870. The two correspondents reached the sloping lawn before the cottage near Sedan, and (Mr. de Lifde reported) "the grass being covered with straw I was enabled to throw myself down on it and see everything that went on"; in full view of the tragic meeting of the two most prominent men of the time, they saw what was in effect the surrender, and, if they did not actually overhear everything, could well interpret what was seen.

It was, however, not merely what such war correspondents did and saw that distinguished them; but that their descriptions were of such vivid realistic power, although beside or around them legions of armed men were marching, skirmishing, or engaged in

fierce and deadly conflict, amid confused noises exceeding heaven's loud artillery, and in view of garments rolled in blood. Such circumstances do not give much time to deliberate over literary niceties, or to do reporting bit by bit as their spirit at the time may move them; instant writing and as instant despatch as possible are clamant necessities of such work, as indeed they sometimes are also in the experience of home descriptive reporters. Many reporters' hasty despatches on home as well as on war subjects are literary gems, and deserve to be saved from forgetfulness.

During this Franco-German War, and the Paris Commune period, the reports of special correspondents and war telegrams were not uncommon amongst a few leading papers, but it was found in some other cases that the "Special War Correspondent's" skeleton telegrams were amplified in London by a ready writer's imagination; and it was said that others had not even such a skeleton to work upon.

Few reporters care to claim a superior capacity for dealing with a murder case; but if the circumstances require it all the members of the staff are liable to be called upon to hunt up every particular, as every newspaper publisher well knows what a lively and peculiar thirst the public generally has for such news. In a certain case, however, they were all saved that disagreeable work, as the following statement shows. My account is taken from the *Evening Times* of October last year, when reference was made to the death of a son of the late Mr. John M. Crawford, who, before going to Greenock, was a member of the staff in Glasgow of the *Daily Mail*:—Mr. Crawford "was a dapper little man, fresh complexioned, cheery of voice, always working, and generally achieving. He wrote with facility, and fairly well. He liked to get hold of some mystery to unravel; the seamy side of life found in him an exponent whose art was at least thorough. We used to call him 'Bow Street.' He was a kindly man, but there was a limit to his willingness to oblige a brother in 'flimsies.' Now,

as it happened, there was then a young fellow employed as a reporter on a weekly or bi-weekly paper in Glasgow who was also a student. On the night before publication this young student (who died a few years ago) was accustomed to call at the *Mail* office, and get from Mr. Crawford items of information which he had not had the time or the skill to procure for himself. The indefatigable writer of spicy paragraphs and articles full of local colour came to think that his young friend, when he found no one in the reporting room at the *Mail* office, helped himself rather freely in the way of copying any manuscript intended for publication. He resolved to punish the student, and he did so very effectively. He wrote a long and circumstantial account of a brutal murder which still remains to be perpetrated. He fixed the *locale* of the tragedy, if I remember rightly, in the neighbourhood of Pollokshaws, where the dead body of a woman was found under circumstances which implied a crime of the first magnitude. It was skilfully done. He began by painting the dawn which revealed the tragedy—Aurora in her winged chariot opening with rosy fingers the gates of the East, and then went on to wallow in sanguinary detail. The poor student fell into the trap. He copied it all. Next morning Glasgow was electrified with the awful news. Detectives tumbled over each other in their anxiety to get at the facts. And for a week or more a series of letters to the editor appeared in the *Mail*, under the heading ‘Who Stole the Murder?’”

It is beyond the function of a shorthand reporter, even if it were in his power without being explicitly descriptive, to give the reader a correct impression of a speaker's peculiarities, his low or loud utterance, his gestures or his emphasising of sentences, some of which peculiarities are often necessary to give character to what is spoken. Mr. James Grant, who himself was a reporter before he became an editor, gives in his book the following amusing incident, which may serve to show how one reporter dealt with the difficulty:—Mr. O'Dwyer, an Irish reporter, was at work in

the House of Commons Gallery, when Mr. Richard Martin, M.P. (a countryman), delivered such a ludicrous speech as to move the House to convulsive laughter. O'Dwyer, in the circumstances, could not suppress his Irish readiness for a frolic or a fight, and thereupon gave in his report with certain sentences underlined,—which, of course, suggested to the compositors that the words were to be set in *italics*. When the speech appeared in this style, the member was so irritated by the banter of brother M.P.s for “speaking in italics,” that he brought the matter before the House as a breach of privilege, by addressing the Speaker as follows: “Sir, you and the honourable members must be aware that I had the honour of addressing this House last night. (Ironical cheers.) Well, my speech is most villainously reported in the *Morning Herald* of this morning. (Suppressed laughter from all parts of the House.) But, Mr. Speaker, it is not of the inaccurate reporting that I so much complain, as of the circumstances of the reporter having made me spake in italics. (Renewed bursts of laughter.) You know, Mr. Speaker, and so does every gentleman in the House, that I never spoke in italics at all.” He went on further in all seriousness, and ended by moving that O'Dwyer be committed for breach of privilege; but there being no seconder, it came to nothing.

Each specialist of course adapts himself to the varied nature of the work he is engaged upon. In the case of dealing with the money market and the numerous details of the Stock Exchange, &c., he has no scope for expatiative or imaginative writing, but must rigidly keep to the facts he has gathered from the most perfectly reliable sources, showing no personal bias for or against any stock. A case occurred not long ago of a distant correspondent, who had previously shown himself to be a very capable man, and who was engaged to correspond upon a leading feature of the world's market; he wrote well and effectively several letters, but after a time it was discovered that he also corresponded with another newspaper, and was actually attempting to bull and bear

the market by turns. That at once ended his connection with the first paper, as its editor could not run the risk of his readers being misled or his newspaper being discredited. The opposite extreme from accurate and careful propriety of style may sometimes be found in semi-humorous articles, in which the writer has a free hand, and employs it for the display of his ambitious *wut*. An example of this happened a goodly number of years ago with a contemporary, when the son of its proprietor had assumed the reins and endeavoured to signalise his advent by a striking feature in the paper. It happened that one evening the large cat of the establishment had taken up his quarters on the cylinder blanket of a printing machine there. In the early morning when the workmen, as unconscious as the cat, started the machine, the poor animal was completely crushed to death between the impression and printing cylinders, and a gruesome mess was scattered over the type, machinery, and paper. The necessary stoppage and delay resulted in the posts of that morning being lost, and the editor had of course to be apprised of the cause. Matter for a descriptive note at once suggested itself, and the tragic death of poor tabby was duly treated by the editor in his own succulent style. The editor of a London sporting paper read the pitiful tale, quoted it, and appended the remark: "We congratulate our contemporary that for once they had brains in their paper." The paragraph and addendum went the rounds, and soon after the "striking feature" disappeared.

GENERAL ELECTIONS.—Upon the occasion of a General Election the full reporting forces of the Daily Press are called out, some of the members indeed requiring to take up more than one meeting per day. Besides our regular staff (which is one of the largest in the United Kingdom), our editor finds it necessary to bring from London all our Parliamentary gallerymen, and to enlist reliable hands from other quarters, while those in our branch offices and correspondents over the country are called upon to deal with their respective districts; except at times when a



declaration of policy or other important oration is expected from a leading statesman, in which case several competent reporters must be sent from headquarters. It is fortunate for newspaper proprietors that a General Election is not spread over such a prolonged period of time now as formerly; for the expenses involved for travelling, hotel bills, and telegraphing charges, not including those for greater sized papers, &c., even for the short time, considerably exceed the small amount now drawn for advertising election addresses, &c.,—a state of matters very different from the popular estimate. The sum drawn for these during the election of 1895 over the whole country was less than in 1892, and little over a half of that accruing from the election of 1886. The cause of this is not that candidates value the use of newspapers less, but that Parliament itself—by the Corrupt Practices Act—has very much curtailed the former inordinate expenditure, which had been applied to unworthy as well as to necessary objects. This limitation of outlay according to the numbers of each constituency (Municipal as well as Parliamentary) places candidates often in the position of having their attacks or defences confined to the range of their voices,—for, after all, there is also a newspaper limit to reporting the *spates* of speeches which then go on simultaneously over the whole country. However urgent, therefore, their necessities may be to have full and far-reaching statements published, the candidates have usually to be content with abridgments or nothing. Candidates generally would gladly have the option of spending freely, or up to a certain sum, on newspaper and other printers (besides the expenditure allowed for other purposes), and the latter, no doubt, would not object to such a course! By the pressure of this legal limitation of the candidates' expenditure, it is not an uncommon thing for their law agents to be left lamenting, because of having no balance to square their own accounts. But they can generally find comfort in the hope of favours to come, perhaps in the shape of a profitable connection, or of a nice arrangement by political patrons.

REPORTING AUXILIARIES.—Transcription from shorthand to longhand is a great weariness to the fingers and the head of every reporter. But the little mechanical typewriter is now at the command of those who can get above a habit, as within the last few years thousands of young men and girls have done, whose services are prized in counting-houses, warehouses, and other business places for producing statements and letters in a clear, legible style. In some legislative chambers official reporters are provided with typewriters for this process, and no doubt the time is at hand when professional reporters will have to qualify for this method of transcribing their shorthand notes. It will not only relieve their overwrought fingers, but will also lessen the possibility of errors on their part and that of the compositor, and at times save the latter some bewilderment in his attempts to decipher "copy."

Another machine, an automatic reporter, in the form of Edison's phonograph, is coming into use by professional and business men, who dictate letters, &c., to the machine, by which the utterances are repeated to the shorthand writer or operator on the typewriter. For reporting purposes, however, while it may some day perhaps give aid on special occasions, it is not likely in its present form to do the work with the clearness and efficiency which are given by the discriminating mind and ear of experienced reporters. When made more perfect these machines may some day be tried in front of speakers; but the Babel of conflicting sounds will probably prevent such use of them.

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#### THE LASTING VALUE OF REPORTERS' WORK.

When all has been said of the work of reporters, it may be truthfully added that it is invaluable for preserving to the present and to future generations precious thoughts and statements, which otherwise would be lost. Apart from the frothy utterances of those who do not regard "the sacred office of speech,"

as Milton well names it, reporters' work largely accomplishes for thoughtful speakers what he desired for his writings:—"That by labour and intent study (which I take to be my portion in this life) joyn'd with the strong propensity of nature, I might perhaps leave something so written to aftertimes, as they should not willingly let it die."

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COMMERCIAL NEWS.—There is a manifest contrast between the very scanty information given in old times and the extent and quality of that given now regarding the commercial affairs of the world,—including under that term the markets for money, shares, iron and other metals, produce, cotton, coal, cattle, dead meat, with shipping, freight, &c., &c. The ordinary amount of commercial news in the *Herald* extends now to an average of about 13 columns daily, while 50 years ago all that was published of such matter reached to only about 2 columns on each of the two days. No doubt much of the commerce which now exists was not then dreamt of, and some departments of it were very small, such as grain and flour in the days of the Corn Laws, and such as shipping. In the case of the latter, it looked, shortly before the steam and iron age of ships, as if the American wooden clippers were about to wrest the carrying trade of the world from us; but, as we know, our iron steamers have so completely won the day, that for 1894-95 the tonnage of all ships owned in the United Kingdom and Colonies amounted to 12,969,951 as compared with 11,599,545 tons for all the other countries of the world, while of that 2,171,459 tons belongs to the United States. That itself means shipping news extending to an average of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  columns per day, as against two-thirds of a column half a century ago. Included in the market news from America, there is a daily average of  $2\frac{1}{8}$  columns, while in old days there was none. For some years before 1881—when I visited North America—the chief items from it were those under the headings of Shipments and the Visible Supply, until by special arrangements which I then

made with the directors of the New York Produce Exchange, fuller, later, and more reliable information has been regularly cabled for the *Herald*. "Shipments" means the cargoes of grain and flour loaded on the American seaboard from one week's end to the next; and "Visible Supply" represents what is in transit to the seaboard, and what is in elevator storehouses at different points in America. "Invisible Supply" is what is supposed to be in farmers' hands. The quantity on passage comprises that on passage from America, Argentine, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Mediterranean and Black Seas. All this means an immense change in our food supply, and in the commerce which deals with it; and it means also, in the case of some newspapers, a very large amount of land and submarine telegraphing, as compared with the few grain market reports of 1845. At the same time I had in different parts of the United States and Canada several complaints that, although the newspapers there gave a large portion of news from the old country, our papers on this side gave very little from America. The ground for that complaint no longer exists.

OUT-DOOR SPORTS are now many and widespread, while formerly they were few and these almost all carried on without any system; and practically none were reported, except sometimes Fox-Hunting. Athletics now, including Golf, Cycling, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Horse Racing, &c. (for each of which the rules are minutely laid down), occupies about 10 columns of each Monday's *Herald*. As most competitions, especially in Football, are held on the Saturdays, and as players and their friends are hungry for immediate information of the results from all parts of the United Kingdom that same evening, the *Evening Times* supplies with remarkable promptness and completeness the extraordinary demands week after week during winter and spring. Under the references to the *Evening Times* this matter will be more fully stated.

BOOK REVIEWING formerly occupied a small, and only an occasional, place in newspapers, as much perhaps because of fewer

books being published and sent for the purpose of review as from any indisposition on the part of editors to notice them. This work was either done by the editors themselves, or by some friends for the sake of the books. But now in this generation of School Boards and book readers reviewing has become one of the normal features of daily papers, generally on a special day of the week.\* All the year round, and particularly during the publishing season—from September to the end of December—books are forwarded in great numbers for that purpose. Our editor, upon receiving them, immediately allocates and despatches each to some one of the writers upon his reviewing staff whom he knows to be most competent to deal with its subject, so that the work may get justice, and so that readers may find something better than tame puffing or scolding matter. The payment to reviewers amounts to a considerable sum; but many publishers do next to nothing to recognise by advertisements the outlay such reviews cost, some of them seeming to fancy that the volumes they send amply pay for the review of them. That, no doubt, is the case with newspapers which employ their sub-editors, reporters, and friends to “do” the work in their own time, and let the book stand for payment; but reviews done by experts are rightly paid at the best rate in the ordinary money form.

THE LONDON AND NON-LONDON PRESS.—The contrast in 1845 between the London papers and the others throughout the United Kingdom was very great with regard to their news as well as the political power of their leaders; in these features the metropolitan papers were pre-eminent, while the others followed a long way off with pithless leaders in a short paragraph form which had only a limited and chiefly local influence. The difference now in these respects is not a contrast, but rather a parallel,—for the use of the electric telegraph has about equalised

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\* On the day (Thursday) after the above was written, the *Herald* contained 14 columns of reviews and notices of the books sent by publishers, and alongside of these were 6 columns of advertisements from publishers.



their positions so far as the news of the world is concerned, and the very great advance made in the editorials of the daily papers out of London has made them compeers with those of London in the respective spheres of their circulations. No doubt the editorials of the latter are still looked upon by many as the most important factors in the expression or leading of public opinion ; but that impression is more traditional than correct, and it is certainly not given by the greater literary power of their leaders. Mr. Sala, who is specially a Londoner, and who, according to his own statement a few years ago, has written about 8,000 or 9,000 leaders in the *Daily Telegraph*, frankly says:—" I am inclined to yield to, and adhere to the conviction, that the metropolitan press at the time of which I speak possessed far more *direct* political power than it enjoys at the present day. . . . When, however, I venture to maintain that there is an appreciable diminution of the direct and tangible power exercised by the metropolitan press two generations since, I should be an imbecile did I underestimate the enormous *influence* for good or evil—and much more commonly for good—possessed by the actual press not only in London but in the provinces." At one time John Sterling won for the *Times* its name, "The Thunderer," by the fiery bolts which he launched in its columns on current politics ; but thunder and lightning editorials now would be apt to be laughed at as of the Jingo or spread-eagle style. But well-informed, fair-minded, and otherwise able leaders—written with unpretentious dignity and spirit, and as far as possible without personalities, command respect and influence when clever bombast fails. The extent of that influence upon public opinion depends also now much more than formerly upon the extent of the ground which the circulation of the papers cover. As to the journals published in London, the numbers formerly circulated beyond London were no doubt very great ; while the copies of those issued in other parts of the country which then reached the metropolis were practically nil. With regard to the American

journals, it is better to let an American testify. Dr. Gordon of Boston, U.S.A., recently stated, after a lengthened visit to this side of the Atlantic, that he had been struck by the disgraceful inferiority of the American secular press as contrasted with the British. "Its tone is 50 per cent. lower than it was 24 years ago, when I first began to read them." This is a comparison that it would be unfair, or at least invidious, even if it were possible, for any but an American to make.

I remember some thirty years ago saying to an editor that he would be glad to hear that, owing to an expected acceleration of the first train from London, he would get the newspapers from there earlier than formerly. He, however, expressed some regret that it should be so, as they would probably come more than formerly into competition with our local journals. Other accelerations giving still earlier arrivals have taken place since, but nevertheless the old relative position is reversed by the number of London papers received in Scotland being greatly lessened, while the number of daily newspapers sent to London is greatly increased, and would be nearly doubled if they arrived there as early as the London dailies reach Glasgow and Edinburgh.

NEWS COLLECTING AGENCIES are now indispensable to every daily paper, including those which are most perfectly equipped by their own foreign and home representatives; and these agencies leave no room for comparison between the supply of news now and that before the telegraphing system came into action. The first agency for collecting and supplying news, as well as for its special purpose of transmitting by electric wires, was the Electric Telegraph Company, which was formed in 1846. That company was followed by the British and Irish Magnetic Company, and both did a similar work for the Press, Stock Exchange, &c. During part of the existence of these companies the special wire plan was begun, when we rented a wire from the Magnetic Company from 6 P.M. onward. Then followed Reuter's International Agency, and, when the

Government bought up the telegraph companies which of course then gave up the collecting along with the telegraphing, the Press Association came into existence to supply news and to do the work more thoroughly than the defunct telegraph companies. The Central News Company followed, and the Exchange Telegraph Company appeared more recently,—both also for collecting and transmitting news. The proprietors of newspapers had thereby ample opportunity to fill their columns with what they wanted. Besides these collecting agencies and individual effort, syndicates or combinations of newspapers were sometimes formed to get reports on great occasions from common sources.

The Reuter Agency was originated by Mr. Julius Reuter, a Prussian, who came to London in 1858, for the purpose of supplying the newspapers, Stock Exchanges, and Bourses of the United Kingdom and foreign and colonial countries with international news and news of markets. He had been a courier to several of the European Courts from the Berlin Government, and probably found in that connection some of the sources of news which he afterwards turned to such good account as to enable home newspapers sometimes to anticipate our own Government. His information is usually condensed to the bare facts, but it has been eminently reliable,—a quality of the utmost importance to newspapers. At length, as the telegraph companies were growing into a great monopoly of this new necessity of the business and general public for quick transmission of messages, the Government decided to buy up the telegraph companies, and an Act for that purpose was passed on the 31st July, 1868, and took effect by the Post Office Department beginning to work all the wires on the 5th February, 1872. With this transaction in prospect, it became incumbent upon newspaper men to prepare for the change, seeing that the collection of news would cease with the extinction of the telegraph companies, and that the Government would certainly not continue, nor be asked to continue, that service. A considerable number of newspaper

representatives met on the 28th October, 1865, at Manchester, with Mr. Taylor of the *Manchester Guardian* presiding. At Mr. Pagan's request I represented the *Glasgow Herald*, Mr James Law the *Scotsman*, and Dr. Cameron (now Sir Charles Cameron) the *N.B. Daily Mail*. There were several earnest conferences on the subject, and upon the measures to be taken, which resulted in a committee being appointed to mature arrangements for forming a company to collect and supply news upon a thorough and impartial system; and at the same time for watching newspaper interests in view of the transfer of the wires to the control of the Post Office. This was the origin of the Press Association, which now gives such splendid service without exacting such terms as profit-seeking companies aim at. Its supplies include what the Reuter International Agency collects,—for which the Press Association paid £3000 per annum for several years; and now a new contract between the two parties has been made this year (1895) for the next ten years. The maximum annual revenue of the Press Association for its news supplies amounted to £81,383 7s. 2d. for the year 1893,—not a General Election year; but since that period the income from that source is down, a fact which the directors attribute partly to Mr. Gladstone's withdrawal from public life. An eventful year, or one with few exciting events, affects demand and supply of news proportionately to the circumstances.

The longest of all the cablegrams—at least of the commercial news character—which have reached this country, was that of the New American Tariff, which was so anxiously looked for in Europe by manufacturers, merchants, and others, because of the expectation that it would go in the direction of Free Trade, as against the ultra-Protective system which had prevailed in the United States. It appeared in the *Herald* of 16th August, 1894, and occupied there  $12\frac{1}{2}$  columns,—touching on 3,500 lines. I may here refer to a telegram of unprecedented length (not a cablegram nor such matter as News Agencies supply)

which appeared in the *Chicago Times* of 22nd May, 1881, in the form of the Revised New Testament. I was fortunate enough to have a little association with this big transaction, by being in conversation with the editor in his room at the moment when a messenger came in to say, "The Revised New Testament has arrived at New York, sir. Do you wish any of it telegraphed?" The editor at once said—"Telegraph the whole of it." The four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistle to the Romans were telegraphed that day and evening from New York. That portion of the New Testament, the editor said, contained about 118,000 words, and constituted by many times the largest special despatch ever sent over the wires. The remainder of the work was printed from the copies of the Revised Testament received at night. The whole, which appeared the following morning, occupied  $88\frac{1}{2}$  columns. In an interesting article on "Two Memorable Days in Paternoster Row," in the *Leisure Hour* of April, 1891, referring to the issue of the Revised Testament, it is stated that the cost of that telegraphing was said to have been \$3000—say £600. As I left Chicago after parting from the editor, I was unable to procure a copy of this rare edition of his paper, much to my regret, but by the kindness of Mr. Henry Frowde of the Oxford University Press Warehouse, London, I have now a copy before me. By permission of Mr. Frowde, I will hand this *Chicago Times* to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, so that it may be seen by any person. It may be here pointed out that the setting during the evening of such an amount of matter as that referred to in these two cases was almost as remarkable a feat as the telegraphing.

HONOURS TO NEWSPAPER MEN, which are now fairly numerous as compared with those gained by gentlemen of other professions, afford a very great contrast to the dishonour and disabilities endured by them until within 40 years ago. These latter cannot be better summarised than they are in the following statement made by Mr. H. Whorlow, the able Secretary of the Newspaper Society,



when giving a "Jubilee Retrospect" of its work :—"In addition to the fiscal burdens which had to be borne by newspaper proprietors at the period under consideration, the state of the law of libel made the proper discharge of the journalist's duty towards the public an absolute impossibility. The State looked upon the newspaper writer as a suspected person, one to be feared and dreaded, as ever ready to asperse the characters of innocent men; and without honour, conscience, or common decency. The laws were strained for the benefit of plaintiffs in libel actions, and safeguards and pledges were required from the printers and publishers of news, who were not only assumed to be libellers *in posse*, but also to be incapable of paying the penalties attaching to their prospective crimes. Consequently, they must find sureties for penalties for State and private libels which they might or might not be guilty of in the future. Then, again, reports of law court and Parliamentary proceedings could only be published at the newspaper proprietor's risk; any defamatory statement made by a Counsel or Member of Parliament, although privileged as far as the speaker was concerned, becoming a libel when reported in a newspaper. In criminal proceedings, evidence of the truth of the matter complained of was not admissible, and nominal damages awarded on a technical point of law, although in reality implying the justification of the libel, invariably carried damages." Mr. Whorlow referred to other laws formerly noticed, such as the compulsory publication of Insolvent Debtors' Petitions for 3s. without limit as to length, and also of advertisements regarding Game Certificates, Tithe Commutations, the List of Shareholders in Banking Companies, &c. A law also existed to prevent newspaper men being members of Town Councils; and although a clause to repeal it was inserted in the Municipal Corporation Act of 1842, it was discovered afterwards that it had been dropped out. A similar curious thing happened in a previous case when a relieving clause for newspapers was passed, but left out of the Act. The Public Health Act of 1875, by an oversight, also

omitted the necessary indemnifying clause, and the old disqualification was revived in the case of Local Boards, and continued in force until 1885, when the Public Health (Members and Offices) Bill was passed into law. Then only by the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1881, were newspaper proprietors relieved from being held *criminally* as well as civilly responsible for the acts of their employees. The practice of not appointing a newspaper man to be a Justice of Peace, already referred to, continued till recently, and continues yet as far as Lord Lieutenants of the old school can venture. These and other such disabilities have been repealed, or have ceased in practice,—so that we can now turn to the reverse side and find a more pleasant picture.

The earliest appearance of a change in favour of editors and proprietors of newspapers was in the election of some from amongst them to be honorary members of the Reform Club, the Carlton Club, &c. The Universities, especially in Scotland, showed their disposition to recognise Literature in the persons of editors, by bestowing on several of them the degree of LL.D.; while Parliamentary constituents have elected this year 31 newspaper proprietors and journalists to the House of Commons; and the Governments in turn have made up from amongst the same class a goodly number of knights, baronets, and even a peer, in the person of Sir Algernon Borthwick, proprietor of the *Morning Post*. This great change from the days of imprisonment, fines, and other dishonours, indicates the higher position which newspapers and their conductors have now attained, and the conviction that they are not all agents of wickedness and promoters of sedition; while perhaps some of the political honours are given also because of the greater political power of newspapers in these modern times. These changes and recognitions are, moreover, valuable to the newspapers of the whole country, because they prove the greater confidence and appreciation of the general public which have been won for the Press of the United Kingdom by its higher tone, and by the vast improvement in the quality of its information.

## THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH AND NEWSPAPERS.

NO one can be ignorant of the supreme necessity now of the Electric Telegraphing system to newspapers,—that is, to the reading public,—and yet in 1845 news reaching Glasgow by that means was *nil*. It is stated that the first use for newspaper purposes of what we now call the Telegraph was made by the old *Morning Chronicle*, in May of that year, when the proprietor had a message transmitted to him by the wire between Portsmouth and Nine Elms, in London,—the only telegraph line then available. Not until after the three first months of 1848 did crumbs, amounting to from 6 to 20 lines, appear in the *Herald*, regarding Government Funds, markets, and the shares of the few railway companies then in existence. Any telegraphic news which appeared before that year reached us by telegraph to Liverpool and thence by railway and coach to Glasgow, in time for our second edition of the following morning. The transition from that state of things to the present universal and various use of electricity is a marvel of the age, and yet it is not so marvellous as the immeasurable pre-existence of this impalpable power throughout the earth, the air, in man himself, and probably everywhere. More than any other known power, it raises the old and ever-present question: “Which was first, Matter or Force?”—a question which introduced the late Professor Faraday’s lectures on “The Physical Forces.”

There have been many for whom the honour is claimed of being the author of the great invention which evoked and brought into the service of man this great dormant power, turning what had often been a bad master into a good and great servant of the world. But it is not generally known that one of the earliest for whom the honour is claimed was Dr. Charles Morison, a native of Greenock, who practised in Renfrew. The late Sir David Brewster, himself one of the greatest scientific men of this century, identified Dr. Morison as the writer of a letter, dated from Renfrew,

which appeared in the *Scots Magazine*, of February, 1753, under the initials of C. M., describing a plan by which messages might be conveyed to distant points. The letter explained his method of telegraphing to other places by a series of wires and electrified balls, which were operated upon so as to spell out words by touching bits of light paper having the letters of the alphabet upon them; or by electrified bells, varying in size and sound to represent these letters. He also proposed the important plan of insulating the wires by a coating material. These proposals formed at least the "bones" of the system matured by others many years after. Not until 1774,—twenty-one years after Morison's description of his method appeared,—was the first actual experiment publicly shown, and that by Lesage, in Geneva, but not exactly on Morison's lines. Many other attempts were afterwards made in different parts of the world, not only to convey messages by electricity, but to invent an instrument which would clearly and quickly signalise letters, if not words. Cook and Wheatstone succeeded, so far, in 1837, but not until 6th May, 1845, did they find themselves able to take out the famous patent for their single-needle instrument, which made the Electric Telegraph a practicable system. It was a start in a course of immense consequence to every class of society and especially to newspapers. This telegraphing, wherever it was installed, put an utter end to the ancient Semaphore with its fantastic limbs swirling in all directions, and to other old-world methods of signalling.

SUB-MARINE CABLES.—Other countries on both sides of the Atlantic had their earnest and thoughtful men searching out Nature's secret in this matter, and at length it was demonstrated that electric power could not only be sent by means of a wire from one place on land to another at a distance, but also under water, with the dead-weight of 2,597 fathoms or nearly 3 miles of ocean above the wires in some portions of their routes. The first cable publicly proposed was that registered by Jacob Brett in London on the 16th June, 1845, as "The General Oceanic

Telegraph Co., to form a connecting mode of communication by telegraph means from the British Islands and across the Atlantic Ocean to Nova Scotia and the Canadas, the Colonies, and Continental Kingdoms." The first that was laid and came into actual public use was that from Dover to Calais in 1851; and now up to the end of 1894 there have been 106 cables laid over different parts of the globe. These, which stretch almost everywhere over the globe, do not yet completely fulfil the promise of *Puck* to "put a girdle round about the earth in 40 minutes," for while they go round the earth from Auckland (New Zealand) *westward* to San Francisco, there is still the Pacific Ocean between these places uncrossed. Newspapers, however, can endure that blank until there are mid-ocean stations by which to send more shipping news! Meantime it takes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours to send a message so far round the globe, at a cost of 6s. 8d. a word. The greatest event in connection with practical telegraphy was the completion of the Atlantic Cable on the 5th August, 1858,—an event which linked the kindred peoples of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, putting them within five minutes' reach of each other.

The first message, after some testing and adjustment at both ends, was sent on the 17th August, 1858, by the British directors to their colleagues in America. It made the announcement of a new fact in the world's history, that Europe and America were united by telegraph, appropriately accompanied by the old Christmas message: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Including the addresses, it contained 31 words, and took 35 minutes to transmit. Thereafter congratulatory messages passed between our Queen and the President of the United States. This historical act of joining the two continents by wire initiated a great system of 15 Sub-Atlantic cables, which have become a vital factor in the commercial and social interests and in the newspaper work of the Old and New Worlds. The original company, now called the Anglo-American Telegraph Co.,



has laid 8 cables, 3 of which (except the portions fished up) lie stranded amongst the hills, valleys, and prairies below the ocean, while the remaining 5 are in full use. Of the younger companies the American Cable Co. has 2, and the Commercial Cable Co. has 3 cables. Two of these 12 living cables lie between France and America; the shortest length of the 12 from land to land is 1,846 miles, and the longest (one from France) is 2,685 miles. Detailed reference to the cables in other parts of the globe, such as those to India and the Far East, to Africa, South America, &c., would carry my paper beyond due limits; but the comprehensive statement may be added, that within 30 years 152,000 miles of submarine cables have been made in this country, and laid, largely by the Silvertown Rubber Co.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., gives the capital of the 26 operating companies which own these lines at £40,000,000; their revenue, including subsidies, at £3,204,060; their reserve and sinking funds at £3,610,000; and their dividends at from 1 to 14 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. Excepting about 8,600 miles they are all in British hands, and the great majority of the stations are in British territory. Some of these figures represent enormous outlay in the cost of the cable, their laying, maintenance, tear and wear, and the actual loss of cables,—such as those abandoned. These great expenses and losses no doubt account for the high charges at first made for the use of those in existence up to 1880, and thereby the small use made of them for newspaper and general purposes. The original rate of £20 for ten words across the Atlantic was so high as to be generally prohibitive, and only in very exceptional cases were long messages sent. The earliest paid messages were those from and to the Queen and President on the completion of the first Atlantic wires, already referred to, which brought the company £500 each. The most costly cable message was said to be one sent in 1867 by the American Government to its Ambassador in Paris, for which £2,000 was paid. The telegraph company probably found, as many monopolists do, that they

were losing more than they made by that high rate; and they reduced their price to £20 for 20 words. The scale was afterwards reduced to £5 for 10 words, and by-and-bye, in stages, to 30s. Mr. James Grant says that during the high rate the *New York Herald* paid £1,000 for one message regarding the prize-fight between Heenan, the Irish-American, and Tom Sayers, the Englishman. The public rate now is 1s. per word, to or from New York; and probably the greater use of the cable, the quicker transmission (of 18 words, averaging 5 letters each, per minute), and the duplex system, produce a larger revenue than was got during the high rates. The rate now for news—chiefly sent at night—is 5d. per word. In July, 1870, upon the sudden declaration of war which brought France and Germany into their great conflict, the cables from France, especially those in the English Channel, came at once into extensive use for newspapers and other purposes. The *Manchester Guardian*, it was said, had a message from its correspondent at the beleaguered city of Metz, which cost £400. Continental and submarine cables, however, are now habitually used by some of the London morning newspapers, which hire special wires for night service between London and the Continent. Five of these special wires are to Paris, and two are to Berlin; and they are mostly used for transmitting to London the letters of the correspondents in those cities; so that their respective newspapers are so far placed in a position equalising in time service that of the Paris and Berlin papers.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS OVER THE WORLD by cables involves, in most cases, the employment of several marine and land telegraph companies and transfers. The following statement, condensed from an article in the *Scientific American*, gives some idea of this, and of what may be called the successful “working against time” in the westward transmission of cablegrams:—“‘Early one morning, not long ago, a party of Mohammedans desecrated, in some fashion, a place of worship in Calcutta. A fight followed, and the Brahmin defenders of the temple killed six

of the Mohammedans.' This piece of news reached the offices of all the newspapers in Calcutta long before noon. At 10 o'clock a young man ran into the telegraph station with the message:— 'Press Association, London.—Mohammedans desecrated Brahmin temple here 7 morning. Fight followed. Six Mohammedans killed. All quiet now. May lead serious complications.' This brief despatch was telegraphed to Bombay, whence it was transmitted to Aden. In a few minutes later it was on its way to Suez, whence another operator immediately sent it to Malta. At this place another operator repeated the message to Lisbon. From there it had only a short stretch of sea to cover to reach Penzance, where it was telegraphed to its destination in London. Now, from the moment that the operator in Calcutta touched the key of his clicker until the message was delivered to the Press Association in London, two hours had elapsed. But although the message had been filed in Calcutta at 10 A.M. it was received in London at about 7 A.M. of the same day. It was then sent by cable to the Associated Press office in New York, and at the same time telegraphed to the offices of all the afternoon and evening papers in England and Scotland. The man in New York received the message shortly after 2 A.M. of that same day. A minute later messenger boys set out for the New York newspapers, and hand in the despatch. At the same time half a dozen telegraph operators receive copies of it, and as quickly as they can they send it over their wires. One wire runs to Chicago, where the message arrives a little after 1 o'clock. Another wire runs to Albany, another to Philadelphia and Pittsburg, another to Baltimore and Washington, and so on. And so the message flashes across the country, zig-zagging everywhere, like a bolt of lightning, so that no city may be omitted, gaining hour after hour as it strikes westward, until even before midnight it reaches all the newspapers along the Pacific slope that are members of this globe-encircling institution, informing them that at 7 o'clock of the day that has not yet dawned for them six Mohammedans were killed in

Calcutta.” If this use of electric power westward so greatly anticipates solar time, its application eastward will for the same reasons lose proportionately; in the former case the electric flash outruns the sunlight, and in the latter case it runs to meet it in its path. This disturbance of our ordinary ways of reckoning the time sometimes results in rather amusing paradoxes, such as that the birth of the present Emperor of Germany in Berlin was announced to the Queen 53 minutes by the clock before it occurred.

THE POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHING SERVICE has grown so immensely since 1870, when the work was taken out of private hands, that now the head office in London alone has a staff consisting of 3,919 operators, messengers, &c. On some nights when Parliament is sitting there are news messages of as many as half-a-million, and even on occasion above a million, words transmitted. These inland Press messages are charged at the rate of 1s. for 75 words or under between 9 A.M. and 6 P.M., and 1s. for 100 words or under between 6 P.M. and 7 A.M. Although the Act of Parliament says that the messages shall be *transmitted* between the hours named, the Post Office people refuse to begin the transmission of night matter at 6 P.M., and will not receive “copy” previous to that hour so as to enable them to have their preliminary work done before 6 P.M., and leave themselves free to begin the actual telegraphing—which preliminary work it seems requires extra hands in any case. This delay appears to be no economy to the Department, while it prevents the sub-editors and compositors of the newspapers getting on with their work. For such messages, when sent to several papers, there is an additional charge for duplicating of 2d. (beyond the normal 1s.) for each copy. This cheap service is taken advantage of chiefly by independent newspaper touts, who offer at their own risk paragraphs and reports of a promiscuous and accidental nature, which may have escaped the attention of appointed correspondents; but the regular correspondents also, when attached to more than one paper and sending similar news to each of them, are expected to

use the 2d. additional rate. The 1s. rates are used not only for short news paragraphs, but for long reports of great events or of important speeches extending often to hundreds of lines. As it would be impossible for reporters to prepay all their long despatches, the Post Office provides guarantee order slips,—for which and for bookkeeping  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  extra is charged on the amount of the account; these guarantees are handed in by the reporter along with his copy. For all the sums incurred in this way an account is rendered each week for immediate payment by the newspapers thus employing the wires; but as Government officials never trust newspaper people, or perhaps any people, they take good care to have an ample deposit of cash in advance from the proprietors to cover all contingencies. Mr. Fisher, Controller of the Telegraph Department in London, has recently stated that, apart from general messages, there is a vast quantity of news sent frequently on Parliamentary nights, amounting to 500,000 words, and sometimes even exceeding 1,000,000 words in one night.

Mr. Preece, the Chief Engineer to the Electric Telegraph Department of the Post Office, made a statement two or three years ago regarding Press telegraphing, to the effect that in 1871 the number of words telegraphed to newspapers was 21,701,968, and that twenty years thereafter the number reached a total of 600,409,000. The greater amount of that work would no doubt be done at night, when the small general use of the wires would leave them comparatively idle. For such use of the Government telegraph service, for three special wires, for cabling, and for use through news agencies, our expenditure has year by year gone on mounting up from £600 in 1870, until now it touches £7,000 for the year.

CODE SYSTEMS for signalling sentences by words previously agreed upon became necessary for economy under high cable tariffs, and also in some cases for secrecy. Many ingenious Code books are published, and others made up for private use, most of them containing words which were never seen before and cannot



be found in dictionaries, and which are meant for the eye only and not for the tongue. The transmission by the Atlantic cables—as tested last year—gave the rate for ordinary code messages at 95½ letters per minute, and for newspaper messages the speed varied from 110 to 120 letters per minute. By a new automatic signalling method, the number of letters a minute has reached 243. All this, of course, means a remarkable increase in the speed, economy, and utility of the cables since their first use in 1858. Codes take the form of figures, as well as of words, as in the case of those used by the British Government, which are explained in the following paragraph which recently appeared in the *Herald* London correspondence :—

“The cipher is one of five figures. It is changed every year in case the key may have fallen into the hands of some one outside, but though changed annually the same five figures are always retained. These figures are manipulated in what, to an outsider, would seem to be an extraordinary manner. The fact that they have been used for over 30 years for this purpose, and that they have been found quite sufficient to convey momentous news, secretly and correctly, from one end of the earth to the other, shows that by this system a few figures, with the help of an annual instruction such as ‘drop two,’ that is, drop the second figure in each group of figures in a message, or ‘add 100,’ may be made to take the place of the 7,000 or 8,000 words in common use. The process of deciphering is very tedious. A practised hand, even when it is all plain sailing, cannot do more than 300 words in an hour, and this does not include the time which he must spend in throwing it back again into cipher to test his ‘translation.’ During the past few weeks, for the sake of speed, two clerks have got the same message to decipher, and if they both brought out the same result there was no occasion to wait while it was again being turned into the code. Not infrequently the groups of figures get a little disarranged in the course of transmission. Sometimes the context will help the decipherer

out ; sometimes it won't. If the source is a long way off, and the intelligence not of great importance, a couple of clerks are put at it to try to make sense out of it. As much as six hours has been spent this way on one message. If they are not successful a repetition of the groups which have been mixed is called for, while in the case of urgent messages a repetition is requested the moment it is found that the figures are disordered. The India, Colonial, War, and Admiralty Offices have their own ciphers."

STOCK EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS and enquiries make perhaps the most difficult telegraph work, in view of the importance of having every name and fraction correct. In the case of the *Glasgow Herald*, as in several of the leading newspapers at a distance from London, the work of telegraphing the London Share transactions, British and Foreign Funds, &c., &c., is greatly simplified, and almost absolute correctness secured, by the code devised by us after much consideration. It contains 3,411 code-signs, each of which represents a different Stock ; but such news varies so much that no code could embrace it all, so that many transactions in the Share market and all the other markets of the world, have to be cabled or telegraphed by name and description in full. Stock Exchanges themselves are very valuable customers to the Post Office for telegraphing hither and thither during the day-time. Mr. R. Belfort has recently given some lively descriptions of cable work in the *Windsor Magazine*, and there makes the following allusions to the New York Stock Exchange and telegraphing, which may partly apply to other places:—"When the Stock Exchange is agitated the short 'Stocks' pour in by hundreds, the offices in New York and London are besieged by excited brokers. Prices rise and fall with startling incoherency : the cables literally hum with frantic orders to buy, sell, cancel, and quote. Some firms exchange a hundred and fifty messages on these occasions. Very curious is this battle of the bulls and bears, waged through a copper 'string' buried beneath the waves, the two armies being three thousand miles apart. The

clerks, becoming as excited as the brokers, work with extraordinary precision and rapidity. Before five o'clock this 'Stock' work ceases." Most of these transactions are reported in the papers. The cessation of general telegraphing about that time leaves the wires free for the night messages of newspapers of each continent.

SPECIAL WIRES originated, in a way, with the old telegraph companies, which, by their Intelligence Departments at first, collected and transmitted news. This supply was relied upon almost exclusively until a new feature began upon a small scale in 1866, by a few newspapers having "Special Telegrams" to supplement the other telegraph matter. After the telegraph system of the whole country was taken over by Government, newspapers had to rely upon the Press Association and other News Agencies for the greater part of their general news and for Reuter's foreign matter, while the "Special Telegram" feature expanded so much that it led to the hiring of Special Wires from the Post Office. Scotland, in 1872, led the way in this feature of daily newspaper work,—perhaps partly because its papers could not receive by railway printed and written matter as soon as places nearer metropolitan sources. The newspapers of the United Kingdom which have now Special Wires are the following:—The Glasgow Herald has three, the Scotsman has two, the N.B. Daily Mail has two, and each of the following has one: Aberdeen Free Press, Belfast News-Letter, Bradford Observer; the Dublin papers, Express, Independent, Irish Times, and Freeman's Journal; the Dundee Advertiser, Leeds Mercury, Liverpool Courier; the Newcastle papers, Chronicle, Journal, and Leader; Plymouth Western News, and Sheffield Telegraph,—the Manchester Guardian has both a special and a duplex wire, and the Manchester Courier and the Yorkshire Post have each a duplex wire, making in all twenty-three special wires and three duplex wires. The duplex allows two messages to be sent at the same time, one in each direction.

Great storms sometimes upset the arrangements of the sub-editors in London who have the duty of feeding the Special

Wires with copy. If the effect of the storm on the wires is partial they have to select the most important and urgent news for transmission; but when it has happened that all the special wires are disabled for service, they turn to the General Post Office as a last resource, in the hope that some there may give help in the emergency. On one occasion, however, when the late Mr. James Walker was on duty, all the public and private wires between London and Scotland were, by a storm, made hopelessly unserviceable. Mr. Walker was one of the most able and experienced of the London sub-editors, and had charge of the *Herald* work since 1871, till his lamented death in June, 1892. On that stormy night his intelligence and ready capacity in dealing with difficulties, which if he could not get over he tunnelled under, was manifested, for when he found himself shut off from the use of land wire connection, he bethought himself of the possibility of getting access to Glasgow by the roundabout way of submarine wires, and on this he immediately handed in a considerable quantity of copy, which was accordingly sent from London to Glasgow *via Copenhagen*, and appeared in the *Herald* next day (as the *Journalist*, when referring to this point in Mr. Walker's life, said), to the great astonishment of other Scottish journals, which were left altogether without intelligence from the British capital.

Such all-alive attention reminds me of a contrary case which occurred some years ago. At a neighbouring branch office in London, which had a Special wire to Glasgow, it happened that the sub-editor, after supplying the operator with ample copy to keep him telegraphing for some time, left his office, but forgot the key of the door. Upon his return he endeavoured to get entry, but no knocking at the door, or other expression of his feelings, could awaken the telegraph clerk, who had fallen fast asleep over his weary work. The sub-editor was desperate, for he knew that probably much time and non-transmitted matter were lost for that night; but at length it was suggested to send a

message by the General P.O. wires to his employers in Glasgow, to start the Special wire from that end so as to rouse the deep sleeper at the London end. This roundabout method, with the extra energy put into the click, clicking of the instrument, fortunately proved effectual.

TRANSMISSION OF NEWS—APART FROM SPECIAL WIRES—is fully described by Mr. W. G. Fitzgerald, in an interesting article on “Our News Supply” in the *Strand Magazine*. The following is an extract:—“Practically the whole of the provincial work of the great London News Agencies is done through the Post Office, where there is a special department for it. Under usual conditions, the number of telegraphists on duty in the news division in London varies from 14 between 8 and 9 o’clock in the morning, to about 140 between 6 and 8 o’clock in the evening, when the bulk of the newspaper work is dealt with. There are 23 news circuits, and by an elaborate system of classification a vast number of messages are despatched with surprisingly little trouble, the rate of speed varying from 300 to 450 words per minute. At each circuit in the news division there is a Wheatstone Automatic Transmitter, through which paper ribbon, prepared by pneumatic perforating instruments, is passed by clockwork. There are 55 perforating instruments, each capable of punching 8 ribbons simultaneously. Each of these eight ribbons can be run through several automatic transmitters; and in this way, one slip passing successively through four transmitters, might supply 16 provincial newspaper offices with the same message in two minutes. On occasions of exceptional pressure, the punching staff is largely augmented by other telegraphists; and about 515 ribbons are sometimes prepared simultaneously.

“The tape machines of the Exchange Telegraph Co. have clockwork mechanism, but their type wheels are rotated by electricity, and controlled by the transmitting apparatus. They print at the rate of from 35 to 40 words per minute, and some of them print about 4,000,000 words without needing repair. Perhaps the most



astonishing thing about this system is that any number of tape machines can be operated from a single transmitter, even though these machines be scattered all over the metropolis."

THE TELEGRAPHING DEPARTMENT AND THE NEWSPAPERS.—Repeated grumbles have been heard of the "loss" sustained by the Post Office owing to the "cheap" terms for Press messages. But they are very much the mutterings of ignorance or bad memory, for the complainers overlook the bad bargain the Government officials made with the Electric Telegraph Co. and the Magnetic Telegraph Co., in buying them up at a cost of 11 millions sterling; and then the unfairness of their demand that the Press should help them to make up the deficiency by paying high terms. I well remember, when the transaction was under consideration, forming one of a deputation to meet Mr. Scudamore, the official representing the Post Office, to whom I put the question if the Newspaper Press would under the Government be as well served and upon as good terms as by the companies. His answer was: "Certainly you will, and I expect on much better terms." And upon that basis the terms were arranged. This is confirmed by the following extract from the Annual Report for 1894 of the Newspaper Society, which took up this question exhaustively, and pointed out that "it is an undeniable fact that, in the important matter of quick transmission, the newspapers are at the present day no better off than they were under the old Electric Companies. In this state of things your Committee deem it advisable—as an instance of the pledges which from time to time have been received from the Government—to place in evidence the following communication, which was addressed to the President of the Society by the then Secretary to the Post Office, shortly before the taking over of the telegraphs by the State:—

"General Post Office, London, February 20th, 1868.—Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 17th inst., I beg leave to inform you that in the event of Parliament giving its assent to the Bill about to be introduced, for transferring to the Post Office the contract

and management of the electric telegraphs throughout the United Kingdom, it is the intention of this Department to make arrangements for the transmission of intelligence for the Press which, if not identical with those at present in force, shall be at least satisfactory to the proprietors of newspapers.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,—FRANK IVES SCUDAMORE.’”

An important element in the case is that much the greatest use of the wires by newspapers is during that portion of the 24 hours of the day when they are least occupied, or not occupied at all, by higher-priced telegrams. Manufacturers, engineers, &c., generally look upon the use of their machines in such circumstances as making “found money.” As the object of the establishing of the Post Office was the public service, and not the addition of millions to the Exchequer, it is interesting to see how the more needy but less money-making Government at Rome does. Mr. Whorlow, in the monthly statement of the Newspaper Society, gives the following from a good Italian authority :—

“The Italian Postmaster decided, in October, 1894, to join by telegraph wire with the Central Post Office each newspaper that wished to be so joined. The wire is, in each instance, a direct communication from the newspaper office to the Central Post Office of the town in which the paper is printed, and every local post office has a direct wire to the telegraph office in the Italian Parliament in Rome. Many papers applied for the concession. There is, therefore, now only one staff of reporters in the Italian Chamber, which sends direct reports to all the newspapers simultaneously. Nothing had to be paid for the instalment, and everything was provided free by the chief of the Post Office, including the telegraph instruments. The new arrangement did not cause any extra expenditure to the Government, which was already under an obligation to provide the Stefani Agency with the reports, that agency in its turn forwarding the service to the newspapers. Now, however, the telegrams go direct to the newspapers without the intervention of the Stefani Agency. The

official shorthand report is handed in to the Telegraph Office in the Chamber, and, with a single transmission, is delivered to each paper."

THE PNEUMATIC TRANSMISSION of telegraph copy from the General Post Offices to a few newspaper offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, and perhaps one or two other cities, is an important addition to the means of quickened delivery. The installation involves an engine and pump, and four containers or closed cylinders, into two of which compressed air is forced in order to propel the carriers, while the other two are used for exhaust purposes in order to draw the carriers. Into these (short leather tubes open at one end) is placed the "flimsy" or other paper upon which the telegraph messages are written. They run swiftly in leaden tubes within cast-metal pipes, which are laid below the street between the General Post Office and the newspaper office. The tube ends in a box placed at the side of the telegraph operator in the Post Office, by whom the flimsy is sent to the sub-editor at the other end,—whence the empty carriers are returned. This installation, which was finished in 1887, cost us fully £1,200, and requires the day and night expenses of steam power, wages of attendants, and even the supply of carriers. The result to us, where every moment is precious, is to secure delivery of the telegraph copy in about 65 seconds, instead of our being dependent upon the uncertain time of boy-messengers. The result to the Post Office is a saving of stationery and of a penny to the messengers for each delivery to the newspaper office during the day and night, which cannot amount to less than from £160 to £170 per annum; and yet such newspapers are called upon to pay to the Post Office £8 10s. per annum for signalling each despatch placed in the pneumatic tube-box, which message, as in all other cases, they are bound to deliver!

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Some of my references to these subjects may be considered outside the province of Newspaper Life; but (as I said at the beginning)

kindred material cannot well be left out regarding the means of Newspaper development, which the Electric Telegraph is to the Editorial Department, and the Railway system to the Publishing Department, which follows.

A few exceptional Feats in Telegraphing for Newspapers are reserved for what I may add in connection with the *Evening Times*, as such cases are mostly associated with evening papers in the public mind.

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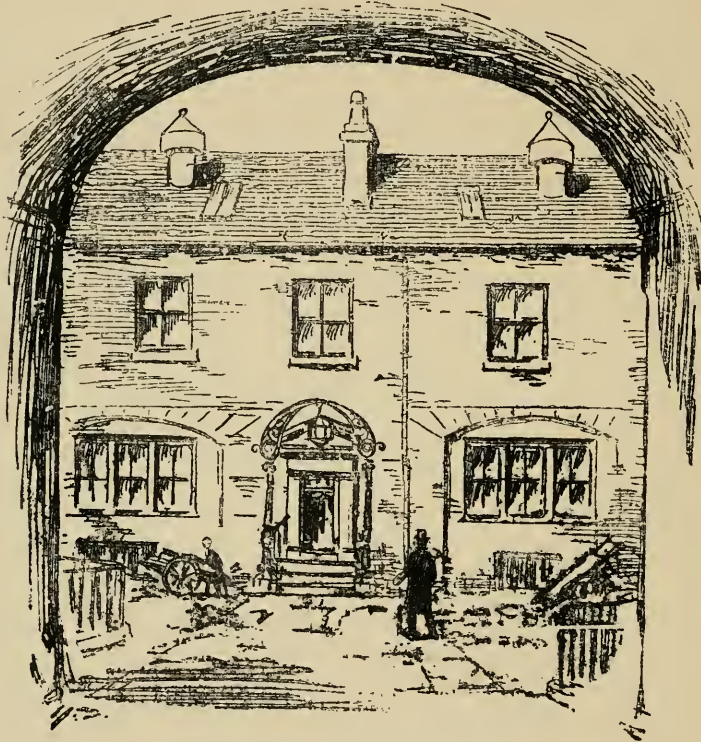
### THE PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

**W**HAT is now called the Publishing Department of a Daily newspaper embraces most of what has been already referred to under the heads of Advertisements and the Advertisement Tax, the Stamp Duty on Newspapers, and the Paper Duty and Paper. These were dealt with first, as it seemed to me better to have done with the taxes and the fettered condition of things of earlier days before referring to some of the remarkable developments which newspapers have undergone since Parliament removed these obstacles. There is consequently less to say now regarding the Publishing Department.

The whole *Herald* business in 1845 was situated in the quiet Court at 182 Trongate,—then the busiest street in Glasgow. That building, and the fine block fronting the Trongate, were built by and named after Mr. James Spreul, a City Chamberlain of Glasgow in the early part of this century. In the autumn of that year—about the close of my sixteenth year—I received a note requesting me to call at the *Herald* Office there, regarding an advertisement headed “Boy Wanted” to which I had replied. A very few minutes’ interview with Mr. Alexander Waters, the managing partner, ended in the formation of my long connection with the *Herald*. The counting-house, where my duties lay, was then on the right hand of the entrance, shown in the sketch.



The growth of the paper since that time,—the change from the issue twice a week to the issue three times a week, and then to its daily publication,—its repeated expansions by increase of advertisements and news, and the frequent additions of premises, men,



The HERALD OFFICE in 1845.

and machinery to produce it, can be more easily realised now, upon looking backward over the half-century, than it could be by those taking part from time to time in the actual changes. Perhaps I may be excused for saying that my personal experience in relation to the business during that time is of a somewhat



parallel nature, for while I began as Junior Clerk I *grew*—as it were—unconsciously into the several positions occupied by me, without my aiming at any of them. The Cashiership, for instance, fell into my hands because of my early attempts to avoid loss and confusion by having all the payments received *entered systematically* and at once, instead of trusting to an antiquated practice—which seemed to be a remnant of an old cashier's habit of keeping all the money in his trousers' pockets. The work of paying, as well as of receiving the cash brought me into touch with all the employees, and led me still more to look after matters which would otherwise have taken their chance of being left unattended to. And it was only after a time, on the occasion of a small social meeting of the clerks, that I was unexpectedly made to realise my more responsible position by its being openly referred to. I count myself exceptionally fortunate in having been so free, both before and since that date, from serious difficulties with any of the employees, whether older or younger than myself; and of having now such a body of able and willing workers in their respective positions, who are at the same time entirely loyal and contented.

**SUBSCRIBERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF PAPERS.**—The chief duties which fell to my lot as Junior Clerk (work previously done by a senior, as hitherto there had been no junior) were to write and prepare the addressed wrappers of newspapers sent to subscribers, numbering nearly a half of the total issue of about 4,000 copies. Not long after, I had also to take occasional charge of the midnight and early morning work of despatching the papers by post and coach, and to give them out in large portions to elderly men called runners, for delivery to city and suburban subscribers. For although the 1d. stamp upon every copy printed covered the postage outside of Glasgow, it did not cover postal delivery *in the town* where the paper was published. These runners earned a welcome quarterly sum on each paper, which helped to eke out the small Waterloo pension and other limited means which

some of them had. At a later hour a very few booksellers—less than a dozen—got their small supplies, altogether about 210 copies, and lent some of them out at a penny an hour, and sold them to small clusters of customers who read them by rotation; while two veterans, who would have been indignant had they been called hawkers, sold outside. One of the two was an old done cabman, who sold the paper at the station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway in Queen Street, which was then the only passenger railway station of any consequence in Glasgow. The other man, who was a decent church beadle, supplied steamboat passengers at the quay of the Broomielaw Harbour.

All that small, slow, and primitive style of business was evidently about to change in view of the shadow of the coming event of 1855, when the 1d. stamp was abolished. The papers of the petted Isle of Man and the Channel Islands did not need to wait for that change, for they had always enjoyed a happy freedom from the tax, and, I think, even from postage charges. But throughout the “adjacent” islands of Great Britain and Ireland the change came almost as by a bound; and within a few years after, when weekly and bi-weekly papers became daily, and the people were becoming familiarised to them, the demand grew more and more until news-agents gradually overspread town and country, who received parcels of unstamped papers, and were therefore enabled to supply customers at a penny less than if the papers had been posted. This new method, as may be understood, seriously lessened the subscribers’ lists of all newspapers in country towns where parcels were received, and even in cities, although to a lesser extent. But in view of the whole circumstances, we at an early period voluntarily gave up to news-agents, in Glasgow and its surroundings, the lists of subscribers in their respective districts. The number of subscribers, however, is now more than made up by those who cannot get their unstamped *Herald* in out-of-the-way towns and districts, especially in the Highlands and Islands, as well as in England, Ireland, the Colonies, the Continent,

&c. In America newspapers are, to a large extent, subscribed for, chiefly by readers of weekly papers. Some of the subscribers there seem to be more deaf to appeals for payment than those on this side generally, if they are to be judged from the following epigram by an editor-publisher on such creatures, and on those who sent him unpaid posted letters:—

“ And if you take a great tooth comb,  
And rake down all creation,  
You cannot find a meaner thing  
In this 'ere mighty nation.”

Instead of the two old outside salesmen referred to, and besides the numerous news-agents who afterwards undertook the sale of unstamped papers, there started up in all directions street hawkers, who intercepted almost every passer-by and visited every likely house to get casual or regular customers. This house-to-house visitation, by the way, seriously interfered with the sales and profits of those who had shop rents, taxes, &c., to face, while the “Street Arab” secured the cream of the sales—especially when the news excited extra attention—and escaped scot-free. In this way many of the honest poor earn a fair living, but many others of the vagabond sort of lads and girls are in great danger of going from bad to worse. It was probably some one who had suffered by the street hawkers that, in May, 1857, asked the Board of Trade to enforce the Hawkers’ Act, and got the answer that a person carrying newspapers from house to house would require a license, but that the Act does not apply to sales on the street. The streets thereby now form the biggest newspaper shop in the world.

Besides these regular and irregular trade sales, the publishers of the daily papers entered into keen competition to meet the demand awaiting the earliest arrivals of supplies on the part of the numerous families from Glasgow and other inland towns who largely flock to the beautiful shores on the Firth of Clyde during summer and autumn. That competition took the form of racing

by steamers on the river to Greenock, and to the various watering places as far as Rothesay. That foolish competition—which at the time meant great excitement and expense to those involved in it, and fun to those who got their papers several hours earlier than by the ordinary steamers—gave place to the use of the railway to Greenock, and a joint-steamer from there. The question naturally occurred to the coast-going people, and to the regular residents there—if private effort could supply newspapers so early, why should not the great Government Department in charge of the Post Office show as much enterprise by having an early morning delivery of letters, instead of making a mid-day delivery the first? The agitation at length prompted the Post-Office to go the length of asking the *Daily Mail* proprietors and us to share the use and expense of the joint newspaper steamer during the summer season. The people “doon the watter” have now, however, the privilege of a delivery of letters and papers all the year round earlier than formerly.

THE PRODUCTION OF THE HERALD NOW.—The rotation of work which precedes the publication of the paper, and which brings every one concerned to the highest pitch of effort, may be summarised as follows:—After the editorial and advertisement copy is completed, especially when the last lot of news or leader copy is received by the head-foreman compositor at 1.15 A.M., he immediately cuts it up into small portions called “takes,” for his men to lift in the order of their coming, that they may set up the matter for the latest news pages with the greatest possible expedition,—a process which thoroughly tests each man’s capacity and his will to show it. While that is being done, the makers-up of the type pages go on under the foreman’s instructions to complete each page so far as its contents are ready, until the whole series of 12, or on some occasions 16, pages are one by one up to the last transferred to the stereotyping foundry at 1.55 A.M. Under the stereo foreman and his men, counterparts of the letterpress pages are taken on paper matrices, from which *fac similes* of the

original pages are produced in literally hot haste, so as to have the completing stereo page in the printing machine rooms by 2.8 A.M. In three minutes after, the first 100 perfect *Heralds* reach the despatch room, and the actual issue of the *First Edition* papers begins. Immediately following comes a crowding rush of mechanically counted scores of papers, and the piles are carried in close march upon continuous lifts to the despatch room, where they are at once seized by nimble hands, packed, addressed to the various news-agents, and bundled off by vans, so as to catch the earliest newspaper train at 2.30 A.M. for Edinburgh. From there the Forth Bridge Express drops separate parcels for Dundee and other towns on the way to Aberdeen, being due there at 6.25 A.M.; thence the parcels go by the Great North of Scotland Railway to Ballater, and round by the north-east towns to Elgin, &c. The north-centre of Scotland is also supplied much earlier than formerly by the parcels received at Perth at 4.44 A.M. by the Caledonian train, and transferred to the Highland Co.'s train, which drops parcels *en route* to Inverness, where it is due in the season at 9.15 A.M., and in winter at 11.5 A.M.

The *Second Edition*, with corrections and later news than the first, requires to be ready for despatch by 3.40 A.M., early train, taking heavy parcels for Kilmarnock and for various towns along the line to Dumfries, Carlisle, Newcastle-on-Tyne, &c.; while another special engine and van hired at £600 per annum from the North British Railway Company, start from Glasgow to Edinburgh at 4.15 A.M., covering the intervening towns, &c., *en route*, to Edinburgh, and connecting with the early trains for the towns in the south-eastern counties, on to Berwick-on-Tweed. Besides sending these important supplies at that time, we despatch by four other trains starting at the same hour, all carrying numerous and large parcels coastwards and inland. The despatch of these editions so early enables us to supply the growing demand in all the eastern counties of Scotland, from the Moray Firth to the English border, by breakfast time, as in also most of the inland and



western districts where the *Third* Edition cannot reach in time. We feared at first that the very early issue would suffer in its news, but were relieved to find instead that by the readjustment of the sources of the news and other measures that serious difficulty was overcome, while at the same time it made a longer interval for producing the greater quantities of the later editions not only for Edinburgh and the east counties, but for Glasgow itself, and wherever the earliest *ordinary* trains sufficed for other parts of Scotland and England.

All that work means the transformation by machinery of many webs of white paper, each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, into newspapers printed on both sides, cut into sheets, folded, counted singly and in scores, &c., delivered and ready for despatch. The previous stages in the production of each day's paper (referred to in connection with the First Edition) absolutely depend upon each other by even moments, so that if between them delay takes place the serious result may be the missing of the (£1,000) newspaper train, and the sudden change of heaps of newly printed papers into waste paper, while their intended and expectant readers are disappointed.

CUSTOMERS for the papers formed out of all these  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mile-long webs, must first be secured by the value of the contents, and the number of the readers must not only be great, but also the circulation must be of such a quality as to draw advertisers from all classes. Readers and advertisers, in other words, are necessary to each other, and no newspaper can succeed without both,—just as in general no class of a community can be really independent of the other.

As those in the Publishing Department have to deal with both these customers, and as they are very numerous and very varied in their several wants, temperaments, and conditions, it is not a simple or easy thing to avoid friction in some cases,—especially as we are commonly regarded by the public as receiving favours, and not as bestowing them, like editors. In our office, however, we have, as far back as I can remember, acted upon the plan of

having a printed scale of advertisement rates open to all, by which the clerks are guided, so as to act without respect of persons. Perhaps I should rather say here—*with* respect to *every* person, however humble, and with firmness when it may be necessary. A see-saw mode of dealing, by giving way to exactors, produces distrust, is unjust to the straightforward customer, and is generally damaging to any business persisting in it.

The ADVERTISEMENT RATES of the *Herald* were, I find by marked copies of the *Herald* in the files, at the beginning of the century from 5s. 6d. for the smallest notice ; and later on, till the repeal of the 1s. 6d. duty in 1853, the minimum was 4s. 6d., after which it was 2s. for 3 lines. A few years later our scale was readjusted upon the principle of rating the different classes of advertisements, as fairly as we could judge, according to whether and how far they represented realised wealth, or were published with the object of making a living,—so that now, according to our present scale, while the highest credit rate is charged for prospectuses, &c., of public companies, by which the wealthy are trying to add to their wealth, the lowest applies to business cards of tradesmen, &c. Almost all newspapers now have discriminating rates, but none of them can discriminate so exactly as to be free of occasional anomalies ; the important requisite, therefore, is to apply each rate uniformly to all the announcements in the class to which they belong. The *Herald* was one of the earliest, if not the earliest, to give discount proportioned to the number and frequency of the repeated insertions ordered, and that up to an attractive maximum. The scale for rates per line, and of discounts now ruling, are as follow :—

ADVERTISEMENT RATES  
OF  
**The Glasgow Herald.**  
(The Largest and Leading Advertising Medium out of London.)

Measured  
by Space  
as Under:

Fractions of 6d count as 6d.

— 1 —	Business Cards, Shipping, Trains, Coaches, Hotels,	} 7d per Line.
— 2 —	Hydros., Auctions, Books, Education, Premises to	
— 3 —	Let, Specific Articles, Wanted (minimum 2s),	
— 4 —	Double Column 1s 6d per line.	
— 5 —	Selected Positions 1s 6d; Double Column - - -	4s 6d ,,
— 6 —	Dress Cards—Front Page 1s; Double Column - - -	3s ,,
— 7 —	Banks, Insurances, Farms, Shootings and Fishings, To	} 8d ,,
— 8 —	Let or Wanted (minimum 3s), - - -	
— 9 —	Double Column 2s per line.	
— 10 —	Public Notices, Land and House Property for Public	} 9d ,,
— 11 —	or Private Sale or Wanted, Ground Annuals,	
— 12 —	Minerals, Money, Investments, Shares Wanted or	
— 13 —	for Sale, Contracts, etc. (minimum 3s 6d), - - -	
— 14 —	Double Column 2s 6d per line.	
— 15 —	Entertainments & Fine Arts, 1s per line up to 40 lines,	} 1s 6d ,,
— 16 —	thereafter - - -	
— 17 —	Election and Municipal Notices, Exhibitions, Para-	} 1s ,,
— 18 —	graphs (minimum 4s), - - -	
— 19 —	Double Column 3s per line.	
— 20 —	Prospectuses and Notices of Joint-Stock Co.s, Govern-	} 1s ,,
— 21 —	ment Notices, etc. (First Insertion 1s 1d per line),	
— 22 —	thereafter - - -	
— 23 —	Double Col. 3s 3d first insertion, then 3s.	
— 24 —	Leader Page, - - -	2s ,,
— 25 —	Two Line Capital Letter or Figure beyond the first, -	1s each.
— 26 —	Title Corners of 20 Lines, - - -	60s ,,
— 27 —	Special or Intricate Setting, 20 per cent. extra.	
— 28 —	Birth and Death Notices, 25 Words and under, -	3s ,,
— 29 —	Marriage Notices, 40 Words and under, -	4s 6d ,,
— 30 —	For each 5 (or fewer) Words additional, 6d.	

DISCOUNT RATES FOR REPEATED BUSINESS CARDS (IF PREPAID).

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS, -	6	12	24	36	50
Daily, - - -	10 %	12½ %	20 %	33½ %	45 %
Dates in Advertisers' option :—					
Once or twice per week, -	2½ ,,	5 ,,	7½ ,,	10 ,,	15 ,,
3, 4, or 5 times per week, -	5 ,,	7½ ,,	10 ,,	15 ,,	20 ,,
Dates in Publishers' option :—					
Once or twice per week, -	7½ ,,	10 ,,	15 ,,	20 ,,	25 ,,
3, 4, or 5 times per week, -	10 ,,	12½ ,,	20 ,,	25 ,,	33½ ,,

The following—alluded to under the heading of “Advertisements, &c.,” page 9—refers to the

## CHEAP PREPAID RATE

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS REGARDING

Lost—Found.  
Partnerships and Agencies.  
Situations Vacant and Wanted.  
Teachers, Governesses, &c.  
Board, Lodgings, &c.  
Wanted—Miscellaneous.  
Houses, Shops, &c., Wanted.  
Houses, Shops, &c., To Let.

Businesses for Sale and Wanted.  
Articles Private Sale and Wanted.  
Engineering Material.  
Live Stock Wanted or Sale.  
Vehicles Wanted or Sale.  
Money Wanted.  
Education.  
Hotels or Hydropathics.

NUMBER OF WORDS—Not exceeding	12	16	20	24	28
<i>Daily Herald</i> , once.....	1/6	1/9	1/	1/3	1/6 *
<i>Herald</i> , 4 days consecutively .....	1/6	2/3	3/	3/9	4/6
<i>Herald &amp; E. Times</i> ,, .....	2/6	3/3	4/6	5/9	6/9

\* Each 8 or fewer words above 28, 6d. per insertion.

These rates apply also to the *Weekly Herald*.

The reductions apply *only* to Advertisements of the classes named above. *If not prepaid, the ordinary credit rate, beginning at 2s., is charged.*

In acting upon these terms we have very few difficulties, and these arising with regular advertisers are easily settled, either by appeal to the scale or by giving them the benefit of a doubt when it really exists. But new-comers, especially from a distance, who try to supersede ours by a rate of their own preference, soon find that we strictly adhere to what a multitude of our old friends have shown they profit by. Off *bona-fide* charity advertisements we allow from 15 to 20 per cent. beyond that given in other cases; while contributions to the Infirmarys are acknowledged in the news columns without charge.

COMPLAINTS.—One of the most common little troubles newspaper publishers have is that of complaints of typographical or other errors, and the trouble is chiefly in fishing up the special scraps of writing in question out of a large and promiscuous heap of advertisement copy. Of course, we are not always right; but, on the other hand, it is a common experience to find that

most of the errors arise from careless or otherwise bad manuscript. An example of this occurred on one occasion at a New-Year holiday time, when I happened to be at the counter :—A “gentleman” called to complain of a blunder in his small advertisement, and expressed his belief that our men must have been indulging too deeply at such a time to see what they were doing. I bore this till his manuscript was examined, and showing it to him, he could not avoid being self-convicted of the blunder ; as he made no apology, however, it seemed to me fair revenge to ask him whether he now applied his gross charge to the writer himself, or to the compositor who followed the MS. He left silenced and more sober-like. We have occasional visits from cranks, &c., who somehow believe that newspaper offices are the sources of all information and every secret thing, such as where great unclaimed fortunes lie.

NOTICES OF BIRTHS, &c.—In my early years, and for an indefinite period before them, it was the custom to make no formal charge for Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, but for each a shilling was asked for the compositors’ box. This amounted to a goodly sum over the year. It was, however, handed to the men in dribblets, and no doubt in many cases disappeared in the dribbling. By-and-bye, when expenditure upon the paper increased, a regular charge was made for these as for other advertisements. Considerable interest in these notices has always been taken by readers, and that chiefly according to their sex and age,—young people, especially ladies, being interested in the first two, and those beyond mid-life looking for the names in the last-named list to see how the thinning-out of their old friends is going on. It is rather curious to us that in many American papers there are no announcements of Births ; they, however, make up for that so far by giving Engagements, or, as they are called, “Matrimonial Alliances.” Kindred to our lists of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, there are now, however, also headings found necessary to provide often for Notices of Silver and Golden



Weddings, and habitually for "In Memoriam," and "Acknowledgments" of expressions of sympathy.

CONTENTS BILLS or PLACARDS are now a universal feature of daily and weekly newspapers; for while publishers themselves live principally on advertisements from others, they cannot disregard the use of advertising their own goods in other directions. Fifty years ago there was almost no such practice in this country; but the war with Russia in 1854-55 (a new experience to that generation of our countrymen) became a source of very exciting news, and the eagerness for the news led to the announcement of the main items for the day by placards. This was the practical origin of the Contents Bill. Soon all the newspapers in Glasgow issued them except the *Herald*, so that the joke went that some of their readers sent in orders to "Stop my paper and send me instead a quarter's (three months) worth of contents bills." Some time after our daily issue began in 1859, I had a talk on the subject with the general manager of our chief competitor at that time, in which I told him that unless he ceased the issue of these bills we would begin them, and would be at least on their level as regarded both the advantage and the expense. He at length agreed to drop them; but the sale of his paper fell so much in their absence that the bills were resumed in less than a month. By-and-bye we got a suitable bill printing machine and type, and from that time we have continued to issue them. Until a few years ago, the *Times* was the only morning paper in the United Kingdom which did not supply bills, but now it follows the practice of all other newspapers in seeking to catch the eye of the man in the street by this means. Even Contents Bills require to be edited by someone, else occasionally strange conjunctions of lines appear, such as, "Row in a Presbytery" "A Man Kicked to Death."

THE PROTECTION OF NEWSPAPER READERS is a duty on the part of every publisher, but it is one sometimes difficult to perform. Under the sub-head of Editing of Advertisements, I referred to several which reveal their character by the perusal and con-

sideration of them; but there are other advertisements whose objectionable character can only be learned from those who have suffered by them, or from some other source of information. Since the references at page 10 to the former and less disguised cases were printed, we have had a new experience of those which had all the appearance of fair business offers in the shape of Money to Lend Advertisements. They were even more seductive and easy in the offers made than those of an undoubted *bona-fide* nature under the same heading; but to a certain class of readers they were all the more dangerous, as it turned out, for instead of easy borrowing and low interest some of them publicly confessed that they had suffered cruelly, and some had to court bankruptcy as the best way to settle matters. It turned out that these advertisements, some five or six of them with different names and addresses, had all the same origin, but the name of the author did not appear on one of them. When we had sufficient evidence of the character of these advertisements (for which £389 was paid during the previous 12 months) we stopped them; but the party who had so *much interest* in them was bold enough to make equally tempting offers to have them resumed, but we had now no hesitation in declining them.

Within a few days after writing about these money lending cases, a circular letter, in gold, blue, and pink colours, to "Sir or Madam," reached my house address, as similar circulars, no doubt, reached thousands elsewhere. It contains lavish promises, and boasts of cash advances to noblemen down to all classes. But it is another attempt of the same person, under another *alias*, and by a new method, to reach the thoughtless, seeing that the newspaper door is shut against him.

It is a most regrettable thing that so many people are so credulous, and do not guard themselves by proper enquiry before committing themselves to persons of whom they know nothing. It is impossible for newspapers to know the character and mode of business of all their advertisers.

## RAILWAYS AND NEWSPAPERS.

THE great associates of Newspaper expansion during the last half century, were, as already said, the Electric Telegraph and the Railway systems, of which neither can well do without the other, so that we might almost fairly regard them twin-born as to time, or even count them and the newspaper together as triplets. After about twenty years of comparatively mild experimenting and slow growth in the use of railways, the public seemed to come rather suddenly to the conclusion that they had a great and profit-making future at hand.

THE RAILWAY MANIA YEAR.—This impression became so deep and general that it reached the crisis, in 1845, of what was with much truth called the railway mania year. It is well known that the first British railway opened was that between Darlington and Stockton in 1825. It was worked partly by horse power and partly by primitive locomotives, which rather crawled than ran, compared with the present engines, and which were yet fast enough to alarm simple-minded folk. The faith in them, however, rose in twenty years thereafter to flood mark, and so controlled the imagination, and in some cases the conscience, that reckless speculations in possible and impossible projects resulted in the notorious mania and its calamities. It may have been that this spirit was excited by the passing of an Act of Parliament the previous year, by which Government was empowered to purchase all the railway lines of the United Kingdom which should be authorised during the following twenty-one years, at a sum equal to twenty-five times the average profits of the previous three years. The prospectuses of the companies advertised during the mania were frequently of such an impracticable character, and the designations of some of their promoters so grandiose, that there was given to the late Professor Ayton a rare opportunity for producing a caricature, which in its way may still be considered a classic. It was first published in *Blackwood's Magazine* under the title of "How we got up the Glen Mutchkin Railway,

and how we got out of it." The story hit the mark, or rather marks, so exactly by the descriptions of such men and their ways, that many of those promoters were enabled by Ayton's "giftie" to see themselves as others saw them. In the autumn of that year the *Herald* published the unprecedented number of twenty-five prospectuses of new companies, almost all of railways, and in November we had a similar number of Parliamentary notices. They were not however all mere *specs*, for some were of the most beneficent kind, such as a prospectus for the supply of water from Loch Katrine, and another from what is now called the Gorbals Gravitation Water Works. The latter scheme was carried successfully through Parliament, and now yields fully 4,000,000 gallons per day to Glasgow and other places. The Loch Katrine scheme was postponed then, but greatly matured and extended by the Act for it, which was carried in 1855, for which Glasgow must be ever thankful to the brave hearts who fought for it against all kinds of opposition. By these sources the Glasgow Corporation supplies about 46 million gallons of the best water daily, and by extensions of Loch Katrine, &c., its two aqueducts and reservoirs, can increase the daily quantity to 110 millions. Many of the prospectuses and notices, but especially the former, were expanded to a most lavish extent, so as more effectually to catch the eye of those who had more money than brains to spend. On an evening in October when we were working to a finish at the advertisements sent in for the following day's *Herald*, a lawyer's clerk rushed in "at railway speed" with a newly hatched prospectus, and met me as I was taking the latest copy to the printers. I told him he was too late; but he knew the master he was serving, and therefore pressed a good "extra" beyond the regular price. I could only tell him that "extras" of any sum would not secure its insertion, as it was only a question of possibility. In view of the boundless promises made in some of the prospectuses, a case which happened in our experience a few

years ago would have been very appropriate in these pre-telegraphing days. One of the telegraph clerks in our London Office, who was fond of an electric chat and jest with his brother wire-operator in our Glasgow office, when transmitting particulars of a company prospectus one night was so struck with its bouncing statements that he interjected immediately after them the remark, "all hum-bug." As the sense of the words escaped the notice of the Glasgow telegraphist, the compositor, and even the corrector of the press, they were actually printed next morning in the paper as part of the prospectus itself! Both telegraph clerks for some time trembled under the fear that the Post Office authorities would hear of the lark, and make it more of a tragedy than a comedy to them. As many men at all times are liable to indulge in extremes it is not to be wondered at that in such excitement there was a swing from one extreme to its opposite. The collapse came with a reaction more sudden than the rise of the speculative tide, when it was found that the grand promises of 15 per cent. profits and upwards were fruitless. What was a heavy loss to many of the investors was an unusual windfall to the newspapers. This reaction led to an unreasoning distrust, which was carried so far that, for instance, certain creditors of the newly-formed Caledonian Railway Company arrested some of their waggons; while in the financial crash of 1848 one or two even of the locomotives ran with the names of arresting creditors, who were determined to "mak' siccar."

EARLIEST RAILWAYS IN SCOTLAND.—The first railway in Scotland was that between Glasgow and Garnkirk, for which an Act was passed in 1826; it was opened on 27th September, 1831, chiefly for the carriage of minerals. In 1835 the Committee (or Directors) in their report referred to an increased expenditure of £57 6s. 11d. for advertising and printing, and apologetically said—"The reason is that perseverance in frequently advertising the passenger carriages, by newspaper notices and otherwise, is found to promote an increase of trade amply justifying the expense so incurred." This short line which was extended and called the



Glasgow, Garnkirk and Coatbridge Company, was bought up by the Caledonian Company in 1864, and now forms part of the main line east of Glasgow. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, now a chief portion of the North British system, was opened on 18th February, 1842. In 1837 the Act for the Glasgow and Ayrshire line passed; it was one of the earliest Acts to which Queen Victoria gave the Royal Assent after being crowned; this line was opened to Ayr on 12th August, 1840, and to Kilmarnock in 1843. The Glasgow, Paisley and Greenock Railway was opened in 1841, and had an exceptional patronage from a large portion of the public by its 4th class (somewhat like a cattle truck), which ran between Glasgow and Greenock for 6d., so as to compete with the river steamers. They were called "stand-ups," because they had no seats, and this of course caused most of the passengers to stand, lean over the open sides, or sit on the floor when they could. On one occasion a sailor going to Greenock and a weaver to Paisley happened to be together leaning against the open side. Jack was to win'ard, and went on to squirt his tobacco juice "overboard," but it was blown back in spray to the weaver's face and ear. It was too much for long endurance, so that with a scowl he turned to the self-absorbed sailor, and angrily said to him: "Spit in your ain lug, and be hanged to you."

COACH AND RAILWAY TO LONDON.—The Act authorising the Caledonian Railway was passed on 31st July, 1845, and the line was completed and opened between Glasgow and Carlisle on 15th February, 1848, when the through railway connection to and from London and Glasgow was first formed. In 1845, however, the rails from London did not reach north of Lancaster, whence by stage coach passengers, letters, and newspapers were due at Glasgow at 1.5 A.M. This allowed us to publish a second edition of the *Herald* at 2 A.M., with a few short extracts from the London papers of two days earlier. When going from Glasgow southward the coach started at 1.15 A.M., and reached Lancaster for the mail train, leaving for London at 6.55 P.M., and getting to Euston Square

at 5.32 A.M. According to Mr. J. O. Mitchell, of Glasgow (who has contributed to the *Herald* many interesting antiquarian and genealogical papers), the whole journey took, including stoppages, 28 hours and 37 minutes; the fare inside the coaches to Lancaster was £2 10s., and the same thence to London by first class, or a total, including tips and living, of about £5 10s. Now, however, one may, after having his breakfast without hurry, start from Glasgow at 10 A.M., travel the 405 miles to London in less than nine hours, for £2 18s. first class, or £1 13s. third class, and have on board a good luncheon or early dinner comfortably and cheaply. Newspapers are more concerned, however, with the recent excessive competition by the Caledonian Railway Co. and its English ally, on what is called the West Coast Route, and by the North British Co. and its English allies on the East Coast Route. This racing from London to Aberdeen—a distance of 540 miles—which was actually done in less than a minute per mile, a speed, which, if not beyond the limits of life insurance companies, was found profitless to the railway companies, seeing that passengers did not care to be shooting through the air at that rate in order to be delivered in Aberdeen about 4.30 A.M. The competing companies have at length agreed to run so as to reach Aberdeen at the more reasonable hour of 6.25 A.M., thereby enabling newspaper parcels from Glasgow and Edinburgh to be transferred to the Great North of Scotland lines for towns between Aberdeen and the Moray Firth, on to Elgin, and by Deeside to Ballater, &c.

TRAIN SERVICE TO ENGLAND.—At the beginning of the train service between Glasgow and London, the first train left at 11.5 A.M., and was due in London at 4.45 next morning; and now, nearly 48 years later, the earliest train leaves as late as 10 A.M., and is due in London past visiting time, especially in the way of business; while from London there are much earlier trains, one as early as 5.15 A.M., due in Glasgow at 3.40 P.M. Commercial men and others, by leaving Glasgow at 10 A.M., cannot count

on doing their business in Manchester, &c., and returning the same evening; nor can their letters, &c., from the northern and other parts of Scotland, be delivered in London during business hours on the same day, nor in a large portion of England till the day following. As for newspapers—those from Glasgow and Edinburgh reach Wick, (367 miles) near John o' Groats, at 5.25 P.M.,—an hour and twenty minutes before reaching London by *express*, as against slow speed to Wick. Nine years ago the Caledonian Railway started a train from Glasgow at 6 A.M. to overtake the 8.40 train from Carlisle, reaching Manchester and Liverpool about 12.30 P.M., and London at 4.15 P.M., the traffic from which, some of the officials assured me, was very promising. It was, however, discontinued in February, 1885, as it seemed the faith of the management failed because the Post Office did not sufficiently recognise the new service. In Parliament an ex-M.P. decried it by calling it a newspaper train, a very strange description, in view of the fact that in this matter Scotland stands not much better than it stood half a century ago, not merely as regards newspapers, but in respect of letters and travellers as well. If those who suffer were clustered in a city instead of being widely scattered, the permanent P.O. officials would be wakened up, and made to provide a remedy.

NEWSPAPER PARCEL SERVICE.—Although the Scottish railway companies lag behind those in England in running early trains, they are to the front with regard to the carriage of newspaper parcels, by which they have earned liberal results. Up to 1864 there were no labels for prepayment in Scotland, and the smallest parcels were charged not less than 3d. About that time Mr. James Dickie, Traffic Manager of the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company, told me his Company was then printing a new table of rates for such parcels, which rate he indicated; but at my request he sent me a proof before issuing it. The result was that the Company adopted the following modified rates which I then proposed:—Parcels not exceeding 1 lb.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; under 3 lbs., 1d.;

under 7 lbs., 2d.; under 14 lbs., 3d.; under 28 lbs., 5d.; under 56 lbs., 7d.; under 84 lbs., 9d.; and under 112 lbs., 1s.; while over that weight parcels were chargeable at the same scale, plus the rate for 112 lbs.—these rates being applied to the system *without respect to distance*. This new scale, and especially those rates for small parcels, had, as I had anticipated, the effect of ending the plan of clubbing into one parcel the papers for several newsagents in one town for the sake of economy, each one from that time getting his own parcel direct, and the profit to the Railway Company being in this way considerably increased. By the end of 1875 the other Companies adopted the same scale, and at the same time they all agreed to apply these rates irrespective of distance over all the Scottish lines. Since these rates came into force the revenue of one of the Companies alone has mounted from a comparatively small sum to about £7000 per annum from the carriage of newspaper parcels.

There is a contrast to this in the case of English railway rates for these parcels; they charge in the old-fashioned way by distance,—for instance, a 14 lb. parcel going 1 to 30 miles costs 3d.; under 50 miles, 4d.; under 100 miles 6d.; from 101 to 200 miles, 9d.; while a parcel of the same weight (14 lbs.) to or from Carlisle to Aberdeen, 240 miles, the length of the Caledonian Railway, costs only 3d., the rate of the English Companies for 30 miles. There is an illustration of the forbidding nature of the rates in England in the case of several of our *Herald* parcels sent there, the carriage of them by rail being more than the Post Office rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per copy, although for the latter they are delivered to the parties addressed. The fruitful experience of the Scottish Companies, and the longer and more fruitful experience of the Post Office, should be encouragement enough for the English Companies to look at least to their own interests. Our present outlay for parcels over England would probably soon be ten times that of the present were the rates like those in Scotland.

OVERALL RATES FOR NEWSPAPER PARCELS.—This reduction of the railway rates in Scotland was the means of very greatly increasing the number of newsagents throughout the whole country. They were, however, attended by an awkward system which required a joint waybill and prepared label, corresponding in value with the weight of each parcel. The system was very cumbersome, involving not only the expense of printing to the railway companies, but the services of their men at the despatching and receiving stations for tearing off the waybills, checking them with the weights of the parcels when their time was most needed for other purposes and when at the receiving stations the newsagents were eager to have their parcels. At the same time it prevented the newspaper despatch men readjusting their waybill labels to the altered weights caused by altered sizes of paper, or to increased numbers in the event of unexpected news of importance coming in when about to go to press. To meet these serious disadvantages to both parties, I proposed to the railway companies of Scotland an "overall" rate, based upon the average cost of the waybill labels used for the previous three years. After their full consideration of the case, I had the gratification of having all my suggestions adopted and put in force in February, 1879. The results have been to the railways a considerable saving in money and in the time of their men at the stations and audit offices; while, by the increase of newspapers carried, they received from us last year a very large sum more than they got the year before they agreed to the present system. The plan has become a means of promoting the interests of the railway companies and those newspaper publishers whose business is on such a scale as to have it applied; while it enables us to have newsagents in every nook and corner of Scotland more promptly supplied, and to an extent that accords more exactly with the demands of the public. Meanwhile, these three parties in England—Railways, Newspapers, and Public—suffer in comparison.



## THE COMPOSITORS' DEPARTMENT.

## ON A PRINTING-HOUSE.—

The world's a Printing-House : our words, our thoughts,  
 Our deeds, are Characters of sev'rall sizes :  
 Each Soule is a Compos'ter ; of whose faults  
 The Levits are Correctors : Heav'n revises ;  
 Death is the Common Press ; from whence, being driven,  
 W'are gather'd Sheet by Sheet, and bound for Heaven.

FRANCIS QUARLES.

**I**N Francis Quarles' days, and even to within half-a-century ago, the Printing House, in many cases, embraced the whole work of literature-production, from the time that copy reached the compositor till the book, newspaper, &c., were ready for public use. The only modification of this was in the rare cases in which a specially expert man dispensed with copy, composing the thoughts and acting as compositor at the same time! The printing now requires in fully-equipped newspapers—first, the Composing Department, then the Stereotyping, and lastly, the Machine Printing Department. The first is often called the Case-Room, because its chief and most indispensable contents are the cases which hold the type letters, figures, points, &c., required for the setting-up of the matter to be stereotyped and printed.

THE TYPE used in the old bi-weekly era was larger than that used generally in daily newspapers now. The type would probably be supplied by the firm of Alexander Wilson & Son, who were the first efficient typesfounders in Scotland. The business was started in Glasgow in 1742 by Dr. Alexander Wilson, who became Professor of Astronomy to the Glasgow University; and as the excellence of the metal and the finished style of the work made it famous throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies, the firm started branches in Edinburgh, Dublin, and London, to which latter city the whole business was ultimately

transferred, and where, in 1850, it was amalgamated with that of Messrs. Caslon & Co. There can scarcely be a doubt that this early foundry supplied the type by which the celebrated classic and other valuable books issued by Foulis Brothers of Glasgow were printed, as the year after the foundry was started, Robert Foulis, who was intimate with Professor Wilson, made an application to be appointed Printer to the Glasgow University on the



Professor ALEXANDER WILSON,  
The "Father of Scottish Letter Founders."

ground that "he had provided himself with fine types, both Greek and Latin,"—as quoted by the Senate in granting the authority. In further confirmation of this, the University made honourable mention of the excellency of Wilson's type in the preface to their folio *Homer*. In 1744 the foundry was removed to larger premises at Camlachie, then an eastern suburb of Glasgow, but now part of the repeatedly extended City.

The length of each type is  $\frac{11}{12}$ ths of an inch,—a fact which will naturally suggest the question why it should be just  $\frac{1}{12}$ th short of the inch, but I cannot explain it. It is probable that, while formerly every typefounder was a law to himself in the matter, the smaller

producers in the long run felt themselves constrained to conform their fonts to the style of the maximum output. It was rather a serious thing for printers who did not want to be bound to any one typefounder to have varying lengths in their stocks, as thereby the ups and downs of the type gave a mongrel appearance to their printing. The practical uniformity which now prevails is therefore all-important, as is also the uniformity of the side-marks on the type which guide the compositor by touch in giving all the types he sets the upright position. Four fonts of type are used in the construction of the *Herald*—the largest to the least in size are bourgeois, brevier, minion, and ruby; but the extent of their use reverses their order of size, for bourgeois is least used and ruby most. Altogether, one day's *Herald* contains about 34,000 lines, and if each letter and space were put end-to-end they would form a single file line of about 25 miles long, not including the type, &c., of larger fonts.

OUR OLD COMPOSITORS, &c., were—as compared with other workmen of that period—a fairly good class of men, barring the periodical toper, who once in six weeks or more felt that he must make a lunatic of himself. At that time they all got their wages on the Saturdays; but some years after, when the matter came into my hands, I changed the pay-day to Friday, when the men having no such free afternoon as on Saturday would be more likely to go direct to their wives and families without chumming in the public-house. It had a good result in many cases. Their weekly wage per man was 25s. for 54 hours, and 2s. more for Sunday work. At that period there were few printing establishments on piece-work. As the number of all the employees was then small, and as several of the compositors helped in the despatching of the papers, while the apprentice boys did the message work of the whole establishment, we were all more in touch with each other than is possible now.

A STRIKE OF THE MEN, however, took place during the winter of 1846-7. I cannot remember exactly what the cause was, but

so far as I have been able to learn it was upon the question of the number of apprentices. At that time the limit laid down by the Trades' Union was four apprentices to each case-room, a restriction which still prevails, although the number of the journeymen have been increased tenfold. My impression, confirmed by what I have been told, is that the quarrel rose from our foreman—who had recently come into power—taking on a new apprentice a little before the time of the oldest had actually expired. But, in any case, it was a lamentable blunder on one side or on both, and probably the outcome of bad temper.

The fight was close and desperate. All the men outside the Trades' Union, which it was possible to secure, were utilised by us, so far as they escaped the watchful, and sometimes unscrupulous, efforts of the strike pickets. Inside all the loyal hands who could place a type were turned to account; while I remember well seeing Mr. Pagan (who had had some experience of case-room work in the Dumfries newspaper he came from) in the act of filling a compositor's stick with type, and looking as if one eye was on the type case before him and the other upon the heterogeneous collection of men about him, to see if the work was progressing. At length, somewhat after the usual time, the first two pages were completed, though in rather a *hashy*, young-apprentice style. These two of the four pages, which allowed one side of the paper to be printed, were promptly sent down to the Press Room for that purpose. Here, however, the pickets seemed to have got us fixed in a hopeless position, by making as drunk as possible an apprentice upon whom alone we had been depending to feed into the machine the sheets to be printed, he being the only "feeder" who had remained loyal. In that stupified state he was discovered, and brought to the office; and as the appearance of the *Herald* that day depended upon what he could do, he was helped to his old elevation and steadied there. While the printing press was driven much more slowly than usual for his convenience, he fed in the sheets, and gradually improved on his

start ; but, when our best was done, the *Heralds* of that day were distinguished by an unusual number of spoiled copies by turned corners and creases. Nevertheless, the day was won, and the strike was at an end. It ended, however, with painful disaster to many good men, some of whom never recovered the comforts of the easy-going settled connection they had enjoyed. I had recent testimony to that effect from two of our old staff of compositors, from whom I wished any confirming or correcting information they might have. One of them, Mr. John Dickson, long in London, wrote me that the men, who had hitherto been as members of a comfortable family home, now found themselves wanderers like Cain in all directions seeking employment and rest, and feeling as if his brand was upon them.

The kidnapping and disabling of the apprentice feeder would probably be regarded as excellent tactics and humour by the strikers ; but there was a little device employed on the other side of the game, of which I was unaware at the time. I remember well seeing a policeman guarding our workmen's entrance at the back of the premises, to which there was access from two streets. The story seems to apply to the access least used, and therefore least guarded. The more determined picketers, who were of course familiar with all the approaches, seem to have arranged to make a bold raid on the premises, perhaps for the purpose of overturning the cases and leaving their contents a litter of type—"pye." When they got near enough, however, they found themselves, as it seemed, face to face with the mouth of a mounted cannon,—one look at which was enough to convict them of a dangerous trespass and to make them suddenly disappear. The alarming apparition, was simply the open end of a small cylinder used for casting the glue and treacle composition into rollers for inking type pages. The cylinder was mounted as if to defend the entrance, but whether an old soldier was there to fire it by a stick tipped with red paint my informant could not say. At any rate, the trick served its purpose without harm to any man's person or morals.



Except a strike in another morning newspaper regarding the charge for waiting-time, and a recent lock-out in an evening paper, there has been no such unfortunate conflict between Glasgow newspaper employers and employed since that time, although there was a danger of that happening about 25 years ago. The compositors of these offices, and those of the newspaper offices in Edinburgh, have now no connection with Trades' Unions. That lock-out in Glasgow, and the experiences in Edinburgh, were somewhat like the following case in a Linotype office recently stated by the *Journalist* :—"A small body of London compositors received a lesson a fortnight ago which they are not likely to forget in a hurry. They were employed on the *Morning*, in which office some ten Linotype machines have been introduced. Things came to a crisis one Friday night, when the men presented what was practically an ultimatum to the manager. Having no alternative—for it appeared doubtful at the time as to what kind of paper was likely to make its appearance the following morning—he accepted the terms they imposed. When, however, they presented themselves at the beginning of the following week, they were informed that their services were no longer required, and they were summarily dismissed with a fortnight's salary." The extreme rigidity, and as employers consider one-sided nature, of some of the rules insisted upon by the Trades' Unionists may be judged, for instance, that one rule prevents the use of matter set up in the *Herald* case-room being used for the *Evening Times*, or of that set in the *Evening Times* case-room being used for the *Herald*. Here is an actual experience of another kind, on the occasion of a great catastrophe, when particulars had to be issued in the *Evening Times* at an earlier hour than its usual staff of compositors could be collected to do the work :—Two *Herald* men refused to go to *Evening Times* case-room as it was "against the rules of the Society." Three *Herald* jobbers (not regular hands), who agreed to assist, claimed a full day's pay for two hours' work, on the ground that if a man is started to work he

must have a full day's work or a full day's pay, no matter how short the time may be during which he was employed ; a day's pay is 6s. 6d. each. One *Evening Times* man was present, who could have claimed 3s. 6d. as a bonus and his time. In the event of any arrangement being made with the *Herald* jobbers to accept less than 6s. 6d., this man would have had to be paid for what *they* had set ; in other words, he could have claimed about 16s. In view of the havoc and heart-burnings which strikes and lock-outs create, many solutions are proposed, but it seems to be forgotten that in Scotland, at least, there is a legal authority which may intervene to settle such disputes : that is the Court of Session, which has not only judicial but executive powers, and exercised that executive power about the beginning of this century in the case, for instance, of printers' wages. \*

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS is a phrase which covers the doings of a multitude of literary and illiterate sinners, although it is supposed to be applicable only to the work of type-setters. These latter are as much sinned against by all sorts and conditions of scribes as deserving of blame for such blunders. On pages 96 and 101 there are two cases mentioned in other connections : for one of them—and it was serious enough—the compositor and the corrector had to share the blame, while for the other the compositors were blameless. An afflicted poet has brought against this class a wholesale charge :—

“ 'Tis dreadful to think what provoking mistakes  
The vile Printing Press in our prosody makes.”

The truth remains, Tom Moore nevertheless, that many bad writers are conscious that their bad writing is at fault, and some—not so many—candidly admit it. It is told of Dean Stanley, for instance, that in reply to his publisher's complaint regarding his

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\* The Trades' Union rule, referred to above, which prevented the transfer of matter set for one paper being used for another paper belonging to the same proprietors, because set in different case-rooms also belonging to them, has now been altered.

manuscript he wrote : " If you cannot read my writing, I am sure *I* cannot do so ; but I think I meant to say——," and the explanatory sentence was written hardly more legibly than at first. I had accidental proof of this failing of the Dean's some years ago when I received a post-card which for a time quite baffled me. At length I guessed out the signature as " A. P. Stanley," and finally discovered the meaning of the whole, which showed at the same time that the Post Office experts had failed to read the address, so that it had come into my hands by mistake. Many, however, cannot see or admit that it should be difficult for others to read their caligraphy, since they themselves can read it ; while others again hold that it is the duty of compositors to decipher the worst as well as the best kinds of writing, and also to do the punctuation. This latter some omit altogether, running the risk thereby of finding their meaning reversed or turned into nonsense. But here is the expression of one who goes still further in a letter recently sent to our editor :—" I am well aware of deficiency in the spelling of Scotch, and in the spelling of English make no pretensions to perfection. But I was under the impression that that was a matter for the compositor, and gave the compositor little or no trouble." What an Admirable Crichton every compositor must be ! These bad writers, &c., do not know, or they do not care, that their bad script involves the employers in extra wages and difficult adjustments.

Fifty years ago typographical errors in newspapers were rarer than they are now, chiefly because the whole process of preparation was much more deliberate, and the issues were at much greater intervals than now. It will readily be understood that bad writing and the high-pressure of present-day compositors' work leads inevitably to errors of all kinds. But errors in printing now often arise also from the telegraph, and still more from the telephone when it must be used for transmitting messages. Here are a couple of errors recently caused by telegraphy :—" Your crime might have brought you to Glasgow" should

have been "brought you to the gallows." "Corroborated her sister's glory," &c., should have been "her sister's story." In cases of good copy the compositor is responsible for accuracy in the first place, and after him the corrector (or reader), who should carefully compare the proofs with the original; the latter especially requires to keep his judgment as well as his eyes on the alert as to the sense of each sentence. Of course, the results of blundering are sometimes serious; but they are more generally absurd, and occasionally comical. It is easy to manufacture some words into nonsense similar to those that have occurred in newspapers and books, but so far as I know the following instances are genuine:—In a Birmingham paper, when referring to the members of a new Parliament, it was said that "the House of Commons contains a pretty large contingent of '*spouters*,'—an accidental emendation of "sportsmen." In another place at a Town Council meeting, the proposal was made to add to a certain committee two clergymen, but according to a local paper a member objected "to these *white-ried* gentlemen,"—his actual objection was merely to the "white-tied gentlemen." In the case of newspaper obituary notices in Scotland, where the sentence is added, "Friends will please accept of this intimation," the second letter of the first word was dropped out on one occasion, and the singularly *malapropos* expression, "*Fiends*," took the place of "Friends." About three years ago, when Lord Rosebery announced his intention to bring in a bill for the protection of young girls, the word *production* was printed in an English paper instead of *protection*. An American paper recently got the credit of making its editor say that "the Legislature *pasted* the Bill over the Governor's head," instead of "*passed* the Bill," &c. A printer recently made a felicitous blunder in the report of a speech, in which a political orator was made to say that the well-known "three acres and a cow would give every man a *steak* in the country." A few years ago the *Times* contained one of the grossest typographical "errors" which ever appeared in a news-

paper ; but it was suspected that, as it could not be an accident, it must have been made deliberately and surreptitiously by some low fellow in the establishment to satisfy a grudge. We had a somewhat similar blunder a number of years ago ; it was, however, so plainly an oversight—though a serious oversight—on the part of the type-setter and proof-reader that they escaped with a standing warning.

The “making-up” of the type pages has been the occasion of another class of the blunders chargeable to the case-room. The frequently extreme pressure of speed at that stage of the work nowadays has, of course, increased the risk of mistakes. The “making-up” means the piecing together of small portions of set matter, so that speeches, articles, or news may be read in the order of their true connection. By an incorrect making-up a part of one man’s speech may appear under his opponent’s name, and become an entire contradiction of what the latter said. I do not remember of a newspaper case in point, although many readers must have seen them in one form or other. One somewhat after that kind appeared some years ago in an early edition of “Men of the Time.” By the misplacing of matter intended to be under the heading, “Owen, Robert, Lanark,” it was applied to the Right Rev. Samuel —, Bishop Oxford, under whose name there appeared the statement : “A more kind-hearted and truly benevolent man does not exist. A sceptic as regards religious revelations, he is an out-and-out believer in spirit manifestations.” The early copies of the book, with that strange transfer of character, were, however, promptly withdrawn ; and the Bishop was satisfied.

Errors by authors are not all the result of bad writing ; for it may be admitted that every author is not called on to adopt Sydney Smith’s confession, that his was like the zig-zag trails of a swarm of ants after escaping from an ink-bottle without wiping their legs. More than good writing is needed to save from errors which the author, and not the typographer, falls into. For instance, Mr. William Black (whose pioneer novel, “A Daughter of Heth,”



appeared first in the *Weekly Herald*), when he intended, in one of his works, to refer to "a dose of opium," is said to have written "a dose of opinion." One leg more to an n in the caligraphy may have made the difference in the eyes of the compositor. Such cases are still more possible when the telegraph, the acoustics of a building, the voice of a speaker, or even the ears of a reporter may be at fault; but these are not authors' errors. Some years ago a cablegram reached this country to this effect:—"Governor Queensland twins first son"—the Governor of Queensland at the time being a bachelor. The corrected version ran:—"Governor Queensland turns first sod." Reporters find sometimes unexpected defenders against charges made upon them when doing their best to make speeches more readable and less absurd than the actual utterances would appear. Last year, Dr. Rintoul, an Irishman, and member of the House of Commons, referring to what he considered such an unfair complaint by another member, said—"The Hansard reporter perhaps took the honourable member down more correctly than he expressed himself." The members generally, enjoyed not only the bull, but as much the statement of fact which it conveyed. Newspaper "bulls," however, are not always of Irish authorship; they are occasionally found in ordinary descriptive reporting, and are more readily discovered after being printed than in the hurry of composition. The following sample appeared some few months ago in a Glasgow evening paper:—"It afterwards turned out that the light was from a lamp which the tossed-about crew had vainly endeavoured to light." A Scottish reporter, with the compositor and reader, were jointly credited with the following achievement:—The reporter, when referring rather indefinitely to an assault case, of which he was not exactly cognisant, stated in bad writing that the wound of the victim was "two inches long and somewhat deep;" the outcome in print made the wound "some feet deep." A *New York Times* reporter, when describing the proceedings at a public funeral, wrote at first:—"The procession was very fine,

as was also the sermon of the minister ;” but before handing it to the printer he hurriedly interjected an addition to the first statement, and made the whole to read :—“ The procession was very fine, and nearly two miles in length, as was also the sermon of the minister.” A paragraphist, who perhaps intended to be brief, said in an English Midland paper, under the head line of Signor Mario’s Concert :—“ This concert takes place to-night (Friday), and not yesterday, as was erroneously announced.”

THE COMPOSITORS’ CHAPEL.—This singular name, sometimes given to the Case-room, is said to be a memento of the year 1476, when William Caxton started in a chapel of Westminster Abbey the first printing establishment in England. By a natural extension the name is used, just as the word “ church ” is, not only for the place, but also, and indeed more especially, for the people connected with it. The Chapel then, as a society (or rather now as a branch of the Typographical Association), is formed by all the journeymen in each office, as well as the foremen, who are compelled by the men’s rules to be members, although they are generally the only men there who can be expected to look after the interests of the employers. The chief objects of the compositors’ chapels are to maintain the rules and rates of their trade ; to arrange with the foreman, or the employers, any difficulties ; to adjust any disputes amongst themselves that may arise in the course of the work ; or to consult with the Trades’ Society on matters affecting the trade generally. The Chapel also collects and forwards the subscriptions due to the Trades’ Union, or contributions the men may make to needy compositors, to infirmaries, &c. There are a president and clerk to each case-room, who are periodically elected ; the former is called the Father of the Chapel, probably after the ghostly fathers of mediæval times.

THE TYPE AND TYPE-SETTING which prevails now has been little, if at all, changed during many past generations. Now, as then, the types are placed apart in small compartments of wooden

cases or trays, of which the one, called the upper case from its position, contains large and small capital letters requiring 98 boxes, and the other, the lower case, nearest the hands, contains small letters, spaces, &c., in 53 boxes of sizes varying according to the proportionate demand for each letter. The usual "fount" (or font), which means a complete set of one kind of letters of the alphabet, &c., shows that 11,000 types of the small *e* are required for 750 of the capital *E*, while the least required of all the letters of the alphabet is *Z*, its numbers being 300 for the lower case and 150 for capitals. Instead of such compact and convenient cases, the Japanese comp. (not to speak of the Chinese with their multitudinous idiographs) has about 4,000 different types to deal with, and needs several boys to be at his call in order to fetch each piece of type required to set the unhandy Japanese vertical column, which runs from the top downward instead of across the page as ours does. It may be noted that, although there is what may be considered a standard number for each letter based on their average use, the exact demand for each varies with the language of writers and speakers. Some one, for instance, has made the statement (but I have not had it confirmed) that Lord Macaulay's style had a preponderance of consonants, and on the other hand the printing of Charles Dickens' novels soon exhausted vowel boxes.

As a small arithmetical curiosity, I may here state that the typographical contents of a 12-page *Herald*—not including large capitals, prominent setting, &c.—amount to about 34,000 lines of individual types and spaces, each of which has to be taken up and put in readable position in words and lines by the compositors; and if the types, &c., were taken separately, and placed end to end, the length of the thin lead line would be about  $25\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It may also be stated that the contents of such a paper amount nearly to those of two novels, each of the fashionable three volume size. The life of founts of type varies very much, partly, it may be, because of the quality of their metal; but chiefly because of

the usage they get in the printing machine if type pages are used, or in the stereo foundry where the treatment may shorten their life or add to it by years. It would be anticipating to refer in detail to these causes here ; but it may be stated that the *Herald* founts, previous to the present, lasted for the exceptionally long period of 16 years.

THE WAGES OF COMPOSITORS in 1803, when the contents of the *Herald* was 365 inches of matter, and was issued on Monday and Friday, amounted altogether from £3 to £4 per week. In 1845, when it was still a twice-a-week paper, and was nearly three times the old size, the weekly sum was about £28 10s. ; while in 1882, when the *Daily Herald* was well developed and wages had risen, the sum amounted to about £400 per week. Since that year the great extensions of the size of the paper, requiring a proportional amount of setting, have very largely increased the wages-bill. In 1845, the weekly wage for "stab" or time-work, of 56 hours, was 25s., with 2s. extra when there was Sunday work. When the daily issue began the wage was raised to 32s. 6d. ; some years after it was 35s. ; and since 1870, for a week of 51 hours, it has been 37s. 6d., with 2s. 6d. more for a *pull-up* after midnight when extra effort is needed. Since 1878, we have acted upon the piece-work system, as we found the necessities of the case had got beyond the slower method of payment by time; while, in any case, it was only fair to pay each man for the work he did, and not an average by which the able and willing man had no more than the less able, or, it might be, the lazy man. When we paid by time it was all the same to a man whether he had "fat" or "lean" matter to set ; but now that the setting is paid by piece, the advantage of setting "fat" matter is very considerable. For copy which is set up well-leaded or spaced out, and it may be with large letters, &c., much less time is taken than ordinary setting, and still less than "lean" matter of small type close set. As an instance of a "fat" advertisement, I may mention the recent case of one which occupied a whole page of

the *Herald*. The setting of it fell to the turn of eight men. As it required extra prominent letters and spacing, the average earnings of the eight compositors touched 20s., with an average of nearly 8 hours' work. The most fortunate man (getting the "fattest" portion) made 29s. 7d. in six hours, and the least fortunate earned 16s. 5d. in 11½ hours.

ODD NAMES are given by compositors to the various things, &c., used in their work, which many have punned upon in rhyme, and someone has summarised the most of the words as follows:—

A printer is a most curious being. He may have a "bank" and "coins," and not be worth a penny; may handle "pearl," "diamond," and "ruby," and know nothing of precious stones. Others may run fast, but he gets along swifter by "setting" fast. He may be making "impressions" without eloquence; may use the "lye" without offending, and be telling the truth; while others cannot "stand" while they "set," he can "set standing," and do both at the same time; has to use "furniture," and yet have no dwelling; may spread "sheets" without being a housewife; may lay his "form" on a "bed," and yet be obliged to sleep on the floor.

He may make and put away "pye," and never see a pie, much less eat it, during his whole life; be a human being and a "rat" at the same time; may "press" a good deal, and not ask a favour; may handle a "shooting-iron," and know nothing about a cannon, gun, or pistol; may use the "dagger" without shedding blood, and from the earth he may handle "stars."

He may be of a "rolling" disposition, and yet never desire to travel; he may have a "sheep's foot," and not be deformed; never without a "case," and know nothing of law and music. His acquaintance with music may be *nil*, but his contact with "quires" frequent; he may attend well to his duties, and yet work at "random"; may be always "correcting" his errors, and be growing worse every day; have his "form locked up," and, at the same time, be free from jail or any other confinement; may work at a "galley," and be neither slave nor criminal.

The following, which is attributed to Mr. Alaric A. Watt, of Manchester, takes a higher flight:—

Pick and click  
Goes the type in the stick,  
As the printer stands at his case;  
His eyes glance quick, and his fingers pick  
The type at a rapid pace;



Words are piled up steady and slow—  
     Steady and slow,  
     But still they grow ;  
 And words of fire they soon will glow ;  
 Wonderful words, that without a sound  
 Traverse the earth to its utmost bound ;  
     Words that shall make  
     The tyrant quake,  
 And the fetters of the oppressed shall break ;  
 Words that can crumble an army's might,  
 Or treble its strength in a righteous fight.  
 Yet the types they look but leaden and dumb :  
     But the printer smiles,  
     And his work beguiles  
 By chanting a song as the letters he piles,  
     With pick and click,  
 Like the world's chronometer, tick ! tick ! tick !  
 O, where is the man with such simple tools  
     Can govern the world as I ?  
 With a printing press and an iron stick,  
     And a little leaden die ;  
 With paper white, and ink of black,  
 I support the Right and the Wrong attack.  
 Say, where is he, or who may he be,  
     That can rival the printer's power ?  
 To no monarchs that live the wall doth he give  
     Their sway lasts only an hour ;  
 While the printer still grows, and God only knows  
 When his might shall cease to tower.

THE FUTURE OF TYPOGRAPHY, whether by the use of ordinary type or machine matrices, may possibly be shorter than we can imagine, for already this unprecedented century of invention and discovery is forecasting an advance upon all the composing machines now in existence. These very remarkable instruments, with the extensive field for their use, have no doubt stimulated many minds to think out, and, if possible, devise greater things. Some of these later efforts are patented, but are not yet made visible in this country ; one of them, at least, is somewhat on the perforated cardboard principle of the Jacquard loom, which is

also adapted to postal telegraphy, when, by the use of paper slips with perforations corresponding to letters of the alphabet, similar type-written messages are sent to several newspaper offices in different places. But it remains to be seen whether this intended process can ever become practical, to the extent of producing the message or other matter on line slugs or metal blocks ready for printing. Another projected machine was announced from the Antipodes three years ago, which, by the manipulation of electric currents, is expected to operate composing machines in different parts of the country, and, I suppose, over the world. The object of the invention, as described in the specification, is:—"To use only ordinary telegraph currents capable of being relayed, and subject to all the conditions of ordinary telegraphy; to operate at a distance any ordinary type-writing machine, or any type-setting or similar machine; to be able to transmit at least eighty different characters; to work at the utmost speed permitted by the manual dexterity of the operator working at a transmitting keyboard in all respects like that of an ordinary typewriter keyboard, and to dispense with all clockwork controlling mechanism, synchronously moving type-wheels and other slow and cumbersome devices." Other methods are spoken of, such as photo-printing, developed lithographing, &c.; but for the purposes of newspaper work no one has yet appeared in really practical form, except those previously referred to.

It has been reported that Mr. Hoe, the inventor of the rapid newspaper printing machines, forecasted the use of photography in superseding both the present system of type-setting and machine printing by some such process as the following:—The one thing now necessary to enable it to do so is the production at a cheap enough price of the very sensitive papers recently introduced into photography. It is quite certain that scientific chemistry will before long bring down the present cost of sensitising paper considerably, but it is a question whether it will do so enough. Given, however, a cheap enough sensitive paper, all printing

would become a swift and silent and very simple process ; the production of a negative would take the place of the present setting-up of type ; improved type-writers would come into vogue, by means of which any one could produce, after a little practice, a printed negative ; the operation of printing off any number of copies would consist in setting a roll of paper to unwind in front of the negative, from behind which a bright light flashing at properly regulated very short intervals of time would produce an impression at each flash. If each flash lasted a second, 3,600 copies could be obtained from one negative in an hour ; but as the production of a dozen or any number of negatives from one is a very simple matter, there would be practically no limit to the speed of printing. Portraits, pictures, and diagrams would print with as great ease as reading matter.

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Before passing on to another department of newspaper work, I may state that in 1886 we started the production of electric light, for the sufficient reason that the case-room, so largely occupied by men and requiring such an unusual quantity of coal gas, soon had its atmosphere in an unwholesome state. The introduction of the new and pure light from electricity was greatly appreciated by the compositors, all of whom reckoned on the enjoyment of better health, and some of them upon greater longevity. Happy and long may their lives be ! At the same time all the other premises of the company were similarly lighted, and supplies given off to the tenants at a rate much lower than that of the Glasgow Corporation.

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When this portion (regarding the Compositors' Department) was about to be printed, the following article appeared in the *Glasgow Herald*, and, as it is *apropos* to what precedes, I give it here :—

#### THE PRINTER'S READER AND AUTHORS.

One of the most distinguished of modern printers lately observed that literary men in general had never done justice to the labours of "that admir-

able person, the printer's reader." It is to be hoped that the annual dinner of Correctors of the Press indicates that the world is beginning to take a more generous view of the subject. For it is not easy to over-estimate the importance of the quiet work done by the printer's reader in the commonwealth of letters. In a great many instances the task of producing a satisfactory book, hard at all times, would be quite impossible if there were no such intermediary between the compositor and the author. Those who have ever come into contact with what is known as "an unread proof" have excellent occasion to know this. The average writer facing such a monster as a portion of his daily toil, might be in a worse plight than even the Authors' Society has yet pictured to itself. And the purchaser of the completed book would share in the sorrow, for amateur proof-readers are not usually a brilliant success. That, at least, was the experience of the unfortunate Richard Savage, who was forced to return two of the ten guineas that he had for his poem "The Wanderer," "that the two last sheets of the work might be reprinted, of which he had in his absence entrusted the correction to a friend, who was too indolent to perform it with accuracy." Perhaps it is not every author who, when as poor as Savage, would have risen to this sacrifice. Johnson admits that his passion for accuracy was exceptional; "the intrusion or omission of a comma was sufficient to discompose him, and he would lament an error of a single letter as a heavy calamity." It is impossible to imagine what so susceptible a spirit would have done under the shock of the accident mentioned by Moore, when the printer turned "the freshly blown roses" of his "Ode to Spring" into "noses." Probably he would have met with the fate of the French author chronicled by Grimm, who died in a fit of anger when he found that his book, revised by himself with the greatest care, had actually been printed with three hundred errors, chiefly made by the so-called corrector of the press. Yet Macaulay, who "could not rest until the lines were level to a hairbreadth, and the punctuation correct to a comma," suffered terribly from an accident for which neither reader nor printer was responsible, when he lightly declared that it would be unfair to judge Scott by the "Life of Napoleon," or Goldsmith by the "Vicar of Wakefield." Did he not want Napier to publish a special edition of the *Edinburgh Review* to put him right with his readers? Most writers learn to take these unpleasant incidents in a more philosophic spirit, as part of their annual sacrifice to the gods of shipwreck. Few things are more annoying, in a small way, than to find that a comma is misplaced or a word misprinted in the book or the article that one has tried to make as perfect as such sublunary things can be. But one speedily realises that nobody else cares very much about it, and that the peace of the country is not necessarily disturbed by an

incident which may have effectually spoilt one's own night's rest. Yet authors, who are proverbially an irritable race, have never been known to take the misfortune of being misprinted quite so calmly as they can accept death, bad weather, and the other evils that impartially afflict all humankind.

Sometimes, indeed, not only an author, but the whole world, is indebted to the carelessness or the ingenuity of the corrector of the press and the printer. Where would poor Theobald's reputation be now if the First Folio had not been allowed to go to press with that "table of green fields" which allowed him to extricate himself from the *Dunciad* by one immortal emendation? One of the most beautiful lines in French poetry is commonly attributed to a misprint, but it is at least as fair to give the credit for Malherbe's

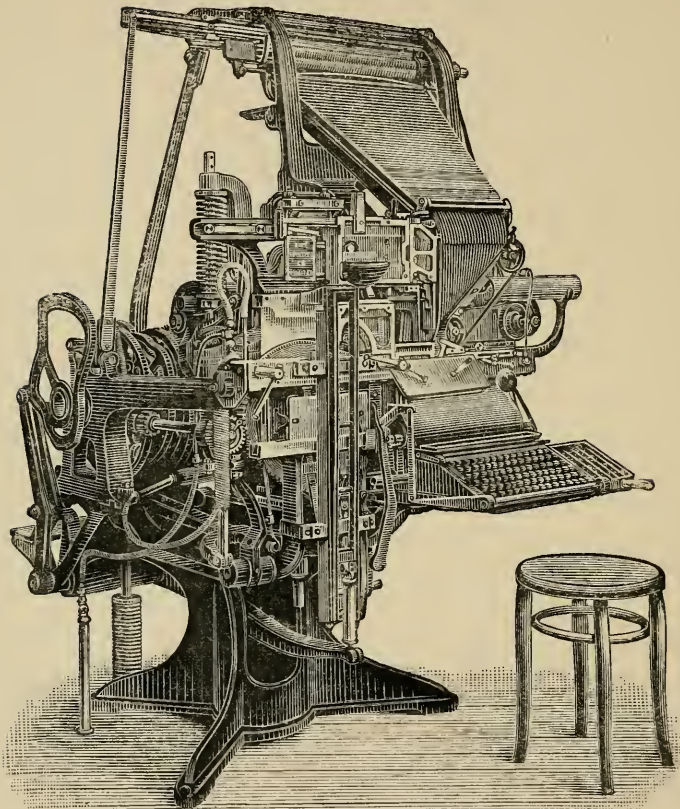
"Et, rose, elle a vécu ce que vivent les roses"

to an unknown corrector of the press whose suggestion found grace, first in the poet's eyes, and then in the world's. Chance, it is true, as we know it on Plutarch's authority sometimes to turn poet, may also turn corrector of the press. According to Kinglake, it did so for Napoleon III., who got his title from the accident that the signature to his first proclamation had three notes of exclamation following it, which the printer turned into numerals. But when one recalls the instance of the compositor who described a late Prime Minister as the "spout" of the Liberal party, although the author had written "spirit," one is inclined to say, after the manner of Izaak Walton, that doubtless chance could have made as good an alteration, but that doubtless chance never did. A similar theory has been expressed by the judicious Mr. Hales, who thinks that we are disinclined to give the compositor and his corrector credit for all the humour that they really possess. "So many persons," he says, "at present think of it as merely accidental and fortuitous, as if there was no mind in it, as if all the excellent things loosely described as *errata*, all the *curiosae felicitates* of the setter-up of texts, were casual blunders. Such a view reminds one of the way in which the last-century critics used to speak of Shakespeare—the critics who gave him no credit for design or selection, but thought that somehow or other he stumbled into greatness." Certainly, this view is applicable to Mr. Hales's own personal instance, in which his simple statement as to that "*limbus patrum* where the fathers of the Church, saints and martyrs, awaited the general resurrection," received quite a new complexion from the printing-house humorist who altered the last word into "insurrection." There was genuine wit, too, in the corrector of the press who improved an article on Dr. Lombroso's "Instinctive Criminal" by calling it "The Instructive Criminal," although one could not allow the jest to appear before the world. Sometimes a writer has the



courage not to spoil the joke. Thus Leigh Hunt told a friend that he had said, in one of his sportive essays, that "he had a liking for coffee, because it always reminded him of the 'Arabian Nights,'" though not mentioned there, adding, "as smoking does for the same reason." This was converted into the following oracular words, "as sucking does for the snow season!" He could not, he said, find it in his heart to alter this, and thus it stands as a theme for the portentous industry of the commentators. Surely, too, it was the humour of a corrector of the press, and not a mere uninspired accident, which gave currency to the Scottish story of the locomotive which ran into a cow "and literally cut it into calves;" and it must have been the zeal of a prehistoric Home Ruler which produced the statement that "Sir Robert Peel and a party of fiends were shooting peasants in Ireland." The printer Field, who is also responsible for the Unrighteous Bible, which omits the second "not" in 1. Cor. vi. 9, acted from a much worse motive than mere humour if he really accepted £1500 from the Independents to alter Acts vi. 3, in accordance with their doctrine of the validity of lay ordination. But perhaps the amateur correctors of the press who, according to Mr. Silk Buckingham, substituted "like" for "live" in the Marriage Service of an Oxford Prayer-Book, were only acting up to their peculiar notions of fun. Nowadays it is to be feared that the lot of the professional reader is a somewhat arid one. Like the professional reviewer, he has to read a great deal of skimble-skamble stuff, and he has not even the melancholy satisfaction of being able to skip. His only joy is that inward contentment which comes from laborious work carefully done, with an occasional compliment from an assisted author. As to this, an eminent authority has stated that only a printer can know "how deeply the author is frequently indebted to the professional reader, and how slow he usually is to acknowledge his indebtedness." The general public, who take their punctuation, spelling, and grammar, along with a little mild sensation, from the circulating library, hardly know how much of the former they owe to the corrector of the press. When they learn this they will take more interest than they do at present in the annual public appearance of these anonymous benefactors who spend the rest of the year in what Ben Jonson aptly called the House of Correction.

## COMPOSING MACHINES.



THE LINOTYPE MACHINE.

THE invention and introduction of Composing Machines form a revolution and an epoch in the art of printing, especially meantime, in connection with newspaper work. For nearly four centuries after Gutenberg and Faust began manual type-setting there was practically no change in the system, and it was only in

1822 that William Church attempted anything in the direction of mechanical type-setting, while more recently repeated attempts have been made of a more promising character. During that time people in the printing trade were amused by the coloured picture of a burlesque steam compositor in the figure of a man operating at a case of type. His body was clothed as with a coat of mail, which formed the boiler in which the steam power was supposed to be generated by a blazing fire below it; the smoke escaped by his head gear and his eyes formed the steam gauges, while his arms and fingers were seen in the act of setting. That was a skit upon the seemingly hopeless efforts then made to bring mechanical type-setting into practical and economical use; but there is now no doubt whatever that Composing Machines have "come to stay."

One of the remarkable features of this great change is that some of the machines do not use type, while others do. Among the machines using type are those of Hattersley, Mackie of Warrington, Fraser of Edinburgh, The Empire, and others. These are setters of ordinary type, each character being stored in a separate magazine or groove, from which the types are discharged by an operator at a keyboard representing the letters, &c., and are then carried by moving tapes or gravitation to long racks, where the corrections are made and the lines justified (arranged in exact lines). They each require a man to operate the keyboard, while a lad or girl distributes the type after it is used; in other words, each instrument needs the work of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  men, as it is called.

THE THORNE machine, which also uses type, is constructed upon quite a different principle, and, like the Typotheter, Rodgers' Typograph, and a few others, requires the types to be nicked like the wards of a key on their sides. The chief features of the Thorne type-setter are two vertical cylinders, one above the other, having 90 grooves running down their sides, with a keyboard (as in all the other machines except one). The upper cylinder, which is the Distributor, receives the used lines of type so that when

revolving it drops the letters into their respective grooves on the *lower* cylinder, where they are met by corresponding nicks and stored. The lower cylinder, in which are stored each letter, &c., apart, does not, like the upper one, revolve, but the required letters are released from their magazines by the keyboard operator touching the representative keys, when they fall upon a rapidly-revolving disc or table in the order wanted so as to compose words. These words are laid on a travelling band, which, after receiving them in a horizontal position, gradually raises them to an upright position, and delivers them into the receptacles for the third and last work of reading, correcting, and justifying the lines. That work requires another man besides the operator at the keyboard and the lad who feeds the upper or distributing cylinder with the type. In other words, this type-setting machine requires what is counted as two men and a half.

THE TYPOTHETER has nicked type also, but differs from all other machines by having no keyboard. Instead, the ordinary compositor is free to use both his hands to lift the type, without requiring to see or feel for its head or for its nicked side. When he drops it into a small trumpet-shaped mouth the machine itself places it erect if upside down, turns it to the right-about if on the wrong side, then promptly delivers type after type in due order of letters and words into a long channel. The work of correcting is done by another man, while the justifying into lines is done by a separate piece of clever mechanism; but the work of distributing the types back into their several boxes must be done by the ordinary compositor. This little type-setter is so compact that it fits into the space partly below the type cases and before the compositor; it requires very little power other than manual.

OF TYPE-CASTING AND SETTING MACHINES there are a few, such as the Kastenbein and Lauston, but they have not come to the front, like those on other methods. The types are cast as each is required for setting, and thereafter they are usually melted down to be ready for recasting into any character.



THE LINOTYPE Machine may fairly be considered the best representative of the composing machines which complete the modern revolution in printing, by the hitherto incredible process of dispensing with the use of type (ordinary or nicked); and, instead of single type being collected into words, the machine casts in one piece of metal a whole line of type—hence the name Linotype. Of this class the majority are reported from America, including the Linotype, which was invented there in 1886 by a German named Ottmar Mergenthaler, and called in that country by his name. Since that year it has been considerably improved, and altogether forms a marvel of ingenuity in its various parts and exact combinations producing such a remarkable result; the result follows the simple touch of one man (or it may be one maid), by one or both hands upon a keyboard like that of a typewriter, and at as much speed. The speed claimed for this machine under the hands of an expert is from 10,000 to 12,000 *ns* per hour (an *n* represents the average breadth of each type); but perhaps from 7,000 to 7,500 an hour may be considered a good average output by the machinist, as compared to a similar average of 2,000 *ns* of piece work by the ordinary compositor, or as against 1,200 to 1,300 *ns* on stab or time work. It must, however, be remembered that one Linotype operator in that time covers the whole process of setting, including distributing, while the hand compositor needs not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  additional time for the purpose of distributing his proportion of type. The value of the compositor's piece work rates of 8d. per 1,000 minion *ns* are—for setting, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; for justifying, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; for correcting,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and 2d. for distribution,—making the 8d. for the whole. These values indicate the proportion of time taken for each part of his work.

These comparisons of the output of hand work and machine work are very striking, and although they are subject to modifications, or perhaps to the discussion of the economical results, I have good grounds for believing that the figures given are well founded on actual experience. From the production of say



7,000 *ns* an hour by the Linotype there must be deduction made for greater interest on plant, power, skilled mechanic, and occasional repairs, as against the greater rent and cost of light for compositors' case-room, &c. ; but nevertheless the production of 7,000 as against 2,000 (or the work of one operator to that of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hand compositors) affords ample margin in favour of machine composition. In a letter now before me from the General Manager of a leading newspaper in England, he informs me of his experience with 16 Linotype machines; and although that experience is not long, and with operators who are somewhat in their machine-apprentice stage, the result is entirely satisfactory. More practice, however, will bring the output to 7,000 and upwards, as it has done in other cases; the production, indeed, seems to be limited only by the rapidity with which the operator touches the characters on the keyboard to cause the matrices with the corresponding characters to assemble, and the rest of the work to be automatically done. That rapidity may be fairly estimated by the number of letters an expert lad or girl can show by a typewriting machine.

The reference to typewriting machines suggests the thought that it may be wise for compositors, in prospect of the adoption of composing machines, to practice on typewriters meantime, or even upon printed copies of the keyboard of the Linotype, or such machine as is most likely to come into use. This may be all the more necessary, seeing that some compositors may have more nimble fingers than others, while the others, or a portion of them, may suit better for the advertisement and other matter which the machine does not so well overtake. This preparation would go far to meet the strong desire of employers to retain their staff of compositors as complete as possible at either machine or hand work.

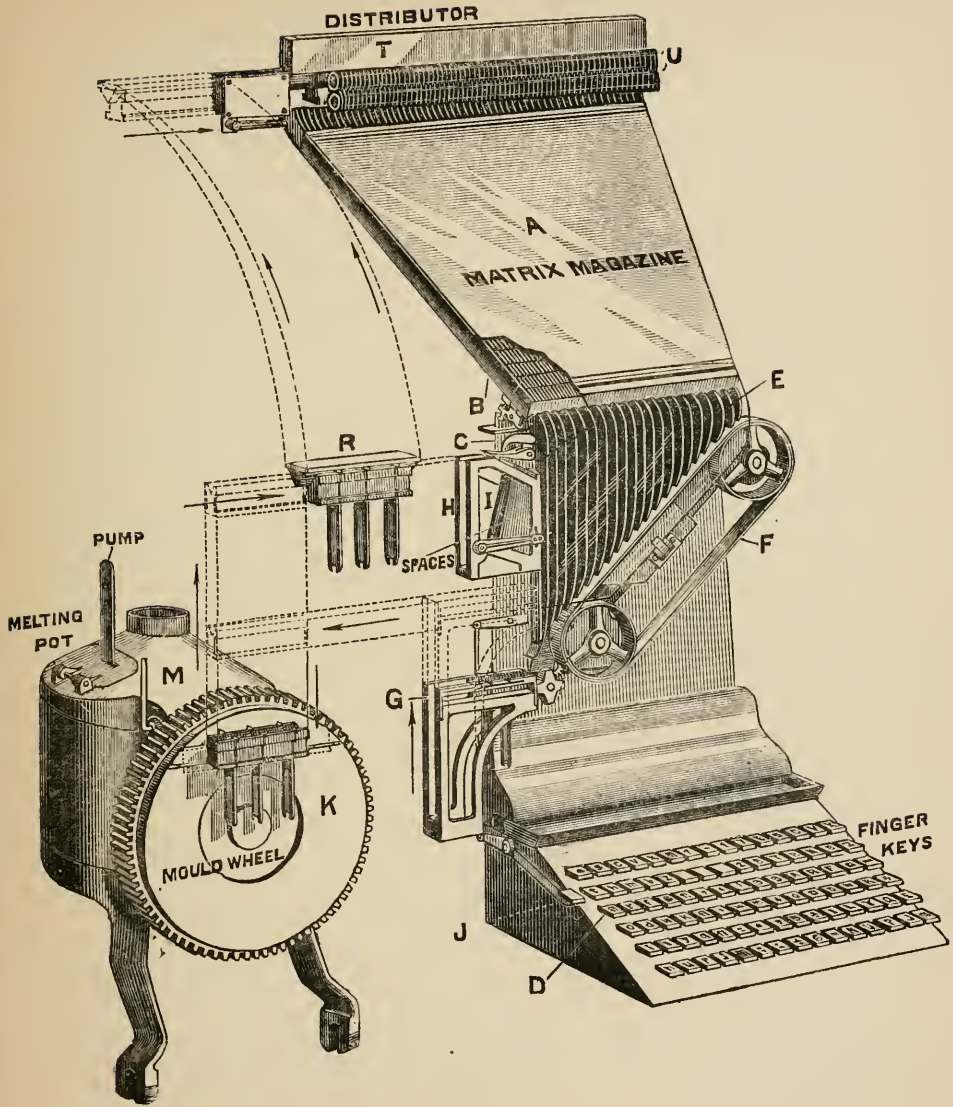


FIG. 1.

LINOTYPE MACHINE WITHOUT FRAME WORK.

The above sketch of the leading parts of the Linotype Machine in their relative positions to each other shows the process of the work from stage to stage until the line of type is produced in *one piece of metal*, with the letters and words clear and cleanly marked. Of all these features the matrix may be considered the part which shows the primary or fundamental principle of the machine. Each letter, figure, space, and point has a corresponding matrix, and they are all stored in separate grooves which form the Matrix Magazine *A*. The matrix is a small thin flat piece of brass, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in.  $\times$   $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in size, with sufficient breadth of edge to receive on it the intaglio impression of the character by an indenting

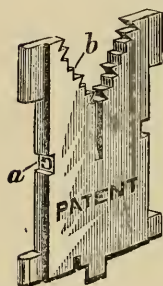


FIG. 2.

A MATRIX.

punch. The grooves of the Magazine, partly exposed at *B*, are so formed as to store the various matrices of ruby, minion, brevier, bourgeois, or small pica founts, which can be changed from one fount to another about as speedily as a hand compositor changes his type cases; this is sometimes important in newspaper work. Each of these magazine grooves contains 22 matrices of a uniform letter, except in the case of the letter *e*, which, because of its much greater use in our language, requires two grooves, with 22 matrices in each. There are also some special matrices which have not only the ordinary letters, but italics in intaglio on the reverse side for handy use.

The following borrowed fuller description of the machine, its parts, and process, with the illustrations, may be interesting:—

The machine contains, as its leading members, a large number of small brass matrices, such as shown in Fig. 2, consisting each of a flat plate, having in its vertical edge a female letter or matrix proper, *a*, and in the upper end a series of teeth, *b*. There are a number of matrices for each letter or character, represented on the key-board.

The machine is organised to select matrices bearing the

required characters, and set them up in line side by side with intervening spaces, in the order in which they are to appear in print, as shown in Fig. 3, and thereafter to present the line to a mould so that the linotypes or slugs may be cast against and into the entire line of matrices at one operation.

These operations are effected by a mechanism such as shown in Fig. 1, which represents in outline the principal parts of the machine. *A* is an inclined stationary magazine or holder, containing channels in which the assorted matrices are stored. The

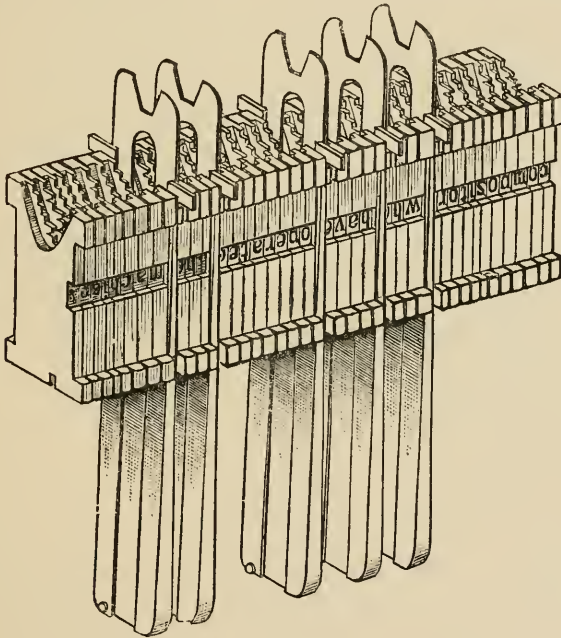


FIG. 3.

matrices tend to slide downwards out of the magazine by reason of their gravity, but they are held in check by escapements *B*, one at the mouth of each channel. From these escapements, rods *C* are extended downwards to a series of finger-keys *D*.



There is a special key for each character or letter. The keys are depressed by the operator in the order in which the corresponding characters are to appear in print. Each time a key is actuated it permits a single matrix, bearing the corresponding character, to fall out of the mouth of the magazine and downward through the

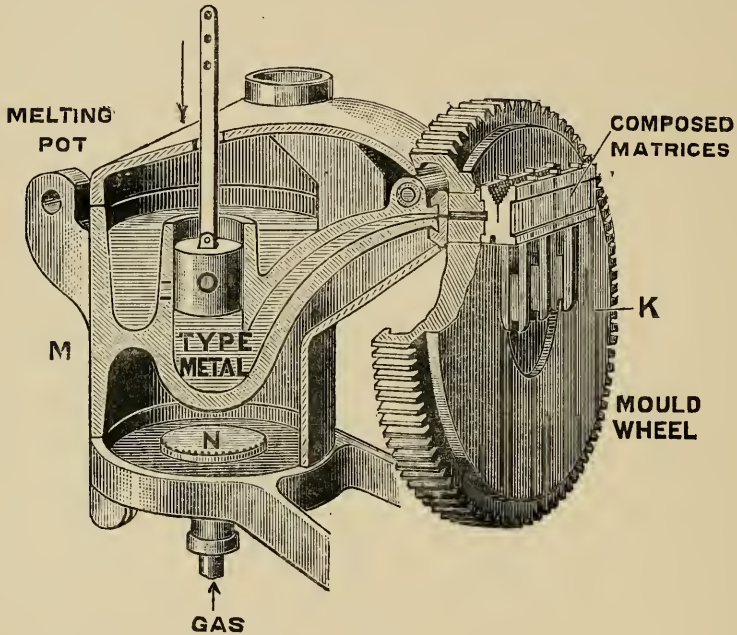


FIG. 4.

channels *E*, to an inclined travelling belt *F*, by which the matrices are carried downward one after another and delivered into the slotted assembling block *G*, in which they are set up or composed side by side in a line or row, as represented in Figs. 1 and 3. A stationary box *H* contains a series of spaces *I*, and a delivery device connected with finger bar *J*, by which the spaces are discharged and permitted to fall into the line at their proper places. Thus it is that, by operating the keys, the required matrices and



spaces are delivered one after another and assembled in line in the block *G*, until it contains all the characters necessary to complete one line of print. After the line of matrices is thus composed it is transferred, as shown by the arrows in Fig. 1 and in Fig. 4, to the face of a vertical mould wheel *K*, through which a slot or mould proper extends from the front to the rear face. (Figs. 4 and 5). The entire row of characters in the matrix line is presented directly opposite the face of the mould or slot, as shown in Fig. 4, so that when the mould is filled with metal to produce a slug or linotype, the metal will flow into the matrices, which produces their respective type characters in relief on the edge of the casting.

Behind the mould wheel there is arranged a pot *M*, in which type-metal is maintained in a molten condition by a flame from

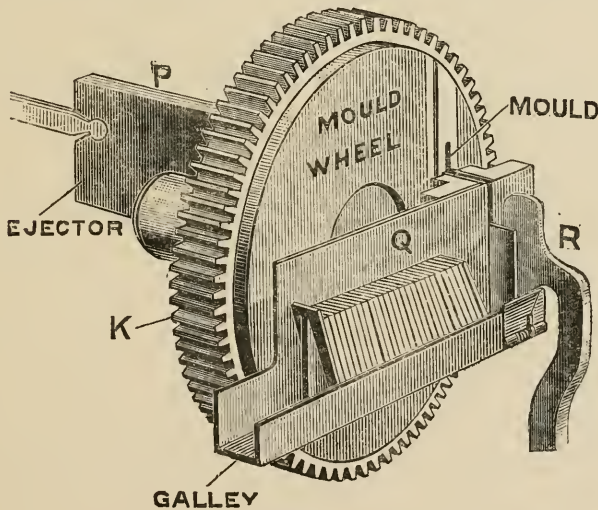


FIG. 5.

the gas burner *N* thereunder. The pot has a delivery mouth or channel adapted to fit against and close the rear face of the mould. Within the pot there is mounted a mechanically operated pump

plunger *O*. After the line of matrices is presented and locked against and across the face of the mould, the mouth of the pot is closed against the rear side of the mould, and the plunger then operates to force the molten metal from the mouth of the pot into the mould, in which it solidifies, completing the slug or linotype. After the linotype is thus produced, the mould wheel makes a partial revolution, turning the mould slot from the horizontal position in which it stood during the casting operation to the vertical position shown in Fig. 5. While the mould stands in this position, a horizontal blade *P* advances from the rear and pushes the linotype forward out of the mould and between trimming knives into the galley *Q* on the front of the machine. A vibrating arm *R* advances the linotypes one after another into the galley, in which they are thus assembled side by side in column form, as shown in Fig. 5.

After the assembled matrices have answered their purpose in front of the mould, it is necessary to distribute and return them to the magazine, from which they are again in due time discharged for use in succeeding lines.

After the casting operation, the line of matrices, having answered its purpose, is lifted vertically, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, and then shifted laterally until the teeth engage the teeth of the plate *R*. This plate then rises as indicated by dotted lines, lifting the entire line of matrices to the distributing mechanism at the top of the magazine. The spaces remain behind when the matrices are lifted to the distributor, and are transferred laterally to the box or holder *H*, to be used again.

The distribution of the matrices to their proper channels is effected by mechanism of extreme simplicity, as follows:—Each matrix (Fig. 2) has the teeth *b* in its upper end arranged in a peculiar order or number, according to the letter which it bears. In other words, a matrix bearing any given letter differs, as to the number or arrangement of its teeth, from a matrix bearing any other letter, and these teeth are relied upon as the means for

effecting the distribution. As shown in Figs. 1 and 6, a rigid steel bar *T* is fixed in position above the open upper ends of the magazine channels, and is formed at its lower edge with longitudinal ribs *t*, adapted to engage the teeth of the matrices and hold the latter in suspension. The ribs of the distributor bar vary in

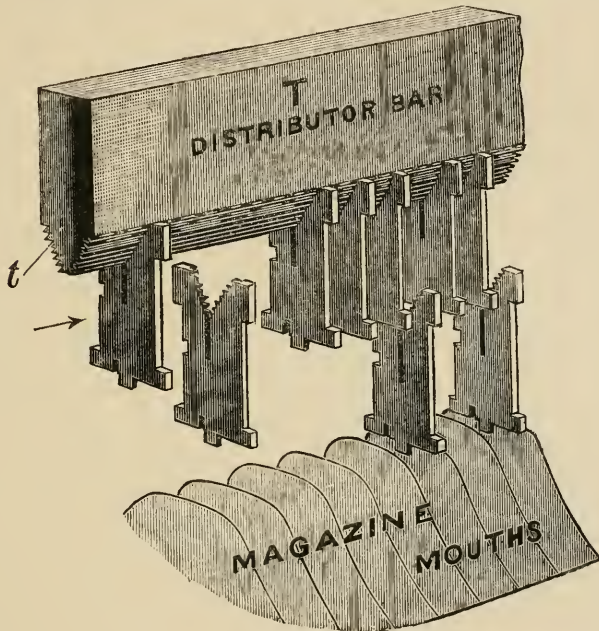


FIG. 6.

number and arrangement at different points in its length, there being a special arrangement over the mouth of each channel of the magazine. The matrices to be distributed are simply pushed horizontally upon the bar at one end, so as to hang suspended therefrom, and then moved slowly along it over the mouths of the channels. Each matrix will remain in engagement with and be suspended from the teeth of the bar until it arrives over its proper channel, where the arrangement of teeth permits the

matrix to disengage so that it falls directly into the channel. This falling action of certain matrices into their respective channels, while other matrices are continuing their course along the bar to their proper points of delivery, is clearly shown in Fig. 6. The movement of the matrices is effected by means of longitudinal screws *U* (Fig. 1), which lie below the distributor bar in position to engage the edges of the matrices and slide them along the bar.

It will be observed that the matrices pursue a circulatory course through the machine, starting from the mouth of the magazine and passing downward to the line in which they are assembled; thence to the mould, to produce the letters on the linotype, and finally back to the magazine at the top. It is this *circulation* of the matrices, and the fact that the operations of composing one line, casting from another, and distributing a third, are carried on *concurrently*, and without interference, that enables the machine to operate at the amazing speed of from eight thousand to eighteen thousand *ens* per hour.

The keyboard *D* (Fig. 1) has 90 keys altogether, 30 of which on the right hand of the operator represent capital letters, &c., the 30 on the left hand represent the small lower-case letters, &c., while the 30 between are for figures, punctuation and other marks, and including keys for quads, small spaces, and some fractions. The large wedge spaces *H I* (Fig. 1) for expanding the spaces between words into an exact line, are dropped into their places by a touch of the key on the left side of the board.

## THE STEREOTYPING FOUNDRY.

**S**TEREOTYPING follows immediately upon the completion of the Compositors' work into pages of type *fac-similes*, of which it produces to any extent required by the printing machines. Without that power of multiplying these plates, the original type pages could only be used by one press; so that the production of newspapers would be greatly limited, as it really was prior to the developed process of stereotyping. When rapid printing presses were invented, they were for a time worked with type pages; but it was a cumbrous and risky attempt at best to gain speed. At the same time these shortcomings, in view of the possibilities of stereotyping, prompted several minds to work out step-by-step the simple and effective method now in use. It will, therefore, be evident that, although the Stereo Department is comparatively small, and needs only a short description, its work is vital to the great output of the modern newspaper.

THE OLD PROCESS OF STEREOTYPING was invented, after several unsuccessful attempts of others, by William Ged, of Edinburgh, in 1711. In his hands the material of the moulds for making counterparts of the type pages was Gypsum flour—Plaster of Paris—from which, when hardened, the metal cast was taken. This method was used for books, &c., so as to avoid keeping up the type when there was a prospect or possibility of an after demand beyond the number at first printed. But as the Plaster of Paris process took some time to dry, so as to stand the hot fluid metal, and was comparatively fragile, it was seen that some speedier plan was necessary, and one that would allow more free handling under the high-pressure emergencies of newspapers.

THE MODERN PROCESS of making stereo plates (said to have been invented by another Scot of the name of Wilson), took the form of a sort of *papier maché* for matrices, made up by a base of strong grey paper, upon which is pasted one or more sheets of



blotting paper, all overlaid with a facing of tissue paper. Sometimes more sheets are used so as to give greater strength, or to give greater thickness and consequent greater thinness to the cast taken from such a matrix. In either case, these moulding papers after being so easily prepared are ready to be placed face to face over the type pages, as soon as the compositors have completed them. Then both are passed under the roller of a mangle,—the pressure of which causes a matrix counterpart to be clearly left upon the soft paper. In this moist state the matrix sheet is placed in an oven to dry, and, after being hardened and trimmed, it is laid on the curved bed of a strong iron casting-box with a heavy lid. By way of the mouthpiece at the upper ends of the box fluid lead, with a proportion of tin to toughen, and antimony to harden the metal, is poured into the box, and covers the face of the paper matrix. In that position the metal quickly sets, so that when the lid is lifted off the newly-made bright stereo plate is found showing an exact *fac-simile* of the type page, and curved to fit exactly the cylinder of the printing press, to which it is immediately transferred to fulfil its purpose. From each of these paper matrices it is a common thing for us to take from 16 to 20 cast plates; and even after enduring so much extreme heat from the liquid metal, they continue capable of doing more pages.

The start of stereotyping, in our case, was on the occasion of launching the *Weekly Herald* in 1864. At that period a stereo plate took 25 minutes to make, and that was considered then a remarkable feat. Now the first two plates are turned out and trimmed ready for printing in nine minutes after the type pages reach the stereotypers' hands. For some years after starting it was the custom, and is still in many newspaper offices, to dry the moist matrix paper while it and the type pages were under a screw press and upon a hot iron slab, in order, as expected, to get a deep and clear impression from the type. As, however, that method of drying the matrix by strong heat through the type resulted in vertical expansion of the latter, and in melting its

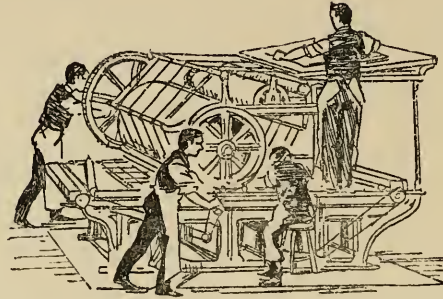
feet, we tried to lessen the evil by the moderating use of gas fires, and afterwards by steam heat; but these were only steps of experience by which we reached the present quicker and safer method. This change from drying the matrix by heat coming through the type pages, to that of drying it by itself in an oven, allowed the type to be kept harmless, and free for immediate redistribution. By this change our last fount of type did duty in producing the *Herald* for 16 years, while type in other offices which continue the hot process show decay and blurred printing in about as many months. It may be added that the heat used for making and keeping the stereo metal in a fluid state ready for casting is also utilised for keeping the drying oven at a sufficient temperature, instead of, as in the other case, having an additional fire to dry the matrix through the type.

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## THE MACHINE PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

**T**HE next stage in the order of Newspaper Production is in the Machine Room, or, as it was called 50 years ago, the Press Room, because formerly all printing was done by hand-press power. Our press room at that period was in a cellar below the counting-house, and measured only 24 feet by 15, or 360 square feet. Besides the one platen press of one cylinder, that space accommodated, amongst other things, our stock of paper, and a big trough of water through which the quires of paper were passed in order to get damped. The printing press was made by Cowper of Manchester, who was at that time considered one of the best makers. The driving power was by four strong men,—three at a time “caaing” the driving wheel with all their might, and the fourth resting by turns, while one apprentice compositor in an elevated position fed the sheets into the machine, and another below took them off after being printed.

So far as I remember, or can learn, the maximum number printed was about 750 copies per hour, but *on one side only*, which meant, including turning and adjusting, about 350



THE COWPER HAND PRINTING PRESS, 1845.

completed papers each hour. Now our seven printing machines are capable of producing from 192,000 to 200,000 *complete copies* per hour, of a size larger than the *Herald* of 1845, all folded, counted singly and in bundles of dozens or scores, ready for immediate despatch. The driving power now, as compared to three men formerly, is equal to that of 2,400 men.

THE DAMPING OF THE PAPER is a work in this department which was, and continues to be, almost always done as a preliminary to the printing of it; and to which an allusion here may be allowed. Some few offices try to dispense with this process, and others in emergencies, print upon dry paper. It is found, however, that in rapid newspaper printing the damp paper takes on the ink better, and prevents its tendency to smear the hands of the reader. This damping, as just stated, was done by laving the quires through water, which, after being heaped together, sufficiently permeated all the sheets. It was a troublesome, rather uncertain and laborious process; and yet, some years ago, when visiting one of the offices of a London newspaper (with "the greatest circulation in the world"), I was surprised to

find the old-fashioned water trough process in full use. All that work, especially since webs of paper took the place of sheets for printing, has been done for most of the leading newspapers by machines, which allow the quantity of water to be graduated to the degree preferred. The damping by machinery has also the advantage of throwing off during the process any stray chips of paper, &c., which may have been carried from the paper mill, and which might affect the printing if not removed.

STEAM POWER AND CYLINDER PRINTING PRESSES.—Steam Engine power for the printing of newspapers was first employed on the 19th November, 1814, in producing the *Times*, when the proprietors announced in it the accomplishment that day of “the practical result of the greatest improvement connected with printing since the discovery of the art itself.” The notice concluded by referring also to the equally important fact of the application of that power to a *Cylinder* Printing Press made by König, a German, by which the work “is performed with such velocity that no less than eleven hundred sheets are impressed in an hour.” That meant paper printed on one side only, and not complete as newspapers are now turned out. It was, however, a marriage between steam power and cylinder printing which is not likely to be soon dissolved. That machine was so complicated that it was supplanted by one invented by Applegath & Cowper, which was supplied in 1827 to the *Times*; it printed copies at a speed very much greater than König’s. Few, if any, newspaper proprietors of that time had either the need, ability, or enterprise of John Walter of the *Times*, and it was not till 1851 that the *Herald* was printed by a steam engine and cylinder machines, made by Brown of Kirkcaldy. These—a small steam engine, with a single cylinder, and shortly afterwards a double cylinder press,—gave faithful service by producing jointly about 2,000 copies per hour on one side, in an enlarged press room until 1859. It must be understood that the type pages lay flat in a bed which travelled hither and thither, at one turn to be inked, and at the

other turn to give off the ink impression to the sheets of paper which were carried round by the cylinders, and then delivered into the hands of an attendant.

ROTARY PRINTING MACHINES, with their greatly increased productive power, came at the fit time to meet the great demand which we had to face in the year 1859, when the *Herald* was transformed into a Daily Newspaper. A few years before, Mr. Robert Hoe, an English gentleman who took up business in New York with his son Richard, made the first of their famous Rotary Presses. In the year 1790, William Nicolson, a patent agent, painter, editor of the *Philosophical Journal*, and general inventor, took out a patent which seems to have been somewhat of a forecast of the leading features of the type and impression cylinder with the inking rollers of the Rotary Press. Nicolson had evidently the faculty to think out, but not to carry out into practice what his genius produced, so that in that and other things he failed to reap the fruit. It was said of him that he was "always inventing, always poor, always borrowing, and at last found himself in prison;" then, it was also said, König found him, learned what his patent was, and mastered it so far as to turn out the first cylinder printing machine, as just stated. Sixty-seven years afterwards, however, Messrs. Hoe showed their mechanical genius in practice by building up, after overcoming many difficult details, their first Rotary Press with cylinders carrying the type pages, which held the field against all other attempts. As in the case of the later Hoe Web Machines, Edward Lloyd, proprietor of *Lloyd's News* and originator of the *Daily Chronicle*, was the first in Europe to adopt these presses. These machines had 4, 6, 8, or 10 impressing cylinders (covered with blanketing to give a soft impression) which were placed round the sides and almost touching a large central cylinder. It moved at starting in a ponderous style, as if feeling the heavy type pages on its back, but soon went on at a speed which earned for the machine in America the name of the "Lightning Press." By every revolution it was brought in actual

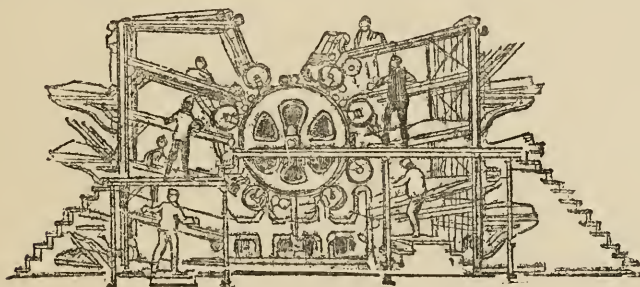


touch with each of these impressing cylinders, or rather with the sheets of paper which they carried, so as to put the impression of the type upon them. The pages of type were fixed on *convex* beds, upon quite an original plan, so as to secure them from falling out while the cylinder was revolving. That was done by the column rules of the pages being made thicker at the top than at the bottom, and by the side-sticks for locking-up the type being so bevelled as to complete the fixing of the whole into a solid page, the page to the bed, and the bed afterwards to the cylinder. These type-beds were with some appropriateness called "Turtles," because, their shape being a segment of the circle of the large cylinder, and of a dumpy figure, with the rule lines on their faces, made them not unlike the back and body of a turtle. Before the printing machine started, a pile of paper in sheets was placed upon a table sloping to each of the small cylinders, and spread towards them. Alongside of these heaps young men stood ready at the start to feed sheet by sheet close to these cylinders, from which projected iron fingers or grippers that seized them at the right moment, and carried them round until they met and received the impression of the type pages on the large cylinder, which made them newspapers on one side. There are, however, few great advantages without some disadvantages, and in this case it was found after a time, from the appearance of the printed matter, that the face of the type was being worn round by the almost constant friction with the impressing cylinder. This led to the adoption of stereo-type plates for the *Daily Paper* as well as for the *Weekly Herald*,—for which the stereo apparatus was at first intended.

One of the advantages these machines had over all their predecessors was the delivery of the printed sheets by large open fans, to which they were conveyed over or under the feeding tables by moving tapes from the printing parts of the machine. These fans or flyers did their work well, and had the advantage of doing the work of a "hand" to each of the 4, 6, 8, or 10 deliveries. The first Hoe Rotary Printing Press we bought was a "Four Feeder,"

so called because the sheets were fed into it by the iron fingers of its four impressing cylinders. That size of machine cost £2,500, and produced from 7,000 and 8,000 copies on one side per hour; but the rate guaranteed was 10,000 per hour. We soon found that it was insufficient for the increased demand made upon us by the public, and, in any case, it became more than ever evident that should the one machine break down we would be helpless. A "Six Feeder," which cost £3,000, was therefore procured and started in 1861. It was set to give 15,000 per hour, but in this case, too, it was not long till it was seen that still greater supply power was required. Our premises, however (then in St. Vincent Place, the position of which is now covered by the Clydesdale Bank), were already overcrowded, and more space on either side could not be bought or leased. It was well that we were compelled in this way to look out for ground elsewhere, as even more than double what we had would not have sufficed to meet our wants for a few years. But ample enough space for the most probable expansions was secured in the heart of Buchanan Street, a street that may be considered the heart of Glasgow, combining, as it does, the business qualities of Cornhill with the fashionable attraction of Regent Street, London. There, between Buchanan Street and Mitchell Street, to which the ground extended, we erected a building which contained on the basement an exceptionally spacious machine room, the ceiling of which was supported by massive iron pillars, 22 feet high, and a compositors' room or hall on the upper floor much larger than any of us conceived as likely ever to be needed, while the remaining floorage was apportioned to the other departments. The area and height of the new machine room were necessary because of the mammoth size of these Rotary Presses, and for the two Eight Feeder Hoe Machines which it was found were required. They reached a height of 18 feet in the greater part of their length, so that there remained just 4 feet as working and air space. Each of these Eight Feeders, which were started in

1868 (7 years after the Six Feeder), cost £4,500, and was rated to print on one side 20,000 *Heralds* per hour. When we took possession of our new premises and of these great printing presses, it seemed to most of us that a very long future, perhaps beyond the years of any one then in the *Herald*, was provided for. And yet 8 years thereafter these fine machines, which were kept in good condition, were superseded by two Web Machines and sold to their makers for £600, little more than the price of old iron. Some months after, when in London, I saw the broken fragments of these Eight Feeders in the yard of Messrs. Hoe & Co.



EIGHT-CYLINDER ROTARY PRESS.

ready to be carted off and melted down. Their predecessors had a longer life time and less humiliating history, as the Four Feeder was transferred through its makers to a South of England newspaper office, and the Six Feeder, which cost £3,000, was sold by us for about £1,000 less to a leading Manchester newspaper, for which it gave many years of good service. When we were about to part with the first and second of these Rotary Machines, I had a call from a Belfast newspaper proprietor, who had many years previously bought our old Cowper hand-driven press. He declared that as it had brought him such good luck he was anxious to have another second-hand machine from us; but the courage to face the working, and perhaps the price, of the Rotary failed him.

The cost of working these presses was very great, for each of the eight cylinders required 8 men to lead in the sheets, other 8 to carry off the sheets after they were printed, and 12 to pass them through twelve folding machines, with two head men,—so that on the regular staff there were not fewer than 46 machine hands. There were two special occasions when the most of that number were kept working or waiting on (eating and sleeping by turns on the premises) for about 36 hours running. These occasions were when the life of the Prince of Wales, under enteric fever, was wavering in extremity for some days, and when the people of the whole Empire were under prolonged anxiety regarding the result. Under the possibility of a fatal result, our Editor had a biographical sketch of the Prince prepared and set up, which was ready for printing at any moment, with the addition of probably two or three lines only, if the moment had come which comes to all. The other cause for such a lengthened waiting time by our men was during the trial of Dr. Pritchard, the poisoner, when the Glasgow public especially were greatly interested in all the details of the evidence and in the verdict.

The cost of working the Rotaries, however, gave us less concern than the handling of the men who fed in the sheets. They knew that they had command of the position gained by their experience, and that new men could not at first do their work. This was shown two or three different times when some of them were “under drink,”—by their refusal to work almost preventing the issue of the *Herald* on these days. As it was necessary for these feeders to place each sheet at an exact point to secure correct printing, a little divergence or turned corner spoiled the sheet, and this waste was all the greater when the men’s heads or hands were unsteady. By the Web Printing Machines, which succeeded the Rotary Feeders, these and other troubles ceased, and various considerable advantages were secured.

A NIGHT SCENE, when such machines were in use, is described as follows by the *New York Tribune*, slightly altered, and gives



a picture of our experience at that period :—" The press-rooms of a great journal now begin to present one of the most picturesque and bustling scenes imaginable. From the basement floor two eight-cylinder machines towered aloft like houses. Eighteen feet in height, thirty-one feet in length, and nine feet in width, they required the space of two entire floors ; they were approached by staircases and galleries ; and platforms were built around them for the workmen. During the early part of the night the pressmen prepared the apparatus with the greatest care. The bearings were oiled ; the tapes and blankets were examined and, if necessary, renewed ; the proper consistency of the ink was tested ; the ink-reservoir was filled ; the inking-rollers were removed, cleaned and replaced ; every one of the complicated parts was looked over and put in perfect order. Meanwhile huge stacks of paper had been moistened and placed on the feeding shelves. About midnight the type-beds or, as it was afterwards, stereoplates of the " first side"—that is, the four pages which appear on the inside of the sheet when the paper is folded—were dropped one by one into the machine-room. Instantly the press-room started into activity. The sixteen hand feeders threw off coats, rolled up sleeves, ran and clambered to their places beside the tiers of shelves. Scores of gas jets began to blaze. The metal plates—four for each of the presses—were quickly lifted into place and secured by clamps screwed to their bevelled edges. The pressman stood with his hand on the starting rope. The distant engine, which had been breathing impatiently for the past half hour, got in motion. The shafting under the vaulted ceiling began to turn. There was a cry, ' All ready ! ' and then, as the rope was pulled, the two great machines, slowly at first, but with accelerating speed, set off on their tremendous revolutions. It was a smooth and sure and comfortable sort of movement, and starting the big four-story press was as easy as starting a clock ; but the whirl and clank of myriad wheels, the rattle of the wooden fliers, the regular pulsation of metallic strokes, made, nevertheless,



a deafening noise. Now the boys seized the fast accumulating piles of printed sheets, and ran with them from the receiving tables to a platform, where they were piled up to await the next process. Others hurried from the stacked piles of paper with fresh supplies for the feeders. So for three hours, without pause, the work went on. A moment's rest; and the plates were taken from the press; the "last side" forms, hot from the stereotypers, and containing most of the telegraphic and late city news, and the editorial comments on the intelligence of the night, were put in their place; and the hurry and whirl and rattle began again. The sheets, printed on one side, were turned over and fed once more into the machines, coming out completed papers. A second set of hands now appeared on the scene. At the end of the press-room stood a row of twelve folding machines, each with a single shelf, like the feeding-board of the press, and on these shelves were deposited the printed papers as fast as the boys could bring them from the receiving tables. A bewildering apparatus of wheels, and tapes, and brass fingers, began to spin around, and through the thicket of machinery one saw certain long steel folding-knives rise and fall rapidly as the sheets, fed in by hand, were drawn under them, and carried along to a wooden box at the bottom. Messengers snatched them by the armful and ran to the despatch-room. Heavy drays were waiting at the door. In a few minutes after the arrival of the 'last side' plates in the press-room, cart-loads were on the way to the early newspaper trains; and long before the presses had finished their task, papers for places out of the reach of railways were in the Post Office. Carriers, newsboys, and the agents of the city and suburbs crowded the despatch-room as daylight approached; and during the last hour especially, when every part of the machinery was revolving at its greatest speed, and men were running hither and thither under the gaslight with immense piles of the printed sheets, and customers were clamouring to be served, the spectacle of a newspaper press-room was one that

never fails to inpress the imagination and fix itself upon the memory."

WEB PRINTING MACHINES.—Many and varied were the attempts to overcome the difficulties of inventing a machine to print on both sides at one movement of the type pages, &c., so as to produce what printers call a perfecting press. Amongst those who had made such efforts were Sir Rowland Hill, the Post Office reformer, Jephtha Wilkinson of New York,—and about the same period,—Richard Hoe, John Walter of the *Times*, Wm. A. Bullock, and Marinoni of Paris. The four latter invented and made such perfecting machines which printed upon webs of paper 3 to 5 miles long, from which the individual newspaper sheets were separated and delivered. But before these Web Presses appeared, and shortly before our Eight Feeder Rotaries were ordered, I had heard that some such remarkable machine was being constructed by Mr. Smith, Engineer, at Well Street, London. Upon my first visit thereafter to London I called upon him, and found him studying the model of his intended web perfecting machine. He readily showed me all, but frankly confessed that he had met a difficulty which seemed insurmountable. The difficulty he imagined was that the attempt to print both sides at the same time would cause the ink to blur and make the paper unreadable; but it was an imaginary difficulty, and yet so real to him, as to block his way when he was on the very verge of a great success. My impression is that his failure was in attempting to get both sides printed at the same actual moment, while the solution was not long afterwards found to be in taking the impress of the first side immediately before the web passed on to be printed on the other side by an adjoining cylinder. Machines upon that principle, but with variations in applying it, were almost simultaneously placed at the service of the public, and produced complete newspapers at one operation without the blurring or smudging with ink which had been feared. They were called after their makers—Hoe, Walter, Bullock, and

Marinoni. It was only in 1855 that the greatest block to the inventive faculty in devising web printing machines was taken away by the abolition of the compulsory penny stamp on each sheet. As these sheets required to be stamped one by one in the Government offices, such a process was impossible in the case of webs of paper miles long. To Mr. Gladstone, then for the first time Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the greatest Financier of the century, belongs the credit of that transaction.

After that difficulty had been overcome another had to be dealt with, in the shape of the delivery of the newspapers apart from the webs when each copy was printed. The continuous rush of the printed web gave no interval for delivery, and even after a method of separating each paper was found they followed one another in an equally continuous and rapid stream. This also was at length solved and the speed increased by Mr. Hoe and his partner, Mr. Tucker, who invented a plan by which a cylinder collected and delivered several papers at a time, and afterwards a still simpler method of passing the sheets between two small rollers, which by quicker motion than the printing cylinders got ahead of their speed and thereby secured intervals of time in the delivery. At first the papers were delivered flat on tables, but by-and-bye folding mechanism was attached to the printers, and the result was not only the printing of both sides of the webs quicker, but the folding and delivery of perfected newspapers. These and other features of the Web Perfecting Machines seem *simple* now, but nevertheless the inventive faculties which step by step evolved them are in a high degree characteristic of this century of invention. The simplifying of the stereotyping process, and the making of curved plates to fit printing cylinders, as latterly used for the Rotary Feeders, may have prompted the thought of using them in connection with the web printing principle,—that principle having been many years before applied to calico web printing.

TWO WEB PERFECTING MACHINES were made for printing

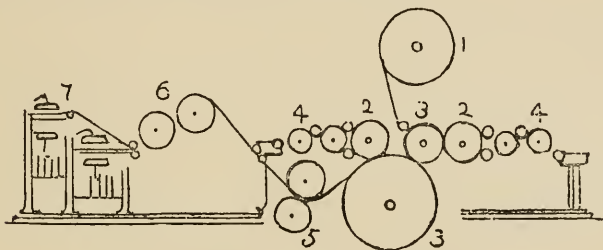
the *Herald* by Messrs. R. Hoe & Co., who also have supplied all the presses—seven in number—which are now in use. These repeated investments sufficiently testify to our appreciation of the excellence of their workmanship. The first two placed in 1875 cost £3,300 each, and were guaranteed to produce at the rate of 12,000 copies an hour printed on *both sides*, besides being folded quarter page, delivered, and counted. They were worked by two men,—a brakesman to control the speed, and a minder to watch the machinery and product. In contrast to that, their Eight Feeder predecessors cost £4,500 each, were expected to print on *one side* 20,000 copies an hour; but the printing of the other side with the delays in changing, &c., caused the total of *completed* copies to be about 8,000 per hour, while each of them required 23 men to feed, carry, and fold the sheets, instead of 2 or 3 to each web machine. The differences, however, did not end with the prices of each, the production, or the number of workmen; for the latter have great advantages not only in economy, but in the way of efficiency, such as enabling the Literary Department to give later news, &c., avoiding spoiled sheets, and in printing only the number of papers actually needed from hour to hour without guessing ahead of the demand, besides delivering us from the jeopardy we were sometimes in by our indispensable workmen refusing to do their part. At the same time, while these Web Perfecting Machines were 22 feet long by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and only one step above the floor to enable the plates to be fixed, their mammoth Eight Feeder predecessors were about two stories high, 31 feet in length, and 9 feet broad.

THE MECHANISM OF THE WEB PRESSES differs almost entirely from that of the Rotaries, although the latter had much to do in prompting the invention of the other. The web machine had what might be called (although it seems like a “bull”) a reversed resemblance to its predecessor,—because while the rotating principle of cylinders continued, the large central cylinder no longer carried the type or stereo pages, but became an impressing

or blanket covered cylinder, and the stereo pages are now carried by the lesser cylinders of which there are only two, instead of 4, 6, 8, or 10 impression cylinders in the case of the so-called Rotaries. Each of these two cylinders carries four stereo plates, one of them nearly touching one side of the impression cylinder, and the second on the other side in similar position. The four plates print on one side only, while those on the other print the completing side, and thus produce an eight-page paper, or that extent of a larger paper, or, what is now becoming rare, two four-page papers. The inking apparatus, which consists of a trough to contain the ink, and a series of rollers covered by a soft but tough composition, or india-rubber, is placed at each side of the printing mechanism so as to take up the ink and spread it in the most equal and slightest manner over the type. The inking rollers were formerly all made of a composition of fine glue and treacle. While they lasted they did their work well, but they caused awkward stoppages in order to be washed clear of the fluff from the paper, &c., which they attracted and retained; they had an attraction to rats also because of the sweet element in them, and that sometimes was awkward. For many years we have got rid of the stoppages and the rats by the almost entire use of india rubber rollers, which have no such attractive nature, and run for several days without washing, while they have given excellent service for ten years and upwards. The reel or web of paper in the case of our machines was at first placed above the cylinders, and when the printing was about to begin the paper was led down between one of the type cylinders and the small blanket cylinder, and there, after the start, the paper received its impression of the type on one side, while immediately after the other side of the web got perfected by the second type cylinder and large impression one. The separation of that piece from the web was begun by passing it between two cylinders (called by engineers male and female cylinders), one of which carried a saw-toothed knife parallel with its length, which serrated the paper at



a point where, after it reached "leading strings" in the form of rapidly moving tapes, the separation of the newspaper from the web was completed, and thereafter it went on to the folding cylinders, &c., which now formed part of the web machine. This description of the mechanism may appear tedious; but, as it applies to all, or almost all, the rapid newspaper machines still in use, and which seem likely to retain their hold in the case of the printing, but not the folding parts, I have ventured to give these details, along with the accompanying Outline Plan, of the process by which complete newspapers are printed.



OUTLINE SKETCH OF FIRST WEB MACHINES.

No. 1 shows the web of paper. 2—The printing cylinders. 3—Impression cylinders; the driving-wheel is on the large one. 4—Inking rollers, &c. 5—The two serrating cylinders. 6—The two folding cylinders. 7—The knives or "choppers" which push the papers between two rollers to give the last two folds.

IMPROVEMENTS ON, AND IMPROVED WEB MACHINES.—The *principle* on which complete newspapers were printed from webs of paper, by means of type-carrying cylinders and impressing blanket cylinders remains, as I have said; but several extensions and improvements in lesser features have been made since they were first brought into general use. The lesser improvements have been chiefly in connection with the folding mechanism. At first the quarter page fold was by two cylinders with grippers to seize the edges and carry the sheets half round, when projecting blunt knives pushed them between two rollers

and made the first two-fold,—one across the top and the other across the page,—and the remaining two-folds by means of blunt “choppers” (as they were nicknamed), each of them attached to long iron handles that moved alternately so as to push the sheets between other two rollers which gave them the finishing folds. This elaborate mode of folding, including numerous tapes to carry or keep the sheets in their order, did much to hinder the printing, so that the promised speed of 12,000 eight-page papers per hour could not be long persisted in with safety. After our first web machines were ordered and at work, the partners decided to start the *Evening Times*; but as it was then a four-page sheet, while they could only print an eight-page *Herald*, we were obliged to continue the use of the old Rotaries. For many reasons this was objectionable; so that, when Mr. R. Hoe, Jr., visited this country about that time, I told him we wished the web machines improved, so as to print a four-page besides an eight-page paper. He said it was impossible; but, as I was not satisfied with that, I said we would get it done ourselves. The result was that we arranged to cut the eight-page sheet in two by the serrating cylinder, and as the folders could not deal with a four-page paper, I also planned a method by which the *Evening Times* was collected and delivered in parcels of half-dozens ready for immediate despatch or sale.

A third web press, however, was found necessary, not only because of having the power to print both sizes, but to meet the still growing demand for them. It was erected in 1877, and about to be started, when it happened that General Grant of the United States was in Glasgow and received the honour of the freedom of the city. It occurred to me that it would be an appropriate compliment to Messrs. Hoe, the American makers of it, if their ex-President inaugurated its use by being the first to bring it into action. He readily came to the office with Mrs. Grant and the Lord Provost, after the city ceremony, and on the 13th September of that year applied the lever by which the machine was put in full motion. “I guess that I have seen some such

printing press in New York," were almost the only words the naturally reticent General uttered. Our men thereafter called the machine "the General;" it is now doing good work in a leading daily paper in Wales. Part of its folding gear was an improvement upon that of its predecessor, but the chopper fold continued. Since that time, however, it has disappeared; and even its two predecessors have now their entire folders taken away, and triangle guiding plates, with small cylinders, &c., have taken their place, and in a very efficient way pour out mechanically counted papers in quantities of dozens, scores, or quires. These two first web presses started 20 years ago, and still "a'maist as guid as new," are converted to produce, and, of course, fold six-page papers as well as four and eight-page sizes.

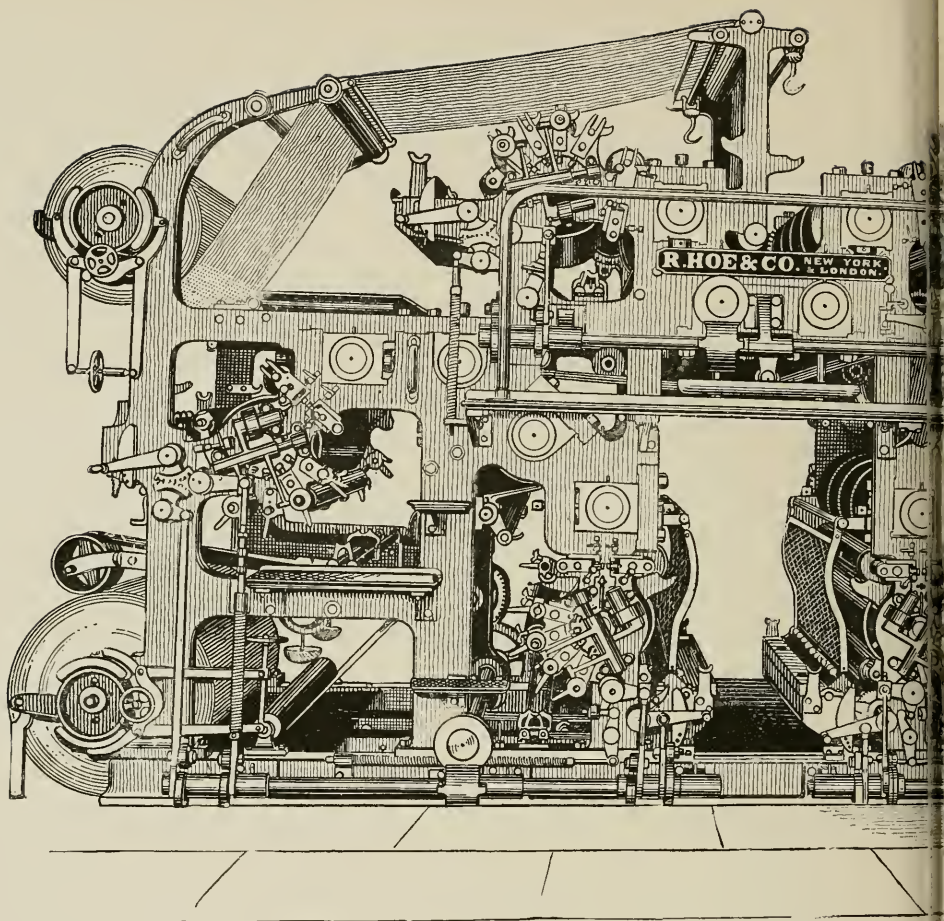
The triangular plate with rounded edges, which took the place of the chopper folders and many of the troublesome tapes, was fixed (although it may seem awkward to say so) with its base at the top, to which the sheet in its full breadth is carried after leaving the printer, and assumes its first fold as in its progress it tapers down to the pointed apex; thereafter it gets the remaining folds by other mechanism of a simpler nature than the old. This method was applied on two presses designed for us by Colonel Richard Hoe, the senior partner of the firm, and formed the last contract he made before he died. He was an able engineer, and very much of a gentleman in all his dealings. That reversed triangular plate of the folding process, which is now in general use, was repeated in two later presses, along with the important advantage of cutting off the printed papers from the web during the folding, and thereby dispensing with leading tapes. These, and other improvements on the printing, as well as the folding mechanism, enable these presses to turn out four or six-page papers at the rate of 25,000 an hour, while they can give 27,000 copies when emergencies require; the eight-page portion of the *Herald* is turned out at half these numbers, and in each case the sheets are gummed together and delivered in portions of dozens or scores.

The speciality of these machines, by which the six pages are produced for the *Evening Times* size, or to make part of a larger size for the *Herald*, is by working webs of *three pages in breadth* (instead of by the ordinary two-page wide webs). After being printed together the web is divided into sheets of 4 pages, and another half that size; but immediately after the latter is diverted to two sloping bars, around which it gets a twisted movement, and from which it is placed and gummed inside the full sheet in page order. These excellent presses were made by Messrs. Hoe's London firm, of which Mr. George R. Willis is the managing partner, and successor to his old friend, Mr. William Conquest, who conducted the business in this country since the first Rotary machine was introduced and erected for Mr. Lloyd's newspapers in 1847.

WEB PRESSES OF GREAT SIZES and immense productive power have also been made, but chiefly to print American Sunday papers and other weekly papers which have long-continued runs without the interruption of repeated editions for later news, with their altered stereo plates. The stoppages of such machines to change several plates of one edition to those of a later edition, which can only be made and placed one by one as they reach the machine-room, mean much loss of time in providing newspapers when parcels of them require to be made up and despatched for different railway trains, &c.; while during that time lesser sized presses, which require, it may be, only one or two late-edition plates, have been rapidly supplying what the greater machines cannot make up in number what they have lost in time,—just as in other cases delayed papers, however important the contents may be, become equal to waste paper if the trains to carry them are missed. For these reasons we have not placed more than one of such machines, called the Three-Web Press. The accompanying Sketch, and the Outline of the course of the web through the printer and the folder, may perhaps suffice to give an idea of its working, after the references already made to the chief mechanical workings of the



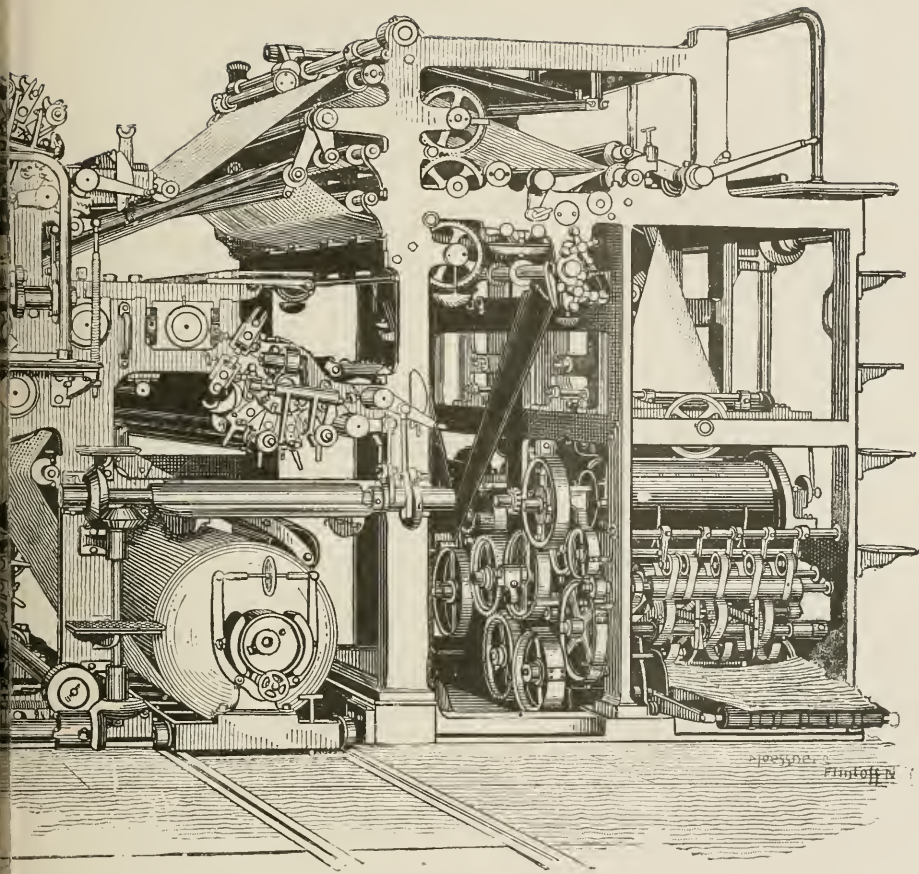




THE THREE-WEB PRINTING PRESS

The Sketch above shows such a Press as that recently made by R. Hoe & Co. In the Sketch, however, there is only one folder and one delivery cylinder; but in the actual machine there are two folders and double delivery, at hand height, as the second delivery cylinder and bar to give the first fold will be seen on the right, near two feet above the first delivery at the left side of that shown in the Sketch. The double folders and delivery rollers, stooping, are both important where a great output of papers is required.

It may be here stated that the small perforations seen at the top of the delivery cylinder, which project at the right moment, catch the sheet as it comes from the folds. Such cylinder pin-catchers have been in use on previous machines.



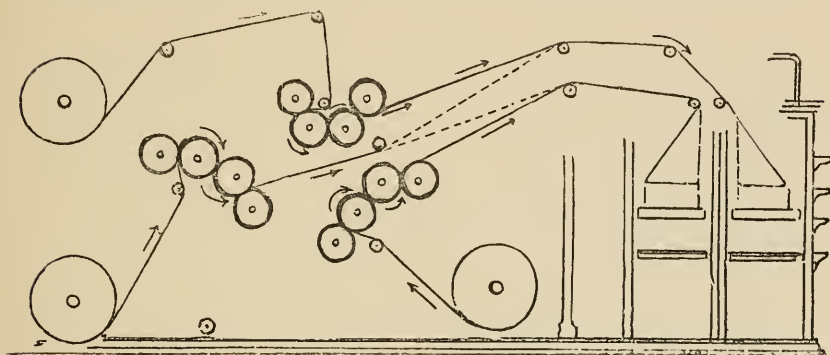
# ND FOLDING MACHINE.

by Messrs. Hoe & Co., London, and erected in our Machine Room. The papers, and that on the floor level: in the case of our machine, on in the following Outline Key. The *side* of one triangular steps. The second folding apparatus on our Press is placed to, and the delivery at a height to suit the handling and save the utmost facility in carrying them off.

foot of the printed pages are made by pins in a cylinder below and hold them on till they are passed to receive the remaining lines.



Web-printing processes. This Three-Web press has an advantage over the smaller presses by producing their united output, and yielding a greater variety of sizes, such as complete papers of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20, or 24 pages, and these papers have the sheets (inset when needed) gummed, folded, counted, and delivered



OUTLINE KEY OF THREE-WEB MACHINE.

Showing the three webs of paper and their courses between the three sets of type and impression cylinders, so as to get printed first on one side and immediately after on the other. The webs then travel to the triangular part of the folders, where the papers get their first fold. The dotted lines show where portions of the webs combine when necessary.

in bundles of certain numbers. The guaranteed rate of production of these extra large sized papers is 12,000 copies an hour, and in the cases of the 4 or 6 page papers the promised output is 48,000 copies per hour.

THE GIANT PRINTING PRESS of the world is now being completed by Messrs. R. Hoe & Co. for the *New York World*, for which (with its Sunday paper) three are ordered. It is called the Octuple Press, because at each revolution of its great cylinders it will print, cut paste, fold, count, and deliver eight copies of eight-page papers. It is rated to give per hour 96,000 four-page papers,—the product of the others varying by stages according to the various larger sizes.



It is curious to find, upon looking backward, the great changes from the small hand-presses to those driven by men, to cylinder machines worked by steam power, on to the huge two-storey Eight and Ten Rotary Feeders ; and then, on the other hand, to find the size almost suddenly diminished to the Web Printing and Folding Machines, across which men may shake hands, and the growth again to gigantic machines, such as the Three-Web Presses and the Octuple, with their marvellous output of perfected papers. With newspaper proprietors the question seems to be constant, What next ? Like the public appetite for news, it may be said that newspaper printing presses grow in output by what they feed on. Fifty years ago we printed not more than 4,000 copies twice a week ; now we turn webs of paper into newspapers which, if put end to end, would in less than a year encircle the globe, from slow stage-coach conveyance of news advanced to railway speed of 60 miles an hour, and to its momentary transmission by electric telegraph from every part of the world ; from gas lighting, to the bright and wholesome electric light ; from speaking to and hearing each other face to face, to speaking and hearing at distances of hundreds of miles ; from hand-press and cylinder printing, at the rate of about 400 complete copies an hour, to a speed of near 1,000 per minute, perfected, folded, counted, and delivered ; and from the old system of type setting by hand to setting by machines, and even dispensing with type almost altogether for solid lines,—the first portion of the installation of these Linotype Machines being now in operation.

We may well wonder if there is room left for as great an advance during the next half century. But that will not be our business.



## UPS AND DOWNS OF NEWSPAPER LIFE.

OUT of about 72 daily and weekly journals published in Glasgow in and since the year 1845 only some 7 *news*-papers remain, while a large number of class papers have also disappeared, and of all kinds there are always some appearing and disappearing. It may fairly be said that on every one of these latter money has been lost, while in the attempt to establish some of them the losses have been considerable. Shortly after that year a wealthy ironmaster, not content with his wealth, tried to make more by establishing a paper, but after absorbing a large sum it collapsed, and a few years thereafter his own proper business also went down. In the case of one of the early daily papers one of the proprietors told me that £32,000 had been lost upon it, but added he would not say how much he and his partner had spent after they acquired it. The *Daily News* is said to have cost its early proprietors £200,000 before it began to pay anything. These losses, however, were moderate compared with those of our own day, so far as expenditure went, when so many are itching to have a hand in a "guid gangin'" newspaper, or failing that to start a new one, at a risk considerably greater than formerly. Not a few of them believe that their greater literary or managing gifts will produce better results than years of experience, so that the vicissitudes of newspaper history have repeatedly shown literary and social dons spending their brains and money, or the money of other people, fruitlessly. One gentleman in starting a journal did not hesitate in his opening announcement to go very near to calling himself a heaven-born journalist, so that his future readers might expect great things. For a time he managed to serve out occasional sensations, but the public became tired of them, and his paper went down, while he went up to London—that happy hunting-

ground where the bad and indifferent as well as good and able men do congregate.

Political interest has also been a motive in the launching and maintenance of newspapers. And here the curious fact may be pointed out that previous to about ten years ago it was difficult to start, or to keep in life Conservative newspapers, although great sums and expensive nursing were spent upon them in different parts of the country. But during the last ten years that experience has been reversed, so that in several cases Liberal newspapers have gone down and others have been unsuccessfully started. Some years ago (in the seventies) one such daily newspaper was started from political motives by a large number, chiefly of county gentlemen and "merchant princes," who were dissatisfied that no organ within their sphere sufficiently represented their views. A Limited Company to exploit these views and overwhelm their opponents was therefore formed, composed of about 200 shareholders, by whom a capital of £30,000 was paid. That sum was soon exhausted, when, it was said, they and other political friends were appealed to to double their contributions; but while some such amount was again contributed from amongst the party it was reported that one gentleman, a local political magnate, declined to invest more money in shares, but instead offered rather to the Company those he had at first as a free gift! These two sums, amounting, it was stated, to about £60,000, seem also to have been used up, when another gentleman, who had become very wealthy and who afterwards successfully aspired to political honours, was induced to come to the rescue. When all was over it came out in evidence given on the occasion of a Court of Session case that he had paid £100,000 to carry the venture on, but got none of it back, and yet that the paper never reached the paying point, although the £100,000 friend had a succession of guardian angels watching the cash box. It died, and it seemed that not even fragments of the £100,000, or of the £60,000 which went before, remained to be gathered up.

Edinburgh has had repeated experiences of newspaper losses. One authority refers to five different cases there by which upwards of £500,000 were lost, and concludes as follows:—"To start a daily paper in these days is a costly experiment. It ought never to be attempted without a determination to spend the entire capital of the company in the first twelve months. That is, if money will buy the best talent and the latest news, let the public see it is so from the very start. The chance is lost if the paper fails to make a hit the first few weeks of its career. Success can only be assured by an immediate expenditure from which proprietors and shareholders—with no newspaper experience—shrink, and the loss of which millionaires alone can face with indifference."

In a London evening paper it was recently stated that, irrespective of what a previous owner had spent, £170,000 was lost upon it. I cannot say whether it is going on spending or is making anything for the new proprietor; a newspaper with a bad name has not usually a hopeful look ahead, but in this case although it was stated that it had the greatest circulation "its circulation went up as the price of its shares went down," and so on.

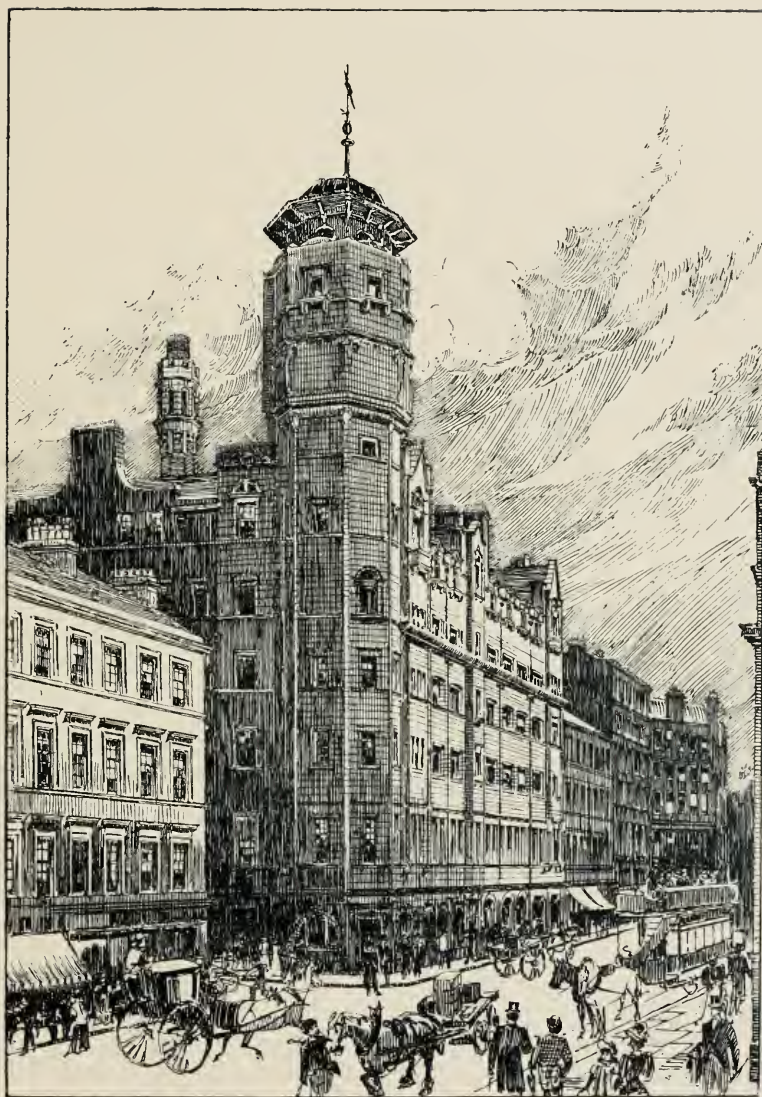
More of such cases as I have mentioned might easily be given; it is a pitiable portion of newspaper history, but nevertheless new crops of a similar kind will probably rise in the future as in the past.

## OUR PREMISES, FIRES, &amp;c.

THE premises of the Company from 1841 to 1859 were in the Court at 182 Trongate, then at St. Vincent Place till 1868, and thereafter in those between Buchanan Street and Mitchell Street—where we now are. Before these and previous removals the partners of these days repeatedly got such extended accommodation as was possible at each place; but the ever-increasing necessities of the business compelled them to secure new quarters. When, however, we took possession of the block extending from Buchanan Street to Mitchell Street there was at our disposal space to spare for tenants, which served also as a reserve for extensions for our own use from time to time. Within the last few years we have acquired in addition two adjoining blocks which had been burned down, one of them twice, and which had been on both occasions very near bringing a similar fate on the premises we then occupied. The total area of the ground now owned by our firm extends to 7,676 square feet—which, besides the original purchase between Buchanan Street and Mitchell Street, includes the most of the south side of Mitchell Lane. The latter acquisitions were added not only to give more accommodation now and perhaps for coming generations, but also to deliver us from the danger of combustible neighbours.

THE DANGER FROM FIRE is a specially serious one to a daily newspaper, because if it overtakes the compositors' or the printing department it means such a suspension of the business as may do it fatal injury. Other businesses can generally manage to live after a fire by getting temporary premises and laying in stock from other quarters, or by getting their customers to be patient for a time; but an interval in the issue of a daily newspaper allows others to take its place, and may lead to a permanent loss of custom. We have had four fires in Buchanan Street,—much





**"GLASGOW HERALD" MITCHELL STREET BUILDINGS,  
With Water Tower for "Internal Sprinklers" and "External Drenchers."**





more than an average experience,—all of them from neighbours, and three of them extremely dangerous, touching our premises and destroying the buildings in which they originated.

From an outbreak in the Mitchell Lane block—the first of the three—in 1876 the roof of our Case-room was set on fire, and as it seemed that the whole block was going, all our men in the different departments were warned out. At the time I happened to be in London on business, and was startled from sleep during the night by Mr. Walker, our London sub-editor, calling out at the hotel bedroom door that “the Glasgow offices were on fire, the compositors had left, and the Special Wire clerks were going off with their instruments.” I went back with him at once to our London offices, but there we could only wait on in silent and anxious suspense, as we could not learn a word more either by our own wires or by those of the General Post Office. At length, about 4 A.M., a short but glad message came from Glasgow that the compositors had returned, and in half an hour after another message that the printing machines were about to start. It turned out, however, that, while the fire brigade saved the roof, the danger reappeared by the fire bursting a window and seizing upon an inner room. As an illustration of how a newspaper might in such a case lose its connection, I found upon getting home that a contemporary had sent out enormous extra supplies of papers under the impression that it was impossible for the *Herald* to appear; their extras were happily not required.

THE WYLIE & LOCHHEAD FIRE (as it was called) on Saturday the 3rd November, 1883, was a formidable matter for us, because although at first it was not actually in touch with our buildings the burning flakes were carried to several properties to windward, including ours; so that while three of our roofs were set on fire but extinguished by our employees who were there as a water fence, some flakes overleaped them and settled on the adjoining property, which was burned to the ground. This placed our premises in such extreme danger that the police ordered every

one out of them, but at what seemed the last moment I got a fireman with his water hose to play upon the crucial part of our editorial floor, which the great tongues of flame were attacking, and we were saved again.

FIRE-EXTINGUISHING APPLIANCES were already placed throughout all our buildings; but we felt the need of all additional available protection. That we considered we had gained by a complete installation of Automatic Water-Sprinklers in March, 1888, which in the event of internal fire were planned to act almost instantaneously. When thereafter I bantered with some of our fire insurance friends, and the City Firemaster, that we were now practically independent of them, they quite fairly reminded me of the origin of our serious experiences by saying: "Yes, the internal sprinklers are good as far as they cast water, but as your troubles have all been from your neighbours, what about your dangers from the *outside*?" This answer was so true that it set me to think out a plan which by perforated pipes on the ridges of all our roofs, at every exposed window, &c., should enable us promptly to turn on a flowing shield of water if at any time a fire threatened. These, which were completed early in 1891, I called External Drenchers (to distinguish them from the internal sprinklers). Some time after they were fixed it was found preferable to plug the perforations, which were apt to get choked by dust, and instead to attach to the pipes what are called open sprinklers with their mouths downwards so as to keep them free of dust. When the big Mitchell Street block—the south gable and part of the east side which touched ours—was burned down to its basement on the 7th August, 1892, it so happened that the drencher pipe next that block was in our machine shop getting the alteration made. But this led to a remarkable demonstration of the value of both the internal and external water protection: while other exposed parts of the roof and windows were covered by a gentle flow of water, and absolutely resisted the great volumes of flame,

these seized upon the unprotected part and were travelling along the roof and through it when the internal sprinklers opened and instantly poured out such a "thick rain" above and about them that the fire there was speedily quenched, and the building saved from destruction. While the internal sprinklers were thus proving their value the external drenchers gave similar proof of their efficiency below the same north-west corner, where the windows of a well of light were very much exposed to the fire: there we found a gentle flow of Loch Katrine water covering the glass and frames of the windows, and in the end there was no damage more serious than three cracks of the glass, and not even a blister on the paint of the frames. The cost of the installation of the sprinklers, and the very small cost of the drenchers, are soon returned through the reduced fire insurance rates, which no doubt pay the Insurance Companies better than higher rates would for greater risks. It has long seemed to me a strange thing that so few property owners, warehousemen, and others use such effective protection against fire. In America and England they do so more than in Scotland, while I learned that in one of the largest retail warehouses in London my unpatented plan of external drenchers was adopted (without acknowledgment) about two years ago.

REPEATED EXTENSION OF PREMISES affords one of the best proofs of newspaper progress. At the beginning of the half-century just past, and for some years after, the Public office was an apartment measuring 280 square feet, which lay to the right hand of the entrance shown in the Sketch at page 86; on the left was the one equally small apartment for the Editor; while above the office was another for the Reporter,—both rooms together giving 430 square feet for the Literary Department, which was manned by the Editor and one Reporter only. The Case-room—the largest apartment of all—extended over the Editor's room, and the Machine-room was partly under the office. The entire area occupied then was about 2,412 square feet, while

we have in use and now completing floor space to the extent of 34,852 square feet. The following table gives the figures in detail for those who may be interested :—

	In 1845.	In 1897.
Public Office, &c., - - -	280 sq. ft.	5024 sq. ft.
Editorial and Reporting, -	430 "	2855 "
Compositors' Case-Room, -	1192 "	3538 "
Printing Machines, &c., -	360 "	5203 "
Despatch Apartment, -	150 "	4034 "
Stereotyping " -	None in 1845.	490 "
Special Wire Clerks, - -	"	192 "
Mechanics' Shop, - - -	"	2008 "
Steam Engines, Boilers, &c., -	"	1576 "
Pneumatic Tube Plant, -	"	246 "
Electric Dynamos, &c., -	"	546 "
Editorial Tea Room, - -	"	240 "
Stores for Paper, &c., - -	"	8685 "
Hydro-Pneumatic Engines, &c., for Hoists, - - -	"	215 "
	<hr/> 2412	<hr/> 34,852

Besides the accommodation stated, the *Herald* forces at night have, in addition to the above, the use of the *Evening Times* Composing, Stereo, Editorial, and other apartments, extending to 4,240 square feet, while the *Evening Times* has the use of the former during its day work. The measurement of the Public office includes now the General Manager's room, and other apartments necessary to the Publishing work of the papers.

After these figures as to the sources of newspaper production, it may not be inept to give the following as to *results*. The subject was started (but was not continued) by a Yorkshire paper :—

#### THE GREATEST ADVERTISING NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(From the *Glasgow Herald*, May 23, 1896.)

There have recently been published on the subject of "record" advertising days in British newspapers a number of statements which are misleading, inasmuch as what is a favourite day for advertising in one district is not so



in another. Obviously the only fair course in a matter of this kind is to make a comparison of the *totals* of advertisements which have appeared in different newspapers during a considerable period of time. As a result of such a comparison, beginning with January of last year, extending over the 16 months ending with last month, we find that the first advertising medium among British daily newspapers is the London *Daily Telegraph*, that the second is the *Glasgow Herald*, and that the third is the London *Times*. It is unnecessary in this connection to mention the names of other journals, as the highest of them is considerably below the three mentioned. The following are the exact figures for the period mentioned :—

NEWSPAPERS.				COLUMNS OF ADVTs.
THE LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH,	-	-	-	18,118
THE GLASGOW HERALD, -	-	-	-	15,162
THE LONDON TIMES, -	-	-	-	14,858

The *Liverpool Mercury*, it has since appeared, is also one of the most extensively advertised papers.

In confirmation of the above correction it may be added that on the day after the misleading statement referred to was made, the *Leeds Evening Express* published the following results of what appeared that morning :—

GLASGOW HERALD,	-	-	-	-	64 Columns.
LONDON TELEGRAPH,	-	-	-	-	55 „
LIVERPOOL MERCURY,	-	-	-	-	55 „
LONDON STANDARD,	-	-	-	-	54 „
LONDON DAILY NEWS,	-	-	-	-	39½ „
YORKSHIRE POST,	-	-	-	-	29 „
To which should be added—					
THE TIMES,	-	-	-	-	55 „
SCOTSMAN,	-	-	-	-	44½ „

## CONTENTS OF THE *HERALD* IN 1846 AND OF ITS PREDECESSOR OF 1796.

The following two articles (extracted from the *Evening Times*) give a racy and fair idea of the contents of the *Herald* 50 years ago, and of its predecessor 100 years ago :—

### A *HERALD* OF 'FORTY-SIX.

“Fifty years,” as a gentleman writing on Her Majesty’s Jubilee luminously remarked, “is a considerable period of

time." It was his seventeenth article on the subject, and he was naturally hard put to it in finding a new and appropriate opening sentence. To realise how long a period is fifty years, there is no better way than a glance over an old newspaper, which is always of intrinsic interest, apart from its value as a chronometer. In fact, on almost any day of the year the corresponding issue of fifty or a hundred years back will be found more entertaining than the current number. A stray copy of the *Glasgow Herald* for May 4th, 1846, leads one to that conclusion. It is a most imposing sheet of large pages, with its advertisements amply spaced. There are four pages of eight columns each, and of these 32 columns only 14 are devoted to reading matter. In 1846 the paper was issued only twice a week, and the price, delivered in town, was £2 2s. per annum. From these considerations 50 years is "a considerable period of time." But the first announcement that catches the eye on the front page tends to a contrary view. Is it really only 50 years since A. K. H. B. began the gentle art of essay writing? One cannot conceive a time when he was not writing, yet here is the beginning of things. The University Prize Distribution is recorded, "attended by many Reverend and respectable gentlemen of the city and neighbourhood," and Andrew K. H. Boyd bore off the University Medal for the Best Essay on the Nature and Influence of Motives in Moral Action. Andrew being a lad of pairts also obtained the first prize in the Ethic Class, and further down the list we learn that he found out

"How pleasant the tap  
Of the velvet cap  
Which, as old tradition teaches,  
Was made with fond care  
From the Sunday-best pair  
Of Chancellor Cunningham's breeches."

And the love of church millinery was inspired in the heart of the Essayist when Lauchie's immediate forerunner smoothed the B.A. hood upon his shoulders. Another well-known name figures in the medical class list, where Ebenezer Watson, A.M., lifts the

Cleland Gold Medal and three other prizes. Only 27 degrees in arts were granted in sessions 1845-6. In the same page the Spring Circuit deals out transportation in liberal quantities. The House of Commons is busy with the case of Mr. Smith O'Brien, who has shown his patriotic contempt for the House by refusing to serve on one of its committees. Sir Robert Peel moves that Mr. O'Brien be not heard, as he refused to explain last night, and thereafter carries the Protection of Life (Ireland) Bill by a thumping majority of 149. The leader-writer of '46 had an ideal position. He wrote half a column twice a week, and we suppose meditated between times on the increasing pressure of the age. The leader column ends with the naïve announcement—"The foreign news is wholly unimportant." But the weather department was carefully attended to by a poetical contributor:—

*The Weather.*—After some days of bleak and wintry weather, the season has taken up beautifully since May-day. The young oat brairds are coming up healthily, the wheats are bushy and vigorous, and altogether the aspect of the country is full of freshness and luxuriance. We can now, in the spirit of gladness and gratitude, say with the inspired singer—"Lo, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come; and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Consols "have been done as high as 96½," and Pig Iron 63s. to 64s. for No. 3. Lord Lincoln is returned by eleven votes for Falkirk Burghs, "a free and independent representative of a free and independent constituency (Hisses)." His opponent's name was Wilson. Amongst the wonders of the time are the electric pendulum, by which Edinburgh, Falkirk, and Glasgow could be synchronised, and a new gun-lock from Paris, practically our present mechanism for keeping the hammers at half-cock. The Iron Duke is congratulated upon his 77th birthday, and the next column chronicles an "unheard-of undertaking," namely, a wager to walk 1500 miles in 1000 successive hours. Foulards and bareges, with open fancy straws, were the only wear in Sauchiehall Street *anno* 1846. Literature is represented by a twenty-line

review of the Rev. Dr. Croly's "Marston," taken from a London paper. There is no contributed matter, but the sub-editor had a cosmopolitan pair of scissors, for besides the London papers, and such provincial journals as the *Carlisle Patriot*, the *Carnarvon Herald*, the *Elgin Courier*, and the *Hull Packet*, selections are made, and duly acknowledged, from the *Geelong Advertiser*, *Western Clearings*, and the *Albany Citizen*. But perhaps the advertisement columns go furthest in justification of the Jubilee Journalists' contention. Space is no object, for every notice—even a "Wanted"—has its own heading, occupying a quarter of an inch. The following is a sample of the prominent setting given in those years to advertisements. Such a length would cost about 6s. 6d :—

BOY WANTED.

WANTED

FOR AN OFFICE IN TOWN

A SMART, ACTIVE BOY, who writes a neat, expeditious hand. Salary for the first year, £15.

Letters in the applicant's handwriting, stating age, to be addressed H. B. W. and left at the *Herald* office.

Glasgow, 22nd August.

In our days such a "Want" would be stated somewhat as follows, and costs only 6d. :—

BOY WANTED, expeditious writer. Salary £15 first year.  
Address H. B. W., *Herald* office.

Lastly, in 1846 not a single steam vessel was advertised as sailing foreign from the Clyde. Steamers ventured to Gareloch-head, some even to Belfast and Liverpool. For New York and Australia the A1 British-built barque and the first-class ship Corsair of 350 tons sufficed. Not in those day could the poet make complaint that

"Vainly did Heaven, to save mankind from worry,  
Dissever land from land by perilous ways,  
When the unconscionable Donald Currie  
Will take you to the Cape in fifteen days."

For in 1846 the then "Castle Company's" steamers ran between Glasgow and Rothesay, while Sir Donald Currie's company was not in existence.

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#### A HERALD OF 1796.

The title of this article is slightly inaccurate in two respects. First, there was no such name as the *Glasgow Herald* at that period, but its ancestor in the direct line was the *Glasgow Advertiser*, started in 1782, in an office whose yearly rent was £5. At the age of twenty the *Advertiser* became the *Herald and Advertiser*, and shortly after the latter word was dropped. From the origin in 1782 the numbers of the papers were continued in consecutive order, and showed the unity of the whole. Secondly, the *Advertiser* of 1796 is not in existence. But, for the purpose of contrast with the *Herald* to-day and "A *Herald* of 'Forty-six," referred to in this column last Wednesday, the paper as it was issued in 1794 serves equally well. In its general appearance the *Advertiser* differs greatly from the unwieldy sheet of fifty years ago. The issues of nine months make up a volume resembling externally a Family Bible. The page is nearly square, and taking the number published this day one hundred and two years ago, it is found to consist of eight pages of three columns each. The paper was published on Monday and Friday, by J. Mençons, Tontine Close, Trongate, who added to his duties as publisher and editor the sale of such articles advertised in his paper as the Parisian Vegetable Syrup, which, "with the Divine Blessing on five bottles," was a certain remover of "fever and colliquative sweat." The price of the paper was 4d., or 37s. per annum, delivered in town. Perhaps the most striking contrast between 1846 and 1794 is in respect of the foreign news supplied. In the issue of the *Herald* referred to last week, that department of the paper consisted of one line—"The foreign news is wholly unimportant." The issue of September 22nd, 1794, is more than half made up of intelligence from abroad. The reason is obvious when



one recollects that in that year our army was swearing terribly in Flanders, Robespierre was mouthing at large in the National Convention, with guillotine accompaniment, and Howe ceaselessly patrolling the Channel; while at home the war fever was at its height. The first item in the paper is an advertisement by Mr. Hall, of the Ingram's Street Academy, for "A Man of *good* natural temper and *great* application, *eminently qualified* to teach Writing." Then follow an account of the State of France, including a harrowing description of La Vendée, and an "Interesting Story from Florence," of a doctor who was obliged, on pain of death, to open the veins of a young lady whose brothers desired to be rid of her. "Saturday's Post" opens with a report of the French National Convention for 9 Fructidor, or 26 August—only about a month old. This report was a regular feature of the *Advertiser*. The Netherlands, Holland, Poland, and Turkey occupy two columns. The Porte, at the request of the British Ambassador, sends troops to Smyrna to protect our traders from the attentions of three French frigates. The London column is also entirely foreign news, except for the statement that "Carleton House is about to be completed for the residence of the Prince of Wales and his Royal Consort." Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Whitby share half a column. "Sunday's Post" and "Monday's Post" are made up of similar material and in the same fashion. The London correspondent wants to know why, if our fleet is so overwhelmingly strong, the French ports were not all blockaded many months ago, and the *Star* critic suggests that our ships would be better employed in protecting commerce than in "battering barren Corsican rocks." The London correspondent makes merry over an Irish Paper's biography of Robespierre, who "left no children behind him except his brother, who was killed at the same time." The Stock List, with Lloyd's Shipping List, makes up the whole of the commercial news. The former is worth giving in its entirety:—

## STOCKS.

Bank Stock.	Shut.
3 per ct. rd.	Shut.
3 per ct. con.	65 $\frac{1}{4}$ .
4 per ct. an.	Shut.
3 per ct. an.	100 $\frac{7}{8}$ .

The Glasgow news of three days gets three-quarters of a column. It includes the arrival of Lords Dunfinnan and Swinton for to-morrow's Circuit, Fire in the Gorbals, and the discovery of Perpetual Motion by a mason in Arbroath. "There is little doubt," says the Editor, after describing the machine, which "moves merely by its own powers of pressure, that it will go for ages." Leaders there are none. That is the most notable omission, and next to it is the absence of Births, Marriages, and Deaths. But now and then the Editor feels his responsibility as a custodian of morals, and this is how he sets about the business of writing:—

"Of late, we have heard much of French *atheism* and *infidelity*, and which our Senators and all good men have recently most piously deprecated; we are extremely sorry that a like sense of the heinousness of such principles will necessarily oblige them, if not blinded by prejudice and partiality, to direct their attention to the conduct of persons nearer home, and with whom they are most intimately connected. We have only to refer our readers to the Journal of the Operations of the Duke of York's army in page 389 of this paper, where they will observe that on *Sunday* evening, the 15th inst., 'three or four hundred *officers*, mounted and betting in high style, attended a *horseracing*, and that even the *private soldiers* had their pints of gin depending on the different heats!!!' Comment is almost unnecessary; we shall only say, that if those that behave in such a manner on a *Sunday* be not *professed Atheists*, they are undeniably *practical Deists*, which is but one remove from the other description, and they are certainly not less culpable in the eye of God.

Wednesday, a dog apparently mad, bit several dogs in the streets of the city.—*See advertisement.*"

Advertisements average one-sixth of the whole paper, instead of in 1846 nearly one-half. The largest one in this particular issue is a list of the Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Heritors of Lanarkshire, convened by the Duke of Hamilton to take measures for the internal defence of the county. From another we learn that Black

Tea fetches from 3s. 8d. to 6s. per pound, and the Best Green Gunpowder Tea, 11s. State Lotteries are in full swing, and the Glasgow Surgeons request that, owing to the great increase in the size of the city, people who wish them to call in the evening will inform them not later than three o'clock. We find Mr. Houston-Rae requesting as a commentary on the "increasing size of the city," that none will shoot or course on the estate of Govan without his permission and Mrs. Durie, of the Black Bull Inn, referring to her husband's decease, intimates in effect the epitaph that

" His wife keeps on the business still,  
Resigned unto the Heavenly Will."

The *Advertiser* of 1794 was very strong in poetry, often of the elegiac sort, as in "Monimia, a True Story, and wrote at the desire of a Lady," by a poet whose combined modesty and pride constrain him to sign "W—— M'D—w—ll y—g—t." One verse will be quite enough:—

" Peace to the spot where rests Monimia's head,  
Here let a *stranger* sympathetic mourn !  
Sigh in condolence with her injured shade,  
And bathe with Pity's tear the silent urn !"

These verses can stand comparison with Pye's laureate ode on His Majesty's 57th birthday, as it appears in the issue of June 9th. But it is in its foreign budget that the *Advertiser* shines. Nothing could bring home to one the details and significance of such an event as the "Glorious First of June" half so well as the perusal of its columns upon the subject, including Howe's modest and matter-of-fact report of that magnificent seafight in which he swept the Channel clean. Other accounts describe how one of his ships grappled a French frigate so tightly that the lower deck gun ports could not be opened, so that the British pigtailed fired through their closed ports. Sir Roger Curtis made such haste to town with the news, that he was twice upset, and arrived in London with both his arms in slings. For such picturesque

and eloquent details we may search history books in vain. It is pleasing to notice that Glasgow never let slip any occasion of avowing its sturdy Sabbatarianism, for at the rejoicings in the Town's Hall, a prominent toast was "May the lesson given to the French on the memorable 1st June, teach them a proper respect for Sunday in all time coming."

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In bringing these *Herald* reminiscences to a close, it is right to add that reference to two modern features of newspaper work is made a few pages farther on in connection with the *Evening Times*. These features belong more to evening than to morning papers,—I mean Out-of-door Sports and Newspaper Illustrations.

## WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.

THE *Glasgow Weekly Herald* was started on the 12th November, 1864, being, like most of the Weeklies out of London, fathered by a Daily newspaper, which itself had sprung from a journal published twice or thrice a week. The reason for this was that weekly papers continued to be in demand with those who had not time to read or money to buy a daily paper, and with others who wanted the news of the week in condensed form to send to their friends in the country, the colonies, &c. On the other hand, it naturally fell to the conductors of daily papers to transfer a selection of the news which they already had in type to the pages of their Weeklies, rather than that they should leave such matter to be used by other publishers who had been at no expense in collecting it. These Weeklies serve important public interests, especially such as are still issued in county towns, &c., and help their local readers to realise that they are parts of communities which have concerns and responsibilities in common.

LAST CENTURY WEEKLIES, according to the following extract from the first number of the *Glasgow Mercury* (begun in January, 1778, and ended on September 4, 1796), were of a much higher type than most in the present day. It is difficult to learn of the existence in Scotland then of one of the many Dailies referred to, or, from our modern experience, to believe in the comparison drawn:—"The curiosity of mankind has produced a number of periodical papers, many of them published daily, conveying accounts of the transactions of the times. Of these, the weekly paper appears to be the most useful and satisfactory. In the daily paper you have the tale of the day, without any certainty of its truth; but in the weekly paper you have articles mostly of authentic intelligence. The Editor, having leisure to distinguish truth from falsehood, imparts that information that seems to merit attention." After that, Editors of present-day Dailies must reconsider their position!



THE SERIAL STORY became at an early stage a leading feature of the modern Weekly, and evidently met the craving of the imagination in the rank and file of readers. The character and quality of weekly fiction have often been poor enough, and in many cases of very dubious and objectionable nature, with sensational matter gathered by the muck-rake from all quarters,—but it is only fair to remember that some of the very best work of recent novelists has been first issued in this way.

When the *Weekly Herald* was started, the Editor aimed at suiting the class of readers most likely to appreciate well-selected news and general literature, but it contained no fiction. Although it at once commended itself to the intelligence and taste of the public, it scarcely did so to the extent which was expected; and in looking seriously into the question, various suggestions were considered as to how the paper might be made more attractive. After a few years' experience, it became evident that one of the best means of attracting readers was the publication of serial tales. The idea was comparatively new, and for a time the best papers hesitated to entertain it. But its success elsewhere dissipated the doubt, and it was at length resolved to make an experiment with a serial story in the *Weekly Herald*. This was in 1869, when the sole responsible Editor (Mr. Pagan), at the suggestion of his Assistant-Editor (Mr. James H. Stoddart), consulted Mr. William Freeland, one of the staff, with the result that the latter consented to write the first novel for the *Weekly*. The work was called "Love and Treason," and was based on what was known as "The Glasgow Radical Risings," a theme which commended itself to a great number of readers in and beyond Glasgow. The forthcoming story was duly announced, and caused some little stir, not only amongst those whose fathers were concerned in the events, but especially amongst city ancients who remembered the hapless "Battle of Bonnymuir," in 1820. One of the most singular things arising out of the announcement was a letter from the late Peter Mackenzie, editor of the *Reformers' Gazette*, a paper long defunct.

This gentleman, in his "Reminiscences," a rough but interesting book, had written an account of the Radicals, and he then wrote me expressing the hope that his sketches were not to be reproduced or plagiarised in any way. In the reply, after consulting the Editor, I of course assured him that, as the work about to appear was a romance, there was no intention of interfering with his literary rights, hinting, however, at the same time, that historical facts were not the property of any particular person, but of all who might choose to make use of them. Mr. Mackenzie lived long enough to perceive from Mr. Freeland's story that his apprehensions were baseless. At length the work began to appear, and as it ran its course from week to week it gave much satisfaction, by its mingled wit and humour. The fact is that it forestalled the "Kailyaird" school in many of its merits by about a score of years. After its completion in the *Weekly Herald*, "Love and Treason" was published in three volumes, in 1872, by a London firm, and met with a very friendly reception from the critics,—the *Athenæum* going so far as to say that it contained the best illustrations of Scottish humour which had appeared since the days of Galt. The first and only edition of the book was soon exhausted, and, though often asked for, it has never been reprinted. As a local work, an edition in one volume, with some abridgment, might be easily absorbed by Glasgow alone. The next notable story published in the *Weekly Herald* was "A Daughter of Heth," by Mr. William Black.\* Many shrewd readers still regard this novel as Mr. Black's most original and admirable work. Up to this time his productions had received but scant justice at the hands of certain reviewers, though the *Spectator* was too keen not to recognise in the writings of Mr. Black signs of a new literary star. But many critics still doubted, and some sneered. It was then that Mr. Black contrived

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\* Mr. Black and Mr. Freeland were members of a coterie of young men in Glasgow who loved and cultivated literature; it included the late Mr. John G. Whyte, Mr. Robert Giffen (now Sir Robert Giffen, the eminent statistician at the Board of Trade), and others.

a little plot by which he hoped to test the sagacity and honesty of the critics. He published the first edition of "A Daughter of Heth," in volume form, anonymously. The result was decisive. The novel was universally hailed as a work of genius, apparently by a new writer. When the second edition appeared with Mr. Black's name to it, the critics who had hitherto been most sceptical as to the author's literary ability had little difficulty in agreeing with their own latest judgment, and thenceforth Mr. Black took his proper place among the leading novelists of his time. Mr. Henry Johnston, whose later works have brought him considerable repute, also contributed a couple of stories; and later on came Dr. George Macdonald, with "Malcolm," and Mr. George Meredith, with "The Egoist," both splendid stories, though the latter was hardly suitable for the columns of a weekly newspaper. Among the early contributors of serial stories was Mr. David Wingate, who reached early fame as "the collier poet," having been at one time a coal-miner. Mr. T. G. Smith, of the *Weekly Herald* staff, contributed three serials; and his first short stories appeared afterwards in book form, under the title, "Unravelled Skeins." Mr. William Canton (now in charge of *Good Words*, &c.), contributed at least two serials while he was a member of the *Herald* editorial staff, as well as many poems in the fine vein that distinguishes much of his work.

As it was found that many readers objected to the exclusive use of long continued stories, an announcement was made asking for contributions of short stories of about a column's length, as well as for stories of medium length, to run for four or five weeks. These, along with a tale of the usual length continuing during several months, seem to meet the varying taste and time of our readers. Miss Braddon, Sir Walter Besant, James Payne, Clarke Russell, Baring Gould, Rider Haggard, Bret Harte, "Ouida," Capt. Mayne Reid, and others of the leading novelists of the day have written novels which have appeared in the *Weekly Herald* before their publication in book form.

PRIZE STORIES.—In 1880 the proprietors advertised a competition for three serial stories for insertion in our Weekly, and offered prizes for them of £150, £100, and £75. We received about a hundred MSS., of which the successful three proved excellent stories, being evidently much appreciated by readers, this all the more doubtless because we had stated that tales on Scotch lines would be preferred if not less acceptable otherwise. Twelve years later we repeated the plan with fully as great success, the prizes this time being £200, £150, and £100. In both these cases the stories selected were for serial publication in the *Weekly Herald* only. One reason for this restriction was that a “syndicate” system had some years before come into vogue, by which one serial should be run simultaneously in several papers in different parts of the United Kingdom. Of course it was possible for us to arrange, as we always did, that we should combine only with papers outside of Scotland. But despite the advantages of this plan, by which several high-class novels have been brought out, it had sometimes the serious disadvantage of overlapping, when stories appeared in papers across the border where our paper also circulates, and were at the same time published in the *Illustrated London News* or in the *Graphic*, which circulate far and wide. This “syndicate” system, moreover, is apt to give readers the impression that they are being asked to pay for matter which is cheap common property.

Amongst other features added from time to time are: a Young Folks’ column, a column of Science Notes, and a Missing Friends’ column, which last has been the means in hundreds of cases of bringing together, from all parts of the world, relatives and friends who had lost trace of one another’s existence or whereabouts. Chess and Draughts problems and news were given from an early year in the *Weekly Herald*, and have been followed with interest by players at home and abroad: the games are dealt with by a leading authority on each respectively.

## THE EVENING TIMES.

**T**HE *Evening Times*, which was started on 5th June, 1876, by the *Herald* proprietors, was one of many evening papers begun in connection with morning papers before and after that year. It has been taken for granted that such papers published at a halfpenny are a characteristic of this generation only; but as a matter of fact when newspapers began to make their appearance about two centuries ago the most of them were afternoon or evening papers, published once or twice a week, and sold at a halfpenny.

OLD HALFPENNY PAPERS.—In 1701 a Bill was introduced in Parliament to impose a stamp tax of a penny on every newspaper of a whole sheet issued periodically, and a stamp of a halfpenny on every half-sheet. This attempt not merely to oppress but to suppress newspapers was met by some proprietors in a petition, in which it was stated that “the said newspapers have been always sold to the poorer sort of people who are purchasers of them by reason of their cheapness, to divert themselves, and also to allure their young children, and to entice them to reading; and should a duty of three halfpence be laid upon these papers—which, by reason of the coarseness of the paper, the generality of the gentlemen are above conversing with—it would utterly extinguish and suppress the same.” The reference to 1½d. means that the papers consisted of a whole sheet and a half-sheet supplement. A respite was granted; but the blight came in 1712, when an Act was passed upon the lines proposed eleven years before, and as the Union of the two Kingdoms took place in 1711, Scotland as well as England was brought under the tax. The effect of the Act was the gradual extinction of halfpenny papers.

THIS STAMP DUTY on every newspaper rose to be as high as fourpence per copy, but was reduced again to a penny in 1836, and finally vanished in 1855, after which halfpenny papers began slowly to re-appear. (See page 15, on the Stamp Duty.) It is



curious to find that when the original of the *Herald* began in 1782 its sub-title was *The Evening Intelligencer*, an accidental forecast of the *Evening Times* which sprang from the same source.

ENTERPRISE amongst evening newspapers up to about 20 years ago was practically unknown, as compared with the enterprise of the present time; most of them, indeed, lived upon clippings from the morning papers, with short statements of the local Share markets of the day, and a sprinkling of short paragraphs recording local events of the forenoon. No attempt was made to give full statements of events, and the expenditure in procuring news by telegraph or otherwise was very limited. The conductors of morning newspapers were naturally aggrieved to find their best and most costly matter transferred in the afternoon to another paper which also undersold them. This was the cause in many cases of the proprietors of morning papers starting evening papers, as in our own case.

PARASITES.—Strangely enough, however, our *Evening Times* was met by statements from other evening papers that it was a parasite of the *Herald*; and at length such an attack provoked the following retort. It gives a fair illustration of similar petty conflicts in other places, in which, however, British newspapers rarely indulge:—

“NEWSPAPER COMPETITION.—When the *Evening Times* made its appearance, and sought support from the public on the grounds of its merits as a cheap evening newspaper, we expected that there would be some little flutter of excitement among our contemporaries, but were hardly prepared for the outburst of envy with which it has been assailed. Its success has been very much greater than we expected—thanks to the public for its appreciation of our efforts; and probably in consequence of that success—because our evening rivals feel themselves sorely hurt—we are indebted for the excitement which finds vent in hard words and evil prophesyings. Our contemporary, the ———, mentions

the ominous word 'parasite.' The proprietors of morning papers who establish evening papers as well (and some of the best morning and evening papers in the country are owned by the same firms), must necessarily, we are told, make the one a parasite—living upon, competing with, and enfeebling the other. Now, we think we can enlighten our contemporary a little upon this point. Did it ever occur to our friend that he was a parasite sucking the blood of his neighbours and growing fat thereby? There is no parasite in the Republic of Letters that has had a finer time of it than he has had during the last twelve years. News and literary matter, that cost morning newspapers thousands of pounds per annum, he made captive by his scissors and his paste brush, day by day, and by selling what cost him nothing, has turned his halfpenny to good profit. Having had no competition and no spur either to work or to expend on work, the life was an easy and pleasant one. Little wonder he is dreadfully disturbed when one of the papers upon which he fed determines—if he will use the word parasite—to keep a 'parasite' of its own. That parasite has certainly a better right to exist than he has, for through its proprietors it pays its full share in collecting the news of the world, while he pays almost nothing, or at least has done so hitherto, though possibly the competition of which he complains may stimulate him to something approaching enterprise. We shall be glad to see it, for we do intend to make our own venture acceptable to the public. If it hurts him we cannot help it. We shall not move out of our way to satisfy his conditions of competition.

"We are sorry that we have been compelled in self-defence to bring a matter of this sort before our readers, who cannot possibly have any reasonable interest in the quarrel fixed upon us. We did not seek it, would gladly have avoided it, and trust that it is now ended. We leave another contemporary whose excitement has grown into—let us hope only temporary—raving in the hands of our little friend."

THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS of evening newspapers were much more rapid than the morning papers experienced for years after they started, but the flowing tide of demand for newspapers helped the former, so that while the *Evening Times* started with two editions at 3 and 4 P.M., there are now five regular editions at 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 P.M., and seven on Saturdays. Its size was at first four pages, containing 28 columns, but it rapidly expanded to 36 columns, and now it is an eight-page paper of 56 long columns, and is probably the largest halfpenny paper in existence.

From the first the *Evening Times* gave a fresh resumé of the day's news up to the hour of publication, and all Town Council and other meetings of importance were reported with unusual fulness. As indicative of the small importance attached to sporting news at that time, I recollect that about a year after it was established a deputation of sporting people—recognising the energy that was put into the paper—called to ask that an edition should be published as late as five o'clock, to give the results of the later races. This was considered an absurd request, and the hour far too late for any likelihood of a sale. After careful consideration it was decided not to entertain the proposal. The idea was not, however, lost sight of with regard to news of importance, and one of the startling advances made by the *Evening Times* was the publication of late editions.

FEATS IN TELEGRAPHING, PUBLISHING, &C.—One of the first instances of this was the announcement of an edition giving the result of an Argyllshire election immediately after the declaration of the poll at Inveraray. An immense crowd assembled in Buchanan Street long before the hour when the result was expected, and when the paper was issued some 20 or 30 minutes after the declaration, our office there was besieged, and a large sale was effected. This feat in journalism was much talked of at the time, but with improved methods now in use such results are published in about twice that number of *seconds*. In the case of the yacht contests

in American waters for the America Cup (resuscitated by Sir James Bell, Bart., Lord Provost of Glasgow) good descriptions of the progress of the races have been sent across the bed of the Atlantic, enabling us to issue editions as the yachts reached critical points, and in something under two minutes after the official gun report the results have been published and sold on the streets of Glasgow, and immediately thereafter the newspaper parcels despatched to all towns, &c., by rail.

The trial of the City Bank Directors in Edinburgh in 1879 was an occasion on which the *Evening Times* established a record for the fulness of its reports, and for the speed with which papers were issued containing the trial, and especially the verdict and sentence. At that time the paper was produced by two Eight-Feeder Hoe Machines, printing one side only at a time. Provision was made early in the day by printing a large supply of one side in advance, and when the result was received the full strength of the machinery was turned on to the other side, and as our machine power was fully double that of any other evening newspaper, it was issued with what was then considered marvellous rapidity.

VERBATIM REPORTING.—During times of political excitement, when some great speakers addressed meetings in the City Hall or St. Andrew's Halls, our evening paper has repeatedly published a *verbatim* report, extending over several columns, so expeditiously that copies have been presented to the leading speakers before they left the building, and supplies offered for sale to the retiring audience.

## ATHLETIC RESULTS: THEIR TRANSMISSION, &amp;c.

THE growth of interest in Football and other athletics has shown extraordinary advances within the past few years. In the earlier days one of the greatest difficulties in the way of obtaining news of results with sufficient speed was the distance of telegraph offices from the fields, and we set about training a service of carrier pigeons, which served its day with the most satisfactory results. Some amusing incidents occurred at first with our winged messengers, which were exasperating enough at the time. Waiting anxiously for the moment of arrival, say of the result of a great match between the Queen's Park and the Renton in their palmy days,—which we could count upon to come in from 60 to 90 seconds after whistle call,—it was a severe trial to our people to see the bird land upon the roof and begin to pick off the message, or to preen its feathers! "Language" was of no avail, and any movement only scared the messenger. One can also imagine the chagrin of the reporter who on one occasion,—prepared to do a clever thing,—had the message attached near the close of a game, ready to go at time. Within the last minute another goal was taken, and in the excitement the pigeon got off with the wrong result! A call from an onlooker: "Hey, man! Whistle on yer doo," received with shouts of laughter, did not serve to soothe the unfortunate man. Those are things, however, which do not happen twice; and the "doo" did splendid work from football fields, and from the shooting ranges at Kennishead. The advent of the telephone was the doom of the pigeon service, and now the principal clubs have telephone stations within their own grounds immediately adjoining the press boxes.

DESCRIPTIONS.—While every effort was put forth to obtain early results, the desire for lengthened descriptions increased, and it became evident that not only must big events be described with the utmost fulness of detail but that others must be



included. This has now been so developed that no match of any consequence is allowed to pass without at least a short description. This requires a very large extra staff, who must be quick to note the rapid changes of an exciting game, grasp the salient points, and put descriptions into shape for the printers as the game proceeds, so that they may keep pace with the players. This is accomplished by relays of messengers, so that when the last messenger leaves the field a large portion of the description is already in type.

REPORTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL STAFF, when occasion calls, are sent to all parts of Scotland, to London and the various English centres, and to Ireland. By thus selecting men who know the individual players and their tactics from long association, the *Evening Times* is not uncommonly able to give the report of a big match in England or Ireland, with gossipy notes on the game, interviews with officials and players, and a consecutive description, all more complete and accurate than those of the papers of the district where the match has been played.

JUNIOR CLUBS have a large share of attention, and the fulness with which news and descriptions are given in this department has proved to be one of the most popular features of the paper, including, as it does, notes and gossip from all parts of the country. There are some 14 or 15 columns of entirely fresh athletic matter set up in type on a Saturday evening; so that, including the matter prepared earlier in the day, from 20 to 22 columns of athletic news are published in the late editions on that evening. The average number of results is about 400, of regularly constituted clubs.

THE NUMBER OF CLUBS in the Scottish Association is 138; but the senior clubs in Scotland number nearly 200, exclusive of Rugby clubs. Even this, however, represents only a small proportion of the players, as almost every available bit of ground near towns and villages is occupied by them. As to

Juniors, there is a list compiled showing 912 regularly formed clubs; but the probability is that there are not fewer than 1,200 altogether.

THE DISTRIBUTION of the *Evening Times* to all parts of Scotland, and to the North of England and Ireland, at the later hours of publication, is a very arduous undertaking, which has been admirably managed by Mr. Geo. Sutherland of the Publishing Department since the *Evening Times* started. This is accomplished with the aid of the most powerful and rapid machinery for production out of London. In the more remote towns thousands eagerly await the arrival of the Athletic Edition by the last trains until almost midnight; and so great has been the demand in the city and neighbourhood that, notwithstanding our previous rapid production by six Web presses, it has recently been found necessary to augment it with a Three-Web Machine, capable of printing at the rate of 48,000 per hour.

The Athletic Edition consists of four large 9 column pages in order to facilitate its "make-up," and its more rapid and large output of frequently 150,000 copies. Even that circulation would be thousands greater if the yield of our great printing power did not require to be stopped by the time limits of trains to reach buyers before midnight. And yet such large numbers, in the case of the *Evening Times* alone, form a striking and almost incredible comparison with the 15,000 or 20,000 which it has been stated Mr. Frederick Greenwood estimated to be the *whole issue* of the London evening press in 1886.

THE GAME OF GOLF.—Ten years ago golf competitions were reported in the Glasgow papers in the briefest manner, while 50 years ago any such references were almost unknown; now every important competition gets from a column to two columns. Important golf competitions are held throughout Scotland every year. Some are played in singles, and others in foursomes (two competing couples). One of the most popular in Scotland is the *Evening Times* Trophy Tournament, which has done much to

foster the game and to promote a healthy rivalry between the leading Scottish clubs. The Trophy is of silver, with enamelled sketches of significant scenes. Six years ago the tourney was instituted at Prestwick, and since then it has steadily increased in public favour. At each of the last three tournaments, the number of entries was over 30, each club sending two players. So far the Western clubs have not been able to defeat the Eastern combinations in foursome play. Since 1891 the *Evening Times* Shield has been won three times by a St. Andrews club, twice by an Edinburgh club, and once (this year) by a Leven team. It is now high time the West was asserting itself and adjusting matters. We have a number of very promising young golfers, who are fast overtaking the longer experience of the Eastern players and threatening their laurels.

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#### NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS.

**P**ICTURES in Newspapers of persons, places, and things,—which are now so marked a feature in many evening papers and in some weeklies, may be said to have originated in this country, or at least to have got their first decisive impulse, about 1870, on the occasion of the Franco-German War. If anything of the kind appeared previous to that year in the newspaper press, the instances were very rare. But the desire was so strong on the occasion of that great war to get every crumb of information as to the movements of the different armies, that maps of the countries threatened or occupied were in considerable demand. At an early stage of the contest the *Daily News* had a page occupied with the map of France and the Rhine upon seeing which I arranged with the proprietors of that journal to give it in the *Herald*, where it also appeared. The vivid descriptions by war correspondents of battles which had just been fought and the

reports as to where new conflicts were looked for excited the desire to trace the positions and the routes of the marching forces, so that more minute maps and plans were sought for; but only a few newspapers, under difficulties and delay, were able to supply them by woodcuts. Such woodcuts meant slow and costly



This sketch of the street of the village of old Langside (near and within the boundary of modern Glasgow) gives an idea of what can be done for newspaper work by the "Zinco" process. Within a few feet of where these vanishing scenes have been, the crisis of the Battle of Langside took place, on the 13th May, 1568,—now commemorated by a handsome Memorial Pillar.

work compared to what is done now; for there was first the hasty work of the artist on the ground, and then that of the finishing artist at home, before the wood-engraver could have his block completed for the stereotyper.

METHODS OF PRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS after 1870 have been numerous and varied, too much so to be mentioned here in detail. In our case a step in advance was made six years later (1876) by

getting a machine on the principle of a Pentagraph, a machine by which the designs for calico printing are produced on copper rollers in an enlarged or reduced size. In order, however, to get the result with the rapidity which newspapers need, the reproduction desired was engraved upon chalk or plaster-of-paris in a frame, and then transferred into a page of type, from which again stereo plates were taken for the printing machines. Our chief object at first was to make a duplicate in Glasgow the same night on which each of the Weather Charts of the Meteorological Department was supplied to our office in London. The initial difficulty, therefore, was how to transmit by telegraph not the unalterable features of a map of the coast lines of Western Europe but the varying meteorological conditions over the land and seas of that skeleton map of about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, including storms and calms, cyclones and anti-cyclones. These conditions were expressed in the original by curved dotted lines (isobars) to show the courses and the values in figures of barometrical pressure; the state of the weather at about thirty different places by words; the wind on its courses by arrows, and these less or more feathered to indicate its force at various points, and the state of the sea itself by words here and there. The difficulty of telegraphing such intricate matter was got over by the device of a code of squares upon the skeleton maps, each square being named by special letters and figures on the margins of the sheets. In due time, as the interpretation of the telegraphed code went on, the artist in the Glasgow Office transferred bit by bit to the square named the contents of each as sent over our Special Wires from London. It was remarkable to find afterwards how well this telegraphed Weather Chart corresponded with the original. The whole work before reaching the public involved the different stages of codifying the matter in London, telegraphing, interpreting the code in Glasgow, transferring the matter to the skeleton map, pentagraphing it in chalk, and stereotyping it for the printing machines,—six different steps to complete what may



be called this process. These Weather Charts (which still appear in the *Times*) were, however, continued by us for about three years only, as it became evident that they were not much appreciated by the general public and not even by shipowners and other commercial readers interested in shipping, &c. By a similar method of transmission, the result of the Rifle Matches at Wimbledon, and now at Bisley, &c., have appeared, so that readers might see the exact positions made by the competitors on their respective targets. By a somewhat similar plan such target results of a match in Dublin between Irish and American riflemen was cabled to the *New York Tribune*; and promptly appeared all right in that paper. The methods of reproducing newspaper illustrations of a general nature now in common use are by the zincograph and the chalk processes. The zinc plate takes on a subject from transfer paper, or when covered with a sensitised substance takes on a photograph, and after being under the action of nitric acid, alum, and water, allows the subject to come out exact and clear. That by engraving on chalk is the speediest of all, and would have greatly helped in showing the rapidly changing positions, and other features, of, say, the Franco-German War referred to, and other subjects requiring haste. The pictures made by either of these processes which now appear in the evening papers often come short of the effect of a woodcut; but it must be remembered that they are produced under the pressure of not only very limited time, but upon very unsuitable paper, and by extremely rapid printing.

On the occasion of the trial in Edinburgh of Monson for the Ardlamont murder, in December, 1893, the full reports by our reporters were illustrated by one of our artists, who took sketches of scenes in the High Court during the proceedings; these were promptly sent by train from Edinburgh to Glasgow, where they were immediately dealt with and appeared in the *Evening Times* the same afternoon and evening. This was the first attempt of that character in such circumstances. Besides comic

cartoons of football club competitions, there are given in the Athletic Edition of that paper during the season rapid sketches of actual incidents and postures of players on the field at matches within an hour's journey, which are embodied in the descriptive report and published the same evening. These are feats which have surprised experts, as well as the great body of general readers.

#### AN OLD SUGGESTION FOR MOTOR CARS.

From "Alken's Illustrations of Modern Prophecy, 1829," to show the "Chalk" process for newspaper sketches.



LADY :—"Faugh, the filthy fellow ! My dear, the wretch feeds his horse with common coal."

## A GLASGOW NEWSPAPER CONSPIRACY.

(From the *Glasgow Herald* of 29th October, 1878).

DO any of our readers know where the Schipka Pass is? We do not, of course, refer to that celebrated passage through the Balkans, which was immortalised by the struggles of Turks and Russians during last winter, but to a locality in Glasgow. The City Improvement Trustees have made so many and so great changes that it is possible only a very few people are aware that there is such a place as that named in the city. But thousands who never heard of the "Schipka Pass" except in connection with the Russo-Turkish War, will remember St. Andrew's Lane and the Poet's Box. The Glasgow Schipka Pass is a narrow, sloping arcade on the east side of St. Andrew's Lane, leading from the Gallowgate to London Street, and No. 7 of the Pass is a little shop, occupied by Mr. D—— B——, a newsagent, the shop being now a representative of the famous establishment where the newest and the oldest songs could be obtained at the smallest cost. In Mr. B——'s window may still be seen, though in far scantier numbers, the scrofulous ballads that long ago were hung up in profusion over the shop front of the Poet's Box. No. 7 is not of large dimensions; "box" is the only appropriate name for it. The counter, though piled up to the ceiling, would scarcely accommodate a thousand halfpenny newspapers, and between the counter and the end wall there is barely room for a man to pass. Such being the Schipka Pass, and such being No. 7, our readers may imagine that it was with no little surprise that we read the following advertisement, which occupied for four days a specially prominent place in the columns of the *Evening Citizen*, the *Glasgow News*, and the *Glasgow Evening News and Star*. The advertisement first appeared in the *Evening Citizen*, on the 10th October, and was in these terms:—

"Nine tons of *Glasgow Evening Times* newspapers (about

396,000 copies) for sale as waste, in lots to suit purchasers.—Apply 7 Schipka Pass, opposite Gallowgate Station.”

There could be no doubt as to the meaning of the advertisement. The *Evening Times*, though established little more than two years ago, has attained, through favour of the public, an extraordinary success. Its circulation has gone up by leaps and bounds, and it now occupies a place in the very first rank of evening newspapers. Those whose halfpenny it supplanted and those whose “halfpenny” it curtailed, have not always been able to conceal their jealousy, and it was perfectly clear that this advertisement was a new attempt to damage a too successful rival. It was meant to show that the circulation of the *Evening Times* was a bogus one. If such a miserable little newsagency as this of the Schipka Pass had collected in the course of business nine tons of unsaleable *Evening Times*, what huge quantities might not other and larger agencies have lying on their hands? What would advertisers say when they learned through this prominent notice in the rivals of the *Evening Times* that the circulation was piled up in tons upon tons in the newsagents’ cellars? Immediately on the advertisement appearing, a communication was sent to the proprietors of the *Evening Citizen* and the *Glasgow News*, asking that it should be stopped, as it was manifestly a falsehood, but the request was promptly refused; and on a further letter being sent to the *Citizen*, demanding the MS. of the advertisement, we were told that the proprietor declined to give it up.

For some time we were disposed to treat the matter as a mere bit of petty spite, that would be forgotten in a day or two. The position of the *Evening Times* was assured, and no anonymous squib of this sort could possibly do it any damage. It had survived and thriven, notwithstanding attacks of a different character, by pursuing its own course in meeting the wants of the public. We should certainly have preferred not to have made a Star Chamber matter of it, but some circumstances came to light which showed that this advertisement was not a squib, but the climax of a

curious and stupid conspiracy. Mr. Alexander Morton, 43 Renfield Street, was set to work, and he conducted his investigations with consummate skill and secrecy till the whole plot lay unravelled. This we now proceed to put before our readers—in order, first of all, to expose the lie in the advertisement; second, to prick the windbag; and third, to tell them a story which they will probably find amusing.

Mr. Morton's first step was to explore No. 7 Schipka Pass, and become acquainted with its occupant; and his second, if possible, to get possession of the "nine tons of *Evening Times* newspapers." We have already described the transmogrified Poet's Box. Of its occupant it may be enough to say that he was sorely tempted, and that he yielded. He had a grudge against the *Herald* of old standing, because he was refused the position and commission of a wholesale newsagent; he was poor, and his poverty and not his will consenting, he became a tool in the hands of others. It may be mentioned here that the first hint Mr. Morton received of the conspiracy was from a friend of B——'s. While waiting to see B——, Mr. Morton got into conversation with this man, who, in a confidential moment, said:—"B—— will close with you for cash; (in a whisper) it is a pure piece of devilment and spite carried out by the *Evening News* folks, to torment the proprietors and damage the sale of the *Evening Times*—sure as death."

Mr. Morton ultimately got possession of a large quantity of newspapers in 45 bags, which he transferred to Messrs. Hutchison & Dixon's stores, where they were examined before witnesses. The weight of the bags containing this waste, as found from the police weighing machines, was not 9 tons, but 6 tons 2½ cwt. It happens that the date of such copies of the *Evening Times* as were found in the bags ran over 16 months, or say 396 days; and it will be at once seen that this reduces the heavy weight of 9 tons, and the big-looking figures of 396,000 copies, to only 1,000 copies a day—a trifle, even if the advertisement had stated the facts, on such a circulation as that of the *Evening Times*. But



the reduction does not stop at this point. The examination of the bags revealed the singular nature of the collection. A more heterogeneous lot of literature was never, perhaps, before collected. There were copies of papers dead and forgotten years ago, papers from all the principal towns of the United States and Canada, from Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, from France, Germany, Switzerland, and from English towns, and from every spot in Scotland that boasts or once boasted of a weekly sheet. Temperance tracts, *Missionary Records*, Choral Union programmes, paper table napkins marked "Lord of the Isles," law papers, bills of Parliament, blue books, City of Glasgow accounts, pamphlets published by Messrs. Collins, and copy books, were all turned out from among this collection of sweepings, and quantities of the Edinburgh and Glasgow newspapers, including such rubbish as unused copies of the *Glasgow News*, *Evening News*, and *Evening Citizen*, helped to make up the miscellaneous heap. The 6 tons had been first of all collected by a general dealer in waste paper, named Mr. John Henderson, whose stores are at No. 1 Fox Street and 98 Maxwell Street. Mr. Henderson is a respectable tradesman who finds it to be for his profit to buy old and unsold newspapers and resell them to the paper-makers, or whoever will purchase in quantities from him. He sold the contents of the 45 bags, as the reader will learn from the following deposition:—

Mr. John Henderson says:—"On 24th September last a gentleman called here, saying he wanted a lot of newspapers, and that they must be copies of the *Evening Times*. He was a stout man, rather under the average size, and spoke with a distinct English accent. My sister told him we could not give him *Evening Times* copies alone, and when he said he would take as many as 10 tons, I said we could not give him any such quantity. All we had to give was about 6 tons of mixed newspapers. He got one copy of the *Herald* and one of the *Times*, and going to the door, he said the one was of good pulp, and the other, namely the *Times*, of straw. As he wished the paper for the purpose of making a

manufacturing experiment, he said he preferred the straw and would like it alone. I again told him we could only give him mixed papers, and he agreed to take all we had. The quantity was afterwards ascertained to weigh 6 tons  $2\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. I asked £10 10s. per ton, and he agreed to give £10 per ton—in all, £61 7s. 6d. He went away for about half-an-hour, and, on coming back, he laid down £5, and said that would serve as a guarantee that he would take the whole quantity, and that I would give it. He again said he wanted them for a manufacturing experiment, and that he would require to get them stored for a day or two. He wanted the receipt made out as for *Evening Times* papers alone. I felt nettled at this, and said I could not do it—that the receipt must be made out for newspapers, and it was made out accordingly. He then went away. I thought there was ‘something under’ the transaction, and I followed the gentleman, who went up Buchanan Street and into Duncan’s Restaurant. He stayed there half-an-hour, and then came out along with another gentleman. They both went along to Macrae’s Hotel in Bath Street, and having seen them go inside the hotel, I returned to the store. That was on Tuesday, 24th September, as the entry in my sale-book shows. On the Friday following, a Mr. B—— came and asked when he could get delivery of the paper; we put him off till Monday following, 30th September. On that day he called, and went away for lorries; but he came back, saying that he could not get cartage for the quantity. He was told there was a contractor in Howard Street by the name of Porter, and he went there and got one lorry, with which he took away one-third of the whole quantity. He paid £15, which, being added to the £5 previously received, cleared the first instalment. I omitted to say that the receipt for the £5 was made out in name of T——, that being the name the gentleman gave. Then B—— came back on the 2nd October and got a second instalment, for which he paid £20; and on 8th October he got the remainder, for which he paid £21. I should explain, with reference to the last payment, that he first

brought £20, and wished to be let off for the rest ; but we said the whole sum must be paid, and he went away and brought the remainder. There were a few shillings over the £21, which he was allowed to keep, the receipt being made out for £21 7s. 6d. The first time the paper was taken away, our carter (David Bissett) went after the lorryman, and found that he delivered it in an empty shop in Schipka Pass. That made the affair all the more mysterious. If the paper had been taken to a railway station or a steamboat, we would have thought nothing about it. B—— was also followed, but he was always lost sight of in St. Enoch Square. The notes with which the paper was paid were almost wholly those of the Bank of Scotland. I further explain that we had not sold any papers for months before these purchases were made. The lots so disposed of were not all *Evening Times* copies, but were mixed lots, including English, Irish, and Scotch, American and Australian papers. Added to these were stray miscellaneous lots bought from other stores and chance-sellers. We mixed the clean with the read and soiled newspapers in this way to bring up the general average. I do not know what the proportion of *Evening Times* copies in the whole lot would be, but I know that the newspapers were well mixed.

(Signed) "JOHN HENDERSON.

"JOHN DONELLY, Law Apprentice, Glasgow, witness.

"JOHN RUSSELL, Law Clerk, Glasgow, witness."

Miss Henderson says :—"I was in the store at the time the sale of paper was made to Mr. T——, and heard all that passed. My brother's statement having been read over to me, I concur in it in every particular."

Why this interesting gentleman, Mr. T——, wanted the paper containing straw we shall learn from the statement made by Daniel B——, 7 Schipka Pass :—

"I called on Mr. M—— at the *Glasgow News Office*, 67 Hope Street, immediately after receiving a note, dated some time after the middle of September, 1878, and written on a memorandum

addressed to me as from the *Glasgow News*. Mr. M—— took me into a private room, and asked if I would have no objection to go into a lark about some paper connected with the *Herald*. I replied ‘No.’ He seemed to be aware that I was not on good terms with the *Herald*, and he said something about there being a lot of tons of *Times* and *Herald* newspapers to be had. He did not go into particulars, but said that I should hear from him. I got another note from the *Glasgow News* a day or two afterwards, requesting me again to call on Mr. M——. I called immediately, and Mr. M—— showed me a receipt for £5, which had been paid as a deposit on about six tons of waste paper, which had been bought from Mr. John Henderson of Fox Street. The receipt was in the name of Mr. T——, but I knew nothing of any man of that name. When speaking of the purchasers, Mr. M—— used the expression ‘us’ and ‘we,’ which I understood to mean the *News* proprietors. I, of course, understood that the name ‘T——’ had been used as a blind to prevent the transaction being traced to the *Glasgow News*. Mr. M—— gave me from time to time the necessary money to enable me to take delivery of the paper purchased from Mr. Henderson. I took delivery according to Mr. M——’s directions, but I did not expose the paper so prominently as he wished me to do. I found the whole paper to be put up in bales, and I did not open more than two or three of these. It was intended that I should have taken delivery of the whole paper on the 30th September, but some little delay took place in getting the keys and finding a carter. The delay seemed to cause annoyance at the *News* Office, because a messenger came along two or three times in my absence, and expressed himself as disappointed at not finding me. The exact quantity of paper taken delivery of by me was 6 tons 2½ cwt., and the price paid was £61 7s. 6d.—7s. 6d. being allowed off. In speaking about where the paper was to be exposed to view, Mr. M—— said that he knew fine there were plenty of shops to let about where I was, and that I was to make the

exposure of the name of the paper as public as possible. At one of our early meetings Mr. M—— told me that I was to get the paper advertised, and I soon after took along to him an advertisement which I had written out in something like the following terms:—‘Tons of clean unsold copies of the *Evening Times*, in quantities to suit purchasers. Apply 7 Schipka Pass.’ Mr. M—— said that was too mild, and he took out an advertisement which he had written. I do not remember the exact terms of it, but it was pretty much in the same terms as that which has appeared in the newspapers, with the exception that the quantity was stated at 11 tons, with a corresponding increase in the number of copies. At this time Mr. M—— had in his hands the weight bills showing the exact quantity of paper which I had for sale, and he knew the exact quantity to be what I have already stated. I asked him if 11 tons would not be too heavy, and he replied ‘No;’ that it was quite a common thing in advertising to exaggerate the figure. He reduced the quantity, however, to 9 tons, and threw the advertisement into this form or shape:—‘Nine tons of *Glasgow Evening Times* newspapers (about 396,000 copies) for sale as waste, in lots to suit purchasers. Apply No. 7 Schipka Pass, opposite Gallowgate Station.’ Even after he had reduced the figure I asked him how I could hold up my face to 9 tons, and he said it was not to be known that the whole quantity had come from one place, and if a person wanted 9 tons I was to say that a lot had been disposed of. Mr. M—— told me to be perfectly secret, and I understood that the *News* was to stand at my back all through the affair. I ordered four insertions of the advertisement in the *Evening Citizen*, four in the *Evening News*, and four in the *Glasgow News*, which insertions have been duly made. I gave no direction that the advertisements should be specially conspicuous in the *Citizen*, and when I saw it I remarked that I would have preferred if they had given that prominence to my other advertisements. When Mr. M—— paid me money he took it out of what seemed to



be his ordinary office cash-box, and he made me sign jottings which he made of the dates and amounts paid, which I supposed were taken for the satisfaction of his superiors or others, to whom he might have to account. I ordered the advertisement in the *Citizen*, and Mr. M—— took the advertisement for the morning and evening *News* to the counter clerk, whose signature is appended to the receipt produced by me as ‘*pro* F—— W——, R. R——.’ I paid the price of the whole advertisements out of money which had been given to me by Mr. ——. He asked me on several occasions to take small sums of a sovereign or so. The most of the paper was sold by me to Mr. Morton in one lot. I had previously sold two or three small quantities, the largest of which was  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. I cannot yet say what the contents of the bales consist of, but Mr. M—— told me that they had bargained for the class of paper of the *Evening Times*. At the same time, he said it was very likely there would be *Heralds* along with them. When I saw Mr. M—— on Saturday the 2nd October, he told me the end had been accomplished, and that I might sell off the papers. He had previously told me that it was very likely the *Herald* might themselves wish to buy them, and that I might get a big price.

(Signed) “D—— B——.

“JOHN D——, witness.

“JOHN C——, witness.”

The reader has now the whole conspiracy laid bare. Perhaps he is curious to learn who the Mr. T—— is who was so anxious to make a manufacturing experiment with old newspapers. We are able to gratify him. Mr. T—— is the chief reporter, and Mr. M—— is cashier to Mr. F—— W——, proprietor, manager, and editor of the *Glasgow News* and the *Glasgow Evening News and Star*.

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I should add to this narration of facts (in fairness to the present proprietors of the paper last named) that the three gentlemen

just mentioned left Glasgow some years ago ; but at no time did they show that they had anything to say for themselves in answer to what is quoted above, nor did a contradiction appear from any other quarter.

Anyone who reads the statement may naturally think that there is an explanation awaiting as to why D—— B—— “let the cat out of the bag.” When the detective, our law-agent, and I met him in the store to which the waste paper had been transferred, it seemed for some time as if we would be baffled in getting him to admit who his employer was. This we knew, but we wanted to complete the conviction. At length it happened that my eyes fell upon a coil of rope near us on the floor, and I said : “ Mr. B——, look at that coiled rope. You are as certainly making a noose for yourself, as a man would do in hanging himself by that rope, if you take the responsibility of this foul work, instead of telling now who employed you. We know, but we don’t want you to be the victim.” After a vain attempt to make terms, puss jumped out, and he confessed all ; afterwards making the deposition given above. Several matters of greater importance were also withheld as reserve evidence to meet any question or contradiction.

In the above copy of the original statement, I have given only the initials of the names of the actors in the conspiracy.

A Paisley contemporary, in referring to this unprecedented episode in Newspaper Life, quoted the following apt verse from the Scottish Psalms :—

“ He made a pit, and digg’d it deep,  
 Another there to take ;  
 But he has fallen into the ditch  
 Which he himself did make.”

Others punned on the name of one who could do such a thing, and meet such a fate, as a “ *Wick-ed* ” man.





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