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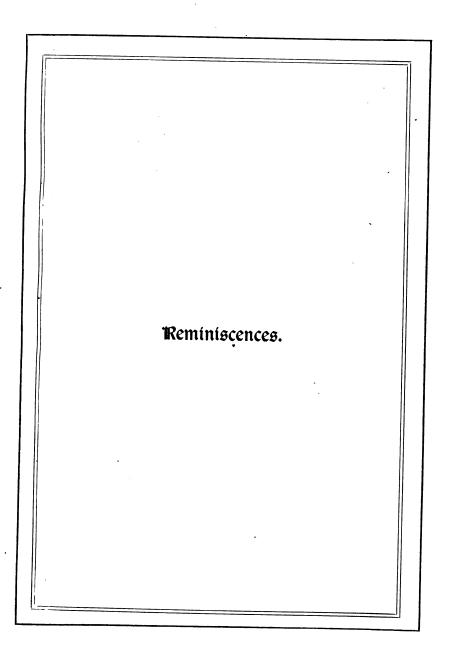
GEORGE FRANCIS PARKMAN
(Class of 1844)

OF BOSTON





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"The Past behind us lies, A region calm, and changeless, and serene; Memory the lamp supplies, By which we see whatever once hath been,"



# Reminiscences

Editors, Reporter

During " > \*\*

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# 1Reminiscences

01

Editors, Reporters, and Printers.

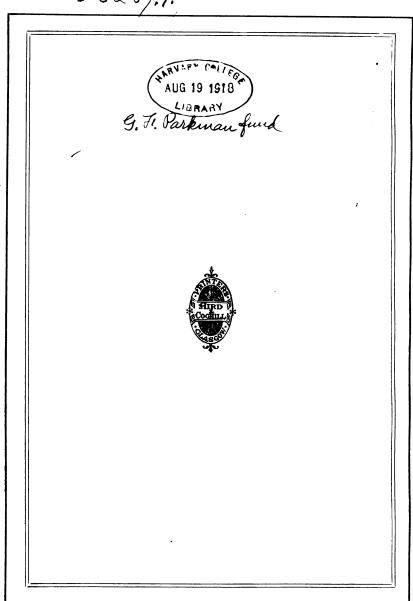
During the last Sixty Years.

By Andrew Aird.

Printed for Private Circulation.

Glasgow:

Bird & Cogbill, Printers, 263 Argyle Street.



### note.

THE substance of this Paper was delivered in November, 1890, as a Lecture before the Members of the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia. In issuing it in this form, advantage has been taken to amplify some of the details. These, it is hoped, may be found interesting to all, while among the older members of the profession they may revive memories. To the friends who so kindly sent particulars of departed members of the Fourth Estate I tender my grateful thanks.

A. A.

December, 1890.

"Oh wad some power the giftie gi'e us To see oursel's as ithers see us! It wad frae mony a blunder free us, An' foolish notion."

## Reminiscences.

T is now several years since some of my friends of the Fourth Estate pressed upon me to commit to paper. my Reminiscences of Printers and Printing in Glasgow. I then respectfully declined their request. Since that time I have again and again been urged by them to put on record these memories, but could not see my way to comply with their wishes. These continued solicitations, combined with the fact that recently I was waited upon by deputations from the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia to give a Lecture on the above subject, led me to consider the matter more favourably. As this branch had done its first year's work well, and was anxious to do still better the second year, I felt it both my duty and privilege to acquiesce, and encourage this worthy effort for the improvement of the rising generation of compositors and printers in Glasgow; and also to stimulate the endeavour being made to sustain the credit of our city by training skilled journeymen able to fill with honour any position in composing or machine room.

To make these Reminiscences of the last sixty years both interesting and worthy of recording, it would have greatly helped me had I kept a diary of the events to which I will more or less allude. Not being so privileged, I have therefore to depend upon what memory's storehouse will yield me, and

necessarily there will be failures in traversing so many incidents of bygone years.

Looking back to these far-away times, I can recall many connected with the Press whose names I shall but mention. Others, who bulked more largely in the eye of the public, can only be briefly noticed, for neither my time nor space will permit a full account of even them. At the risk of being deemed a little dry, I feel that it is necessary to name the various newspapers which arose in Glasgow—some to live a short existence, others to go on flourishing year by year—and connect therewith the various editors, sub-editors, and others with whom I was more or less familiar.

For the purposes of this Lecture I will divide my subject into the following branches:—

EDITORS.

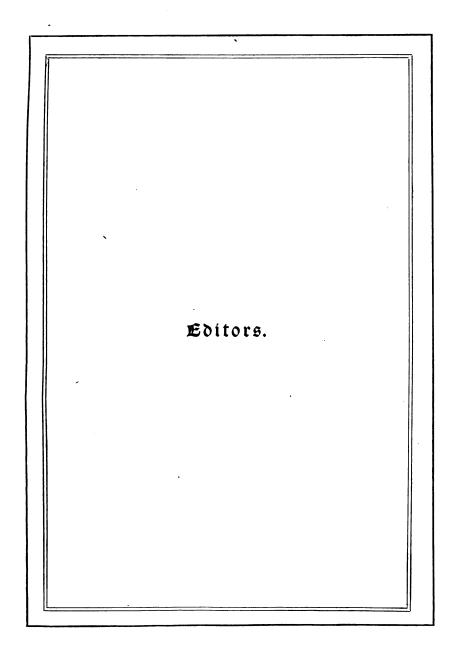
REPORTERS.

READERS.

MASTER PRINTERS.

COMPOSITORS AND PRESS OR MACHINE MEN.





"Long live the Editor! and may he wield A pen that ne'er to falsehood's power shall yield; But may he write such truths that they who read Shall feel inspired to do some noble deed."

#### Editors.

SIXTY years ago the Glasgow Herald was the most popular newspaper in Glasgow, and still continues to be so. It was originally started in 1782, under the title of the Advertiser, and was issued once a week, on Mondays; it became a bi-weekly in 1792, and was issued on Mondays and Fridays at the price of sevenpence per copy. In 1802 it changed its name to that of Herald and Advertiser; a few years later it dropped the title of Advertiser and became known as the Glasgow Herald, and was sold at fourpence halfpenny. On the repeal of the stamp duty in 1855 it became a tri-weekly, and was published at threepence per copy, and in 1859 it became a daily paper, published at one penny. Its centenary was held on 27th January, 1882. The Weekly Herald was commenced in 1864.

When I went to the printing business, the *Herald's* premises were situated at the north-west corner of Bell Street and Candleriggs, rather an unpretentious newspaper office, but not so humble as was its first one in the Saltmarket, the rent of which was £5 per annum! At that time its editor was Mr. Samuel Hunter. He was well liked as an editor. He never was bumptious, kept his mind in moderation, was very sagacious, and balanced his political creed so well that in the bi-weekly issues of his paper he would be pleasing Toryism or Whigism. In this way he so steered his bark that he kept himself out of

squalls. He was genial in his general temperament, and being full of pawky humour was often the guest of many of his friends. He was jolly-like in his appearance, having an extra share of bone and sinew, his weight being 18 stones! When he went to Edinburgh, either for business or pleasure, he required to take two inside seats in the coach to ensure comfort. This would cost him, at least, one guinea for his four to five hours "hurl" eastward.

When Mr. Hunter finished his editorial work in 1837, he was succeeded by Mr. George Outram, who was an able and sagacious journalist, besides being a poetical genius. His fascinating volume, entitled "Legal Lyrics," was very popular. He was succeeded by Mr. James Pagan, who, before he was called to fill the editorial chair, had given full proof of his ability for this important sphere of duty. I have rarely met a more genial, amiable, or obliging representative of the Glasgow press than the late Mr. Pagan. He was in his time a bright meteor of journalism. While he lived he was esteemed, and he died lamented.

After him Mr. Jack was appointed editor. His tenure of office was comparatively brief. He is now the popular Professor of Mathematics in Glasgow University. Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Stoddart was next chosen as editor of the *Herald*. As long as his health and strength sustained him, he was most indefatigable in all he put his head and hand to. Not only did he stand well out as an able and vigorous journalist, but as an author his published poems rank high in public estimation. How he overcame the difficulties he had to fight against in his early career, should be a stimulus to young aspirants to editorialism. Personally I do not know Mr.

Charles Russell, the present editor, who for fifteen years acted as Dr. Stoddart's assistant. On every hand he is recognised as an accomplished scholar and a judicious editor.

After the *Herald* left the premises in Bell Street, it was located in the old Post-Office Court, Trongate; from there it removed to Spreull's Court, Trongate; thence to St. Vincent Place; and now its palatial premises help to adorn Buchanan Street.

Looking at the tiny *Herald* of earlier years, how light its editorial duties to those of the present day! On an average not more than one column of a leading article was then given every Monday and Friday, compared with the five or six columns now appearing in each daily issue.

The Courier was started in 1791, and sixty years ago its premises were in a building at the back of the Tontine buildings, near the Cross. It was published tri-weekly, being hyper-Tory in its politics, as well as highly pro-slavery. Its fame was never great at any time, although it often had excellent pieces of poetry at the top of its first column. editor was Mr. William Motherwell, author of the beautiful poem, "Jeanie Morison." He was appointed editor in 1830, and continued so till his death in 1835. He was in 1828 editor of the Paisley Advertiser, a weekly Conservative paper, and started the Paisley Magazine, which only lived to complete one volume. While Mr. Motherwell was a rabid Tory with his pen, it was the current report that he was in heart a Radical. His death was sudden and unexpected. A Mr. M'Queen became his successor. While possessed of fair talents, he never shone in his new sphere of duty. As the reflex influence of Hardie and Baird's radicalism, and Clarkson's and

Wilberforce's anti-slavery speeches in Parliament, the *Courier* gradually but surely sank. The office in its later years was at 75 Argyle Street. Only a few months ago its old manager, Mr. J. Alexander, died in his 83rd year.

The next tri-weekly paper was the Glasgow Chronicle. Its office was in Nelson Street. Its proprietor and editor was Mr. David Prentice. He was a grandson of Thomson the poet, and died on 17th September, 1837. He was not of great repute as a journalist. The Chronicle was neutral in its political creed. The Upper Ward folks liked it on account of its full reports of agricultural and horticultural intelligence. Some time after the Reform Bill was passed it waned away. However, an attempt was made to revive it by publishing it weekly. Its new editor was the Rev. Michael Thomson, whose ministerial training never got him a call to any kirk. He did his best to keep up this paper, but by-and-bye it died.

Then we had a bi-weekly newspaper named the *Glasgow Free Press*. Its office was on the flat above Chalmers & Kilgour's warehouse, Trongate. Its celebrity was not very great. It was Liberal in its politics but lacked force and decision. Mr Bennet, its editor, was originally a blacksmith. He was the author of several poems.

In 1825, and for several years afterwards, we had another bi-weekly newspaper, the *Scots Times*. Its office was at the corner of Brunswick Street and Wilson Street. Its editor was Mr. Robert Malcolm, formerly an auctioneer. He was often supplied with articles for it by our late City Chamberlain, Dr. Strang, when he was a wine merchant in a court in Stockwell Street. The Sheriff Chambers were also situated in this street,

and daily there were seen going in and out for official duty the late Sheriffs Alison and Bell and later on Sheriff Steele. Mr. Malcolm had also excellent assistance from a Mr. John Carrick. The Scots Times was the chief organ of the Whig party. At the first Parliamentary election in Glasgow there was strong and bitter feeling among Tories, Whigs, and Radicals. The Whigs thought Mr. Malcolm was sure to be furnace-heated for their two candidates; but he was below zero for them. They became indignant at his lukewarmness, and through their influence the Scots Times lost its position.

Ere the Scots Times came to its demise, the Whigs started a new bi-weekly paper, and named it the Glasgow Argus. For a short time, till it got premises of its own in Queen Street, it was printed by Mr. James Hedderwick, of Argyle Street. Its first editor, Mr. W. Weir, of Kilmarnock, had recently been launched as an accomplished journalist and popular platform speaker of the Whig school. The Argus soon rose in public favour, which it retained while Mr. Weir was its editor. After him Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Charles MacKay filled the editorial chair. Great were the extollings about his journalistic ability, but these soon proved fallacious and by-and-bye the Argus ceased to exist.

About this time there was started a new weekly paper, the Liberator. It was the "Thunderer" of the fervid Chartist school. The air was full of vote by ballot, household or universal suffrage, etc. The editor of this venture was Dr. John Taylor, of Ayr. In appearance he was thoughtful, calm and simple-like. There was a great deal of talk of what this new broadsheet would accomplish for the benefit of the down-trodden masses. As long as Dr. Taylor was able for his duties it appeared to

flourish, but enfeebled health overtook him, the paper's glory was shorn, and it died.

Some time after this we had the Glasgow Sentinel in the interests of labour. Its editor was Mr. Robert Buchanan, father of the celebrated poet and dramatist of the same name. It was said he was the proprietor of this weekly. After an existence of a few years it, too, vanished out of sight. For a considerable time there was also issued from the same publishing office another weekly named the Penny Post. Both papers died about the same time.

Towards the close of 1829 or 1830 there was started the Scottish Guardian, a bi-weekly newspaper. It was more an ecclesiastical than a political paper. Its prominent feature was its staunchness for the spiritual independence of the Church of Scotland. No doubt it and the Edinburgh Witness, under the able and charming editorship of Hugh Miller, were the pioneers in bringing about the Disruption in May, 1843. The Scottish Guardian had various editors and many worthy contributors. Among these were the late Dr. James Gibson, Rev. Gavin Carlyle, M.A., now of London, Archibald Gillies, etc. For several years before its decease the late Professor Keddie, of the Glasgow Free Church College, was its chief editor.

Then there was started another newspaper called the Glasgow Constitutional, with which Mr. James M'Nab was associated after leaving the Herald. It was the organ of the Tory party in Glasgow. Its editor and proprietor was Mr. J. F. Neilson, an eminent reporter on the London Times staff. For a time Mr. W. Somers, formerly of the London Morning Chronicle, acted as chief reporter. Great hopes were entertained for

this paper's career, and for a while it augured well, but it was not supported and went down.

Towards the end of the fourth decade the Reformers' Gasette was started by the hot and irrepressible Peter M'Kenzie. His twopenny weekly unstamped Gazette of eight pages demy octavo had died. Its spitfire matter pleased many, so as its successor came out this new broadsheet. With its trenchant and outspoken criticism, it made a noise for some time. Its readers, however, got tired of its pugilism, and this newspaper, which was to be the genuine panacea for Glasgow's grievances, by-and-bye gave up the ghost. One of Mr. Peter M'Kenzie's famous targets was "Rory" (Mr. James Moir), of Gallowgate, famous as a tea merchant and also as a Town Councillor. Many of the sharp javelins shot forth in his twopenny Gazette and Reformers' Gazette were supposed to be flung at "Rory." They never seemed to wound his foe, but to quicken his amiable disposition. As well might "Loyal Peter," as he was often called, have discharged his javelins at a granite wall. The last time I saw "Rory"—then one of our city magistrates he was buirdly and fresh like, while all that was mortal of "Loyal Peter" had long ere this been laid low.

In 1842 the Glasgow Citizen commenced, under the editorship of Mr. (now Dr.) James Hedderwick, another of our famed poetical editors. It was a good weekly newspaper, and had more of the literary than the political element in its columns. Through the publication of the late Hugh MacDonald's "Rambles Round Glasgow" in its columns, under the nom de plume of "Caleb," it acquired great popularity. These Rambles were published in book form and have passed through several

editions. The Weekly Citizen, after the starting of a daily, was turned into a purely literary periodical. In 1880, in response to the suggestion of many subscribers who desired it, the paper was altered in form to that of eight pages. Later still, in 1884, it was enlarged, superior paper used, and illustrations introduced, the price then being raised to a penny; and now in 1890 a further enlargement to eighty columns, with a number of new popular features, is under contemplation.

The next weekly newspaper that appeared was the Glasgow Examiner in April, 1844. Its editor was the Rev. John Smith, M.A., an ex-Congregational minister. It first got into notice by its clerical sketches of ministers of all denominations; next its Chronicles of Gotham appeared, in which the sayings and doings of the Glasgow Corporation were hit off in descriptive narrative style, I think, by "Martin Bramble," and there were also clever articles on the Fine Arts by Mr. James Barr, who is still living in Glasgow. As the editor had no training for journalistic labours, he was coached in his new sphere of work by his assistant, Mr. P. S. Macliver, who for many years has been the proprietor and editor of the daily Bristol Western Express and also of a weekly newspaper. Mr. Macliver is a nephew of the late Lord Clyde, and was for some time M.P. for Plymouth. I much prize his friendship, and I know his visits to Glasgow are greatly relished by all his old friends and confrères. The Examiner, after a chequered existence for a few years, died.

The editor of the *Examiner* was exceedingly hasty in his temper. It is within my knowledge that on one occasion, for a mistake in split fractions in a job, he gave a fortnight's notice to every one in the composing room—a notice which,

however, was withdrawn on the following morning, except in the case of the man who set up the job. His handwriting was so illegible that often he could not read it, and he would then strike out a sentence and substitute another, saying to the compositor who was engaged in setting up the article, "Ha! old boy, that beats you. You can't write what you can't read." He was fond of a practical joke. One of the compositors, Jamie Clark, afterwards referred to, was very particular regarding his pay, counting it over and over again, and the editor gave instructions that Jamie should receive his wages in threepenny and fourpenny pieces, and he would stand in a corner chuckling to himself as Clark spent from ten to fifteen minutes in verifying the amount.

Mr. Smith was a graduate of Aberdeen University. From it he received the honorary degree of LL.D. One of the Fourth Estate who knew him, and who did business with him, was, like many others, surprised when he got this academic honour. One day this gentleman met a friend and said, "Do you know the latest?" "What is it?" "O, the big editor has got from the sagacious and learned Aberdeen University the honorary degree of LL.D." His friend at once frankly said, "What a mistake it has made; it should have dropped the second L and substituted an S, thus honouring him with £ s. d."

Before the Evening Citizen started in 1864 there appeared two or three smart daily penny papers. Their projectors were sanguine of success, but disappointment marked them for its own. When Mr. Hedderwick launched his halfpenny sheet many had grave doubts of its being a lucky spec. With its start there fortunately came to the front the newsboys'

agency, which, as it grew in numbers, assisted to increase the Citizen's circulation. The members of the Fourth Estate were highly pleased when, a few years since, the Senatus of Glasgow University conferred on Mr. James Hedderwick the honorary degree of LL.D. Long may he be spared to wear this academic honour. He is now the father of our local journalists.

The Evening Citisen having supplied the relish for an evening newspaper, the Herald company commenced to issue the Evening Times at a halfpenny, under the indefatigable and careful sub-editorship of Mr. William Freeland, who is also a poet of repute. It, too, is a favourite with the public. The Evening Star, after a brief existence, became incorporated in the Evening News, a newspaper in the Conservative interest, also at a halfpenny. It seems, too, to be appreciated by our citizens; its Lorgnette column gives it some originality.

The North British Daily Mail, I think, was started in 1847; but in 1849 differences arose among the proprietors. The result of these was that Messrs. Gunn and Cameron commenced the North British Mail, and Mr. G. Troup the Daily Mail. The latter journal soon collapsed, and from the 13th July, 1851, the former resumed its old title of North British Daily Mail. It still continues in the hands of its old proprietors, at least is published by the same firm, the original partners of which are both dead. In 1874 Dr. Chas. Cameron, then editor of the Mail, stood as Liberal candidate for the city, and was returned by a large majority. He still continues to represent Glasgow in Parliament. Since 1874 Mr. Jas. R. Manners has occupied the editorial chair. The Weekly Mail, established in 1863, has a well-digested summary of news, and has attained a large

circulation. It is considered one of the best papers of its kind in the country.

Mr. Robert Somers, who had been at one time editor of the North British Daily Mail, started the Morning Journal in 1858. He was proprietor as well as editor. Collapsing in 1869, the Journal was afterwards re-issued under the title of the Express, but it did not live long. Although carefully edited it never became very popular as a daily paper; still it was much prized by some. Up to the time of its decease it had a good deal of struggling to get ends to meet.

The Conservative party in the West of Scotland, feeling that they had no special organ, launched, in 1873, the Glasgow News. Its chief editor came to our city with great journalistic applause. Mr. Frederick Wicks, its commercial manager, from London, was also well spoken of. It was known to be largely subsidized by wealthy members of the Conservative party, yet, notwithstanding this, it never made much headway. The purses that liberally gave of their contents gradually closed, and after a large expenditure and some years of effort it went out of sight.

Mr. Thomas N. Brown, a native of Craigie, Ayrshire, in his earlier years was one of the sons of commerce, with an established business in Glasgow. Shortly after he entered on his third decade he began to take a deep interest in the social, political, and ecclesiastical questions of forty or fifty years ago. Naturally of an enthusiastic and earnest temperament, he threw all his mental powers into them with unflagging zeal, whether on the platform, where he shone as an eloquent speaker, or in his occasional contributions to the Press. After a few years he

quitted business, became a member of the Fourth Estate, and was employed on one or more of the Glasgow daily papers. In a short time he became editor of the Dunfermline Press, which post he filled for several years. He was then offered and accepted the editorial chair of the Newcastle Daily Chronicle. Excepting a short interval, when he was engaged as a journalist in Birmingham and London, for seventeen years he has discharged his duties in an able manner, and notwithstanding his onerous work his old zeal and talent appear to be not a whit abated. He is the author of a Life of Hugh Miller, which had the honour of being reprinted in the United States. His career I have watched with interest, and reckon him as one of my old and esteemed friends.

Thirty-six years ago the *Commonwealth* was one of our local weekly papers. On its literary staff was Mr. Robert Rae, now in London. Mr. Dove was at one time its principal editor, and so for a while was Dr. Peter Bayne. It was well received by many in and outside of Glasgow, and especially by those interested in the cause of social reform. At the close of 1860 it ceased to exist.

Mr. James Henderson, now of London, late of Glasgow, was very pushing and persevering. He was for a time editor of Murray's well-known Time Tables, which along with their Diaries are still highly valued in this city and country. In 1851, in conjunction with the late Mr. Joseph Murray, he originated cheap trips to the London Exhibition. Mr. Henderson had a passion for journalism. He was, I think, the first in Glasgow who started the penny and halfpenny newspapers. They did not exist long, and what he had expended

on them was swallowed up. Their failure did not daunt his ardour. A gentleman of means assisted him to start, in Liverpool, the *Weekly Budget*. It promised to be a success. To give it a still better standing he, fourteen months later, removed the paper to London, where it was well supported, and continues a financial success. Mr. Henderson also publishes the following periodicals: *Young Folks' Paper, Funny Folks, Pictorial News, Scraps, Snap Shots*, and *South London Press*.

Thirty-seven years ago the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald was started by Mr. Arthur Guthrie. He received his early training as a printer from Mr. William Muir, printer and bookseller, Kilmarnock; and afterwards for a few years, in company with a Mr. Miller, he there carried on the business of printer and bookseller on his own account. In 1852 he purchased from the widow of Mr. Alexander Baird a printing business in Saltcoats and Ardrossan; in 1853 he issued as a monthly the first number of the Herald; and on the removal of the stamp duty in 1865 issued it weekly. The beginnings of this now favourite newspaper were unpretentious, but as time rolled on it grew in size and literary ability. Its proprietor and editor was always painstaking and energetic; and now for many years he has been reaping the results of his early anxieties and toils. It is Liberal in its politics, and gives Ayrshire ecclesiastical news in extenso. Besides Mr. Guthrie's labours as a journalist, he has written several books of interest. and chief of these is his Life of Dr. William B. Robertson. of Irvine, whose friendship he enjoyed for many years.

The Mr. Muir referred to above I knew very well, He was for some years the chief pressman in the Scots Times office. He

left it and went to Kilmarnock, where he took a great interest in all Christian work, and came to be widely known as the friend of every good cause. When the Dumfries Home Mission was started he was appointed its superintendent, a post for which he was eminently fitted, and which he filled till his death nearly eight years ago. He was held in great respect by all denominations in Dumfries.

A few years after the rise of the Evangelical Union, or the Morisonian party, the father of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., started, and for several years supported, a newspaper to represent the new denomination. It was entitled the *Christian News*, is the oldest religious newspaper in Scotland, and exists to this day. Its first editor was the Rev. Peter Mather. He was the minister of the Independent Church, Ardrossan. When he accepted the editorship he resigned his ministerial charge. He held this new post of duty, I think, up till his death a few years ago. He was highly esteemed by all his friends.

The *British Friend*, begun in Glasgow about fifty years ago under the editorship of Messrs. W. and R. Smeal, is a monthly journal chiefly devoted to the interests of the Society of Friends. Its present editor is Mr. James G. Smeal.

The Bulwark (a monthly magazine upholding Reformation principles) is now in its 40th year of publication, and conducted on the old lines of "No peace with Rome." For many years published in Edinburgh, under the editorship of such distinguished men as Principal Cunningham, Dr. James Begg, and Professor Thomas Smith, three years ago its publication was transferred to Glasgow, under new management, and its form modernized. Increased acceptability has been

the result, and its circulation has been *trebled* during these three years.

The weekly *Christian Herald*, although now published in London, was started in our city by the Rev. M. Baxter, during the visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey to this country about twenty-four years ago. The *Christian Leader*, another religious weekly, was begun in 1882, its editor being the Rev. William Howie Wylie.

When our humorous friend the *Bailie* was born in 1875, some thought it not healthy, and predicted its early demise. It still lives on, apparently constitutionally strong, although at times it may not have a large per cent. of the feast of reason and flow of soul. *Quiz* is another comic weekly, with illustrations.

The Journal of the Scottish Temperance League in this city is published in the interests of total abstinence, and as a means of communication between its members throughout Scotland. For a number of years Mr. J. Finlayson has been its faithful editor. There is also the Reformer, an organ of the Permissive Bill section of the total abstinence party. Mr. R. Mackay is its editor and manager.

In the foregoing pages I have tried to give, as far as my recollection serves me, an outline of what were the newspapers and who were their editors during the last sixty years. In the above time there, have sprung up many weekly and monthly serials, which neither time nor space permit me to specify. After a short-lived existence they died. In general our city does not seem to possess a fertile soil for the growth and continuance of these trees of knowledge.

About 1850 a new plan was adopted for increasing the interest

of the public in newspapers, and thus stimulating their sale. This was the printing of a contents bill of all the important items contained in the day's issue. The example set by the Glasgow Constitutional, the first paper in Glasgow which adopted this scheme, was speedily followed by our other papers until now, when the plan is universally adopted. In some bills the chief features are sensational catchlines, which attract the notice of the passer-by. Sometimes a brief telegram forms one of its boldest and most prominent lines.

As has been already indicated, many of the once able and active editors who lived and died in Glasgow are worthy of being held in remembrance by the present Fourth Estate. They did their best and accomplished much with the limited resources of their time. The heavy taxes on knowledge and the obnoxious stamp and advertisement duties crippled them in their noble work. It was only after these had been repealed that the newspaper press awoke to the desire of the public for further enlightenment and information, and to adapt itself for meeting the wants of the times by helping the development and spread of literature of all kinds. The railway and the electric telegraph have also been powerful agents during the past thirty years in changing the character of the newspaper press, and making it a greater power than ever.

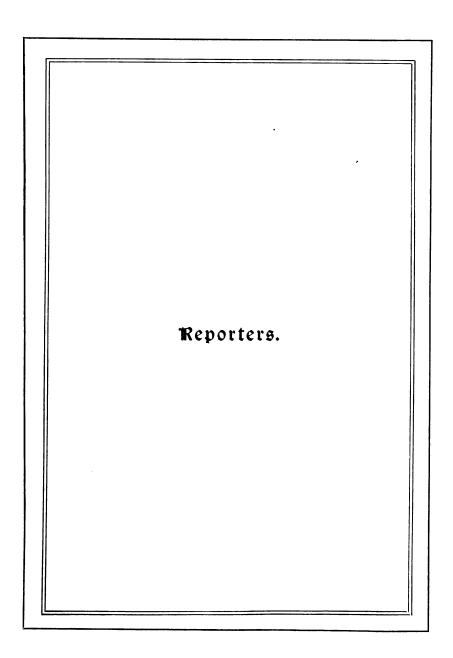
In these earlier days human hands and arms were the only instruments for producing copies of our newspapers, and an issue from the hand press of 200 or 250 copies was considered good; but almost every element for the rapid production of newspapers has changed. Instead of obtaining 250 copies per hour from the hand press, our daily newspapers, now printed

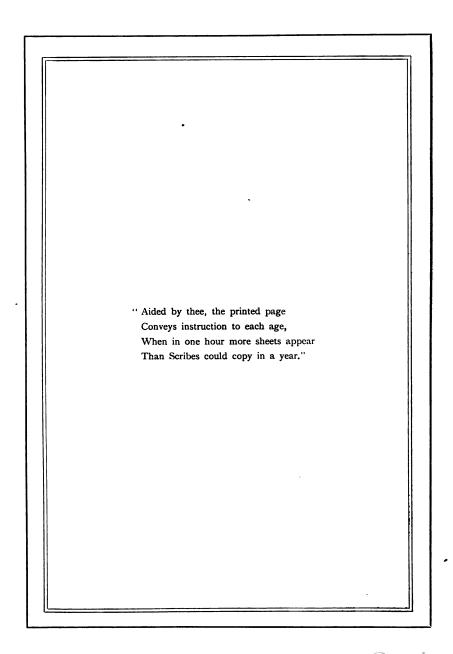
from the web, are produced at the rate of from 12,000 to 20,000 per hour. Were the shades of these men to appear in our daily newspaper establishments any working night from 5 P.M. to 3 A.M., what astonishing sights they would behold! No small editorial sanctums as then existed—they would see rooms of size and taste; no pigeon-hole looking place for sub-editors or reporters, but rooms large and properly fitted up for their work and comfort; no big room for six or twelve compositors, but large halls for 40, 50, 60, 70, or 80 of them; no closet in the wall for a reader, but rooms for the several readers required. No sound of locking up formes for the hand-press. Formes or columns are adjusted and sent to the stereotypers' department. In ten or twelve minutes the stereos are off to the machine room. A few minutes later the monster machines are printing with lightning speed; no folding tables are seen, but the broadsheets issue forth folded from the machine. The shades glance over the contents of the paper. All nearly local or not far-off news? Ah, no! Every description of news they behold from all quarters of the United Kingdom; all parts of Europe; tidings from America, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, New Guinea, etc., and these tidings only a few hours old! Just think of the trouble and expense involved in the gathering of all this news from all the ends of the earth.

It may be interesting and profitable to the younger members of the Fourth Estate that I should here give a short notice of the history of the electric telegraph, which is now such an important factor in helping to give the newspaper press its power and influence in the civilised world. The electric telegraph is founded on experiments by Gray in 1729; Nollet,

1746; Watson, 1747; Lesage, 1774; Reusser, 1794; Cavallo, 1795; Betancourt, 1796; Sæmmering, 1811; Gauss and Weber, 1834; constructed by Wheatstone and Steinheil (independently) 1837; improved by Morse, Cooke, Edison, etc. The first electric instrument was invented by Gauss and Weber, 1833. The Electric Telegraph Company, founded in 1846, was taken over by the Government in 1869. Six messages can be sent in one direction on one wire. First cable telegram from Dover to Cape Grisnez in 1850. The first Atlantic cable to New York was laid in 1858, the second in 1866. Now there are seven in operation. Duplex Telegraph invented in 1873; Quadruple Telegraph in 1877; Wheatstone's Automatic Printing Telegraph patented in 1860; Postal Telegraphy in 1872. In multitudes of cases it is now superseded by the Telephone.







## Reporters.

SECOND only to the editor is the reporter. His accurate reports of numerous gatherings, his lucid descriptions of daily occurrences, and his ubiquity, give his newspaper a standing in the eyes of readers and advertisers. Then "our special correspondent" goes everywhere and describes everything. Dr. Russell's vivid reports in the London Times of the progress of the Crimean War thrilled the British nation at the time: the official reports were usually destitute of intellectual power and correctness, and were without heart or soul. Archibald Forbes' enterprise and daring exploits as special correspondent during the Franco-German war, and his graphic and soul-stirring reports as they appeared in the Daily News, were eagerly read and relied on.

Occasionally the ingenuity of the reporter is exercised when difficulties lie in the way of getting a desired report. An illustration from an American source may be given. A reporter sent to take notes of a meeting, from which these members of the press were excluded, was resolved to do his duty. Appearing in the meeting and stating his business he was ejected. Baffled for the moment he withdrew to the street, looked at the building in which the meeting was held, and saw that if he could get into the room above he might at least hear something of the proceedings. He gained admittance into the room, operated upon the fire-place, and found to his satisfaction that he could

hear the speakers. Of course a report of what was said and done appeared in the paper represented by the enterprising newsman!

Sixty years ago Mr. James M'Nab, or blithe Jamie M'Nab, as he was commonly called, was of good renown. The meetings at that time of a public character were few and far between. Even our City Council's proceedings, as they appeared in the Herald, were squeezed into a fourth of a column. Magistrates and Councillors in speech then were reticent compared with those of 1890. Mr. M'Nab tipped off his reports of what he heard or saw in a simple and genial manner. He was looked on as a wit in his day; his kindly nature and felicitous power of story telling led him to be a favourite guest at either private or public social gatherings. I never saw him but he was either smiling or ready with a hearty joke. After he gave up his journalistic labours, he started a job printing-office in Miller Street, where he had the assistance of two sons. One of them studied for the ministry, and after a struggle for the parish of Millport gained its pastorate, and occupied the pulpit for many years.

Toward the close of the third decade, Mr. James Pagan, of Dumfries, became reporter on the Glasgow Herald, and, as I have already said, latterly one of its eminent editors. He was the first to begin giving speeches more or less in extenso. At this period a deeper interest commenced to be taken in civic affairs, and the citizens were greatly pleased to know through the press how the public pulse was beating. Mr. Pagan's report and description of the great Eglinton Tournament in 1839 was the fullest and ablest which appeared, and brought

him into prominent notice. It was highly appreciated even by Queen Victoria.

Another worthy reporter was Mr. William Gardner. Ere he joined the reporters' staff he was to business a warper. His natural talents fitted him for his new sphere of labour. He did not use shorthand in reporting speeches. He wrote so rapidly in longhand that he could give his manuscript at once to the compositors. His ablest and fullest report was in 1832. Lord Brougham visited our city, and gave one of his splendid orations on the Reform Bill of Lord John Russell. At this great political gathering Gardner had no reporter's table. His desk was the crown of his hat! His paragraphs of local events were pointedly and tastily written. I liked to meet him. He was warmhearted and most genial, and esteemed by his professional brethren.

Contemporary with Mr. Pagan was Mr. William Brown, of the Glasgow Argus. His work was recognised as being always well done. He was pleasant and unassuming in manner. Mr. Pagan and he were offered good positions by the London Times. Mr. Pagan did not accept of this offer, but Mr. Brown did and soon rose to fame in the metropolis. After arduous labour he was led to resign this first-class post on account of failing health and weakened eyesight. He returned to Glasgow, and soon after went to reside at Cathcart. His sight latterly failed him, and not many years ago he fell on sleep.

Mr. Robert Malcolm, nephew of the late editor of the Scots Times, had natural gifts as a reporter. He was talented, but very impulsive. I think I never saw him in quietness of spirit.

I am afraid that he appeared too often on the platform, not as the "chiel" to take notes, but to give a fervid radical oration. By those of that school of politics he was lionised. With all his bustling character his reports were considered well done. His race was early over.

The present much-respected secretary of Broomhill Incurable Homes, Dr. W. T. M'Auslane, entered the service of the North British Daily Mail in 1850. At first his duties were clerical, but he soon became one of its reporters. During the long period he discharged the duties of this office he was a man greatly esteemed. I always found him pleasant and obliging and most devoted to duty. His amiability and disinterestedness of character won for him high esteem among his fellow reporters and others. This was manifested at the social meeting held in 1865 in the Cobden Hotel, under the presidency of the late Mr. John M'Gavin, J.P., when Mr. M'Auslane was presented with a gold watch and chain, etc. The chairman's eulogy on Mr. M'Auslane's life and work was well becoming in him who gave it. The late Rev. George Jeffrey, D.D., Mr. Wm. Logan, and others, all bore testimony not only to the guest's journalistic ability, but also to his power as a Christian poet. A similar testimonial meeting was held on Mr. M'Auslane's retirement from the Press in 1875. In 1888 he received the degree of LL.D.

Contemporary with Dr. M'Auslane in the North British Daily Mail was Mr. J. G. Temple. Long has he been an honour to the large staff of reporters in the city. He pleasantly and faithfully plods on from day to day in the discharge of his duties as chief of the reporting staff—his onerous work never

seeming to overburden him. Few are more esteemed than Mr. Temple. His urbanity is this day as simple and winning as in the years when I first knew him. He was the *Mail's* special correspondent during the Franco-German war.

In 1833-34 Mr. William Skirving was one of the active and well-informed compositors of the Glasgow Courier. His talents were appreciated by his fellow-craftsmen. He was a son of the well-known auctioneer, Mr. Skirving, of Barclay & Skirving—a popular firm in its day. Mr. Skirving was called to be subeditor and reporter of the Courier. He discharged his double duties most creditably. His force of mind ran throughout what came from his pen. As long as strength was granted him, his colleagues in and out of the printing-office liked to rally round him. His stores of anecdote and humour were rich and varied. While he could keep a company in roars of laughter, yet he possessed the gravity of a judge. Well do I remember his neat and plain backhand style of writing. His name at this day is known only to two or three members of the Fourth Estate. How perishable is fame!

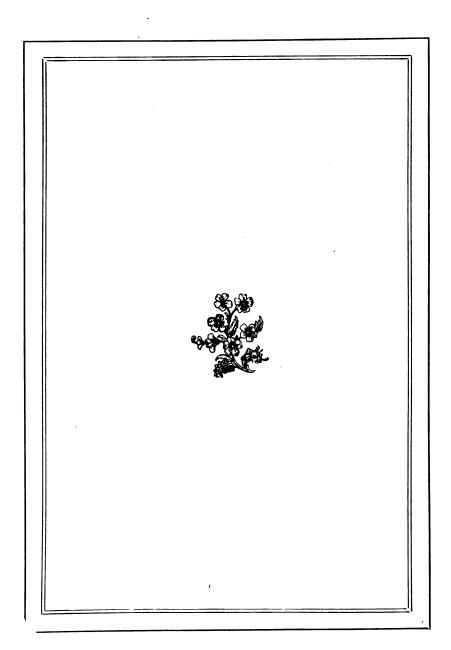
Connected with the Glasgow Press there are still many able and rising reporters, but of late years my opportunities of mingling with them have been comparatively limited. One of my most recent acquaintances of the Press is Mr. Thomas Reid, chief reporter of the Glasgow Herald. His experience as a compositor in his junior years has, no doubt, helped him to become such an expert and methodical reporter. His urbanity is proverbial, while his kindly disposition endears him to all who come in contact with him. He is much esteemed by his confrères, and is known to command the

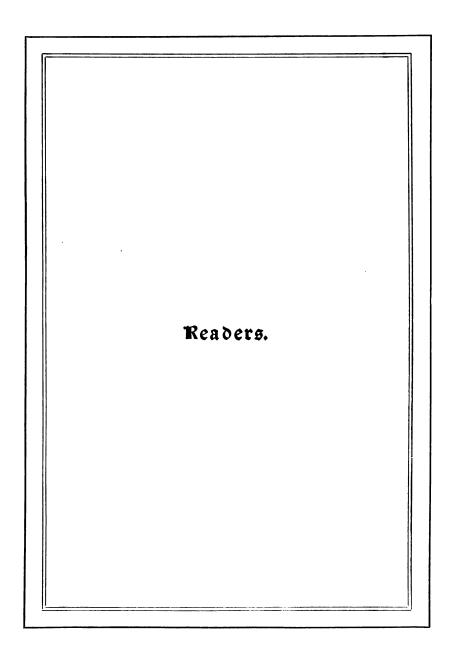
respect of all his subordinates; they feel their need of him and he of them. Mr. Reid's cheery countenance, his radiant smile, and warm pressure of the hand, tell how he welcomes a friend.

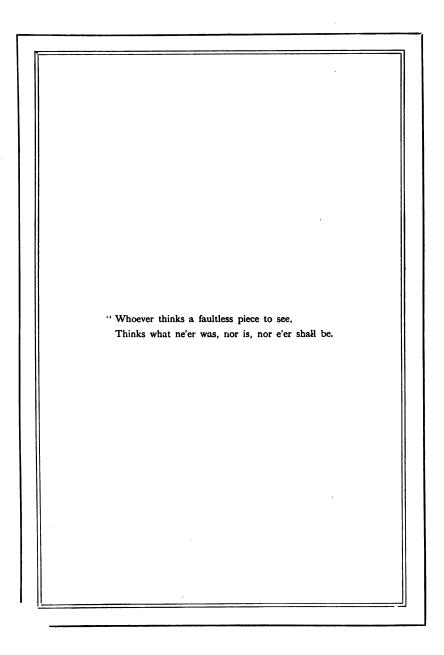
Many other reporters I knew whom I will not name. Some had average talents, and others were endowed with more brilliant parts,—all of whom did their work quietly and efficiently, but had not the ambition to come to the front.

There are at the present time one hundred and thirty members in the Glasgow Branch of the Institute of Jour-Of these, eighty-eight belong to Glasgow proper. nalists. Of these, again, fifty are reporters. The great increase has arisen since the evening papers were started. Whilst in 1860 a first-class paper would have three, or at the Thirty years most four reporters, it has now seven to ten. ago a paper would have two or three verbatim shorthand It has now three times as many. From 1860 to writers. 1870 the Glasgow papers reported Presbyteries and Town Councils at great length; but since the Post Office took over the telegraphic wires, and telegraphing to newspapers is only one shilling per 100 words, the Glasgow papers are more cosmopolitan—that is, they give good reports of important events in all parts of the country, and give less of local events unless of special importance. Then, again, the Glasgow papers give longer reports of Parliament than do the London dailies, except the Times and Standard. Practically there is much less verbatim reporting in Glasgow than there was thirty years ago. It is gratifying to know that the temperance element is stronger to-day among reporters than it was thirty or forty years ago. Salaries, too, are about double those of 1860; in fact, some journalists engaged upon special work earn salaries which would have made those of a previous generation stare. Finally, it is said, newspaper proprietors have increased their income fourfold, even though their outlay is fourfold. It is expected that the London Times, at the close of this year, as its circulation has increased and also its advertisements, will yield a dividend of £2000 per share. In looking at a Glasgow paper published upwards of forty years ago, its advertisements of that issue numbered 98, and in the one of the same date of the same month of this year they amounted to 1829.

In all departments of journalistic labour, which is discharged under so much high pressure and mental strain at late evening and midnight hours, how limited the time for recreation or rest! The soul needs its hushings and a compelling of it to calm attention; but-not the appetite, but rather the passion of men for the early broadsheet, prohibit this. Nowadays, when we have daily evening papers in large numbers, with their 2, 3, 4, 6, or 7 o'clock editions, we should be self-denied and content to dispense with our Monday's paper till 10 or 12 A.M. change to this hour? In order that all mentally and physically employed in newspaper work might get the entire seventh day for church, home, and family life. Surely it is not a sine qua non that we must have our intelligencers on the Monday morning ere we enter upon our private or public engagements for that day. Why not have the newspaper premises closed on the Lord's Day as well as our warehouses?







## Readers.

A VERY important duty in the getting up of a book or newspaper is that imposed upon that often maligned person the printer's reader. An author who is careless or writes an illegible scrawl often taxes the patience and temper of the compositor, and places an extra strain upon the proof-reader. I remember a careless author once writing of the church at Lacedemonia instead of Laodicea, and this passing through the hands of a mechanical compositor was not discovered by him. To detect such blunders greatly increases the labour of the reader. Then writers are not very particular as to quotations; they do not always verify their dates, and on the hapless corrector to the Press falls the burden which the shoulders of the author alone should bear. The careless compositor, too, does not always help to sweeten the reader's existence. While often his errors give cause for a jolly laugh, vet as often he vexes the righteous soul of the reader. In my own experience I could furnish a host of laughable errors. When the worthy compositor shows in cold type that soft soap is sold in bars; or the heaven (i.e., beacon) is lit up on a new plan; or a lawyer is malted (i.e., exalted); or makes a man "curse" tempestuous seas when he only "crossed" them, a smile may ripple over the face of the unfortunate reader, but he would like to argue with that compositor in the same way as the Irishman argued when the poker got bent.

right to say that, so far as my experience goes, the reading in Glasgow is both carefully and creditably done, and is as good as (I do not like to say better than) the reading of any other city, London not excepted; and certainly it was, forty or fifty years ago, as good here as elsewhere. This pre-eminence for accuracy was not unknown in the early years of printing. The works issued from the press of Foulis, the celebrated Glasgow printer, were famed for their correctness. Indeed it is recorded that he hung up on the door of his printing office the proofs of his edition of Horace, and offered a reward to any one finding inaccuracies therein. Notwithstanding the methods and safeguards adopted to ensure thorough accuracy, errors, as I know, will sometimes be passed. A few early instances of these defects may be mentioned. A Bible issued from the Clarendon Press is known as the "Vinegar Bible," from a misprint in the 20th chapter of St. Luke, where "Parable of the Vinegar" is printed for "Parable of the Vineyard." In another edition the word condemnation has been misprinted for redemption. In Field's Bible of 1653, in 1 Cor. vi. 9, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the Kingdom of God?" was misprinted for shall not inherit.

Fifty years ago Mr. Malcolm Wright was one of the ablest classical and English readers of his day in Glasgow. In reading Greek he needed no assistance. As he went on with his reading his eyes, intellect, and knowledge were sufficient to discover all the compositor's mistakes. As a reader of English matter he stood high in his profession. As I saw him at his reading desk I ever found him obliging and unpretentious.

Mr. William Gartly stood well out as a first-class reader.

In appearance he was a Shakespeare. Many a time I gazed at his profile and brow. All who came into contact with him had the same impression of his natural nobility of countenance. At his work he never was fussy. Simplicity of manner and gentleness he largely possessed.

Between fifty and sixty years ago Joe Taylor was looked up to as a good proof-reader. He was always sluggish-like—a real dead weight-like man. With his spectacles on and proof before him he had an Argus eye for detecting what he considered bad letters. His blackened last proofs alarmed compositors. On one occasion these were enormous. The compositor corrected the few mistakes in spelling, then went for the lye brush, gave the types a good brushing, dried them, and next got a well-pulled proof. It, with the currant-bun-like proof, was given to Joe to revise. He returned it without a mark, evidently satisfied with the care bestowed. Little he knew the trick that was done on this occasion. If all his whims had been carried out he would soon have made a big fount very small.

William Jeffray Paterson was a reader for several years. In appearance he was more like a farmer or cattle-dealer than a reader for the Press. He came to enjoy the sobriquet of "the jolter," from the way his big person "jolted" along the floor, I suppose. He had, like many other human beings, a perennial smile on his countenance. If he handed a compositor a first proof, which he had endeavoured to make as bun-like as possible, it was accompanied with the same smile, only a little broader than usual. Mr. Paterson started a printing-office on his own account. His success was not

striking, so he gave it up and went to Canada. I believe he is now residing in Montreal.

Mr. David Burns was deemed a first-class reader. While he resided in Glasgow he took a great interest in getting up a new building for the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution in North Hanover Street. The former premises were in Inkle Factory Lane, now Shuttle Street, the old church of Greyfriars congregation. It was far from being suitable for classes. In 1842 Mr. Burns left Glasgow to be manager of the Messrs. Chambers' case department. In 1845 he was appointed to be sub-editor of the London Daily News. As his fame as a journalist was rising his general health broke down, to recuperate which he left for Australia. He did not benefit much by this change, and ere he was long in the southern hemisphere he entered into his rest.

Before closing this branch of my subject I will give a few of the blunders in spelling or punctuation which have either appeared in print or were discovered before leaving the publishing department.

In an advertisement an I was placed instead of an h, which made it read—A louse to let with immediate entry.

In describing a large, enthusiastic meeting, it was stated that they rent the air with their snouts, an n being inserted for an h.

Lost, a silk umbrella belonging to a lady with an ivory head.

Wanted, a groom to take charge of a pair of horses of a religious turn of mind.

For sale, black ladies' silk stockings; instead of ladies' black silk stockings.

An editor, in a short paragraph which he wrote eulogising

Miss Fanny Kemble's readings, said she did it in a fine manner. He altered the word "fine" into "splendid." The compositor unwittingly put in the word "sheepish," and thus the phrase "She read in a *sheepish* manner," appeared in the morning edition of the newspaper.

In these days clergymen are expected to have the "wisdom and learning of a journeyman tailor," instead of "the wisdom and learning of Jeremy Taylor. "We take these children out of the streets," said Bishop Frazer on one occasion, "we clothe them, we tend them, we watch over them." But the Bishop was made to say, "We take these children out of the streets, we clothe them, we tend them, we wash them."

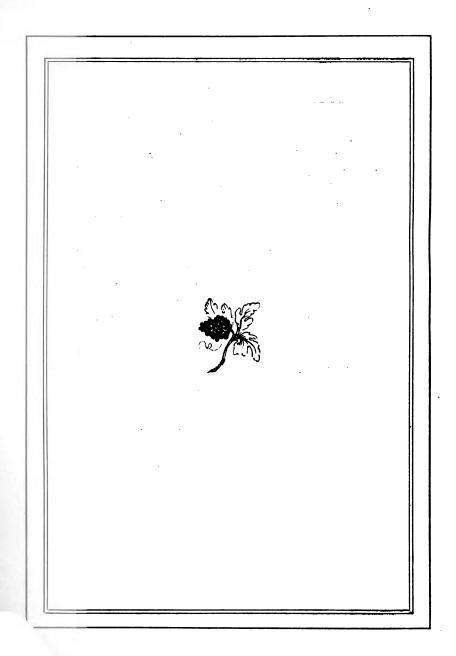
"Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" once exclaimed Sir William Harcourt. The quotation, however, appeared as "Great Diana! What a farce this is!" The orator who quoted the lines—

"O come, thou goddess fair and free, In heaven yclept Euphrosyne—"

read in a newspaper this practical rendering of the quotation—

"O come, thou goddess fair and free;
In heaven she crept and froze her knee."





Master Printers.

"Th' man who aspires to this high station Should for his guide seek moderation, And Justice keep in view; But few there are who reach this wished for height, That justly keep strict equity in sight And render each his due."

## Master Printers.

In looking over the Directory, I find that there are upwards of one hundred master printers in Glasgow. Many of these I know; but a still greater number are strangers to me. In referring to some of my contemporaries under this heading, I will chiefly speak of those only who have served their day and generation, and have bidden farewell to relatives and friends and the cares and anxieties of this sphere of toil. Alas, how many of those who bore the burden and heat of daily duty along with me in the years gone by have passed over to the majority! I do not know at this day one living in this city who was in business for himself when I commenced my apprenticeship.

In the third decade of this century the leading master printers were Messrs. A. & J. Duncan, the successors of the famous Brothers Foulis. They were printers to the University, and were forty years in existence in St. Mungo. The books they printed were chiefly of a classical character. To this day the volumes that issued from their press bear excellent proof of good taste and fine workmanship. Scamping as well as requiring to give estimates seemed to be unknown to them—the latter not one of the luxuries (?) of the last decade of this famous nineteenth century. This firm's premises were situated in Villafield, and in their time were the largest in Glasgow. They printed extensively for two or three leading London publishers. When all was seemingly going prosperously with them, the largest of the three

firms for which they did work became bankrupt. Being heavily involved with this house the Duncans had to succumb, and their plant was sold. The premises were unoccupied for a long time. A new firm took possession of the premises. Its name was Hutchison & Brookman. Mr. Hutchison possessed the f, s. d. for starting this printing-office. Mr. Brookman had been in the employment of the Messrs. Duncan, and was looked upon as a clever and promising man. Although his purse had few yellow "sorts" in it, his seeming aptitude for the practical management of the new concern would make up for the emptiness of his pocket. Hutchison & Brookman's fame soon spread, and their enterprise appeared to be a great success. Mr. Brookman got filled with vanity; his domestic style of living became far too extravagant. It did not take long to bring about a collapse, and Mr. Hutchison was soon a poor man. His later years were spent in plainness, and he died much respected. The court adjacent to his office was called Hutchison Court. From it you entered into Fullarton's office.

A few years after the failure of this firm, George Brookman opened a new office in Mitchell Street. It consisted of two flats in a back land, built of brick. His partner then was Mr. Hartley, the most popular teacher of elocution in Glasgow, who was to supply the sinews of war. Mr. Brookman was again to take the practical management of the business. He had a knack of getting plenty of work, and seemed to be most successful. While I wrought there I scarcely ever saw the "governor," his visits being few and brief. Then came a breakdown. Our wages were in arrears, and we got but a poor trifle of what was owing us. The late Sir Andrew Orr had the winding up of the

estate. Some two or three years after this, Brookman started again in Argyle Street in a very humble printing-office. Once more the bladder burst, and disaster overtook him. The last I heard of this erratic printer was that he and his family were off to Australia. He belonged to a church which did not believe in a paid ministry, and he occasionally preached to his brethren. When his turn came for holding forth, Robert Robertson, a case apprentice and a good penman, was usually absent from the office. He was at home with a volume of printed sermons before him, and believed to be writing out one or two for his master's use on the first day of the week!

In Clyde Street, near the old Slaughter-House, was Mr. Edward Khull's printing-office. Mr. Khull was of German extraction. In appearance he was pleasant, and always seemed cheerful. The tenement is still standing. The pressroom was in the sunk flat. Many eyes used to peer in through the windows from day to day—the numbers frequently darkening the room. The case-room, stereo-room, warehouse, and counting-house were in the first and second flats. Mr. Khull possessed a fair share of shrewdness and humour, and was well liked as an employer. Often was he visited by tramps seeking work. He sometimes thought they were untaught compositors or pressmen. One day a tramp waited on him seeking a job at the press. Mr. K. was suspicious of his being able to ink or roll a forme, or even to pull a bar. He thought he would first see how he would damp a ream of paper. The paper was stripped of its wrapper, and put on the end of the damping-trough stand. Mr. K. ordered him to damp the ream. In a second or two he lifted it and then dropped it into the trough. Khull shouted, "Oh, ye impostor," and in a twinkling the tramp bolted. By-and-bye Mr. Khull's son, Master Edward, appeared in the office as the young lieutenant. His leadership was not as it should have been for the aged father, whose face was soon seen no more in the place that was dear to him. In the gloaming of life he lived with his son-in-law, Mr. George Penfold, druggist, whose place of business was at the corner of Miller and Argyle Streets, and his house at 75 Argyle Street.

In 1834 Mr. E. Khull opened a printing-office near the head of Virginia Street. It consisted of three flats. The ground one was taken up with the stereo-foundry, the next above with the press-room and picking-room, and the third floor was the case-room, a well-packed apartment, many of the frames in which were double-manned. In the centre of the floor was the desk of Mr. M'Phail, the overseer, by no means a common individual. Smart and well educated, and full of humour, he seemed to be quite content with the Khull establishment. If a compositor, for instance, wished to know how to display a title page, he would step down from his three-legged stool, stand straight up before the man, put both hands on his ribs, his elbows sticking out at right angles from his body, put the heels of his two feet together so as to make his feet appear in line, to show the bookseller's imprint at the bottom of the page, and tell the compositor to look at him and make the title as near as he could in harmony with the shape of the human form divine which stood before him! Mr. M'Phail, after he left Khull's,

held two good situations in Edinburgh, but now he and, I believe, all his family lie with the great majority. The apprentices had a nickname for him—"The Dandy."

Mr. Khull had a very sharp temper, and his tongue seemed to be in complete harmony with it. The work he did was principally furnished by W. R. M'Phun, then occupying a small shop in the Trongate opposite the Tron Steeple. It consisted principally of Roman Catholic literature, and, one would think, not very profitable. I used to hear of the compositors growling about the lack of fatness in this bookseller's volumes or pamphlets. Mr. Khull removed from Virginia Street to a large brick building of several flats adjacent to Dunlop Street Theatre, where his business gradually waned away, and ultimately he gave it up. After this took place he started for Melbourne, and became there a bullion broker, which calling. I believe, he followed after till his toils and troubles in this world ended.

For some time the large premises in Villafield of Hutchison & Brookman remained tenantless. The well-known firm of Messrs. Blackie & Fullarton, publishers of religious literature in monthly parts, dissolved. Their printing had been done by different printers. Each partner as he started anew the publishing trade united with it the printing for himself. As the Villafield premises were large and moderate in rent, the new companies took possession of them. Messrs. Blackie & Sons had the largest portion, the smaller part being quite adequate for Messrs. Fullarton & Son.

Messrs. Blackie & Son continue in Villafield to this day as publishers, printers, bookbinders, and lithographers. Few, if

any, of our establishments in the west have become more eminent for the character and artistic style of their productions. When I was an apprentice it was considered a large printing establishment; but comparing it then with what it is at present, it was like the small stream to the large and flowing river. Mr. Blackie, sen., was ever industrious and honourable in all his affairs. He took a good share in developing the social, intellectual, moral, and spiritual condition of Glasgow. As years rolled on he gradually retired from business life, as well as matters outside of it. Happily his mantle fell on his sons, John and Walter. Although most assiduous to their numerous duties in Villafield, they too were able to devote some time to various schemes for the welfare of the citizens. Mr. John Blackie, jun., became one of our Lord Provosts, and it was mainly through his official influence that we got the City Improvement Act (1866) passed, which has done so much for the amelioration of the people, as well as for the adornment of the city. In religious work he took an active interest. I recollect of him being present at the opening of Watson Street Evangelistic Hall. The chill he got on that occasion in a few days ended his useful life. At a recent date his much-respected brother, Dr. Walter G. Blackie, was chosen to the honourable office of Lord Dean of Guild, and is now Principal of the new St. Mungo College.

As already mentioned, Messrs. A. Fullarton & Son started their printing-office at the same time as Messrs. Blackie. The responsibility of managing both departments of it chiefly devolved upon Mr. Archibald Fullarton, jun As I occasionally saw him in the printing-office, he seemed to be well adapted for

business. However prosperous this company appeared, there was a weak joint in its armour. Mr. Fullarton assumed an ex-minister of the Congregational Union of England as a partner. His duties were altogether of a literary character. He was editor-in-chief of the firm's English, Scotch, and Irish Gazetteers; also Bell's Geography, etc. The practical management of the office was committed to the brothers Alexander and George Spears. As overseers, they were well liked. In 1844 the Messrs Fullarton removed their printing plant from Villafield to commodious premises at Stead's Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. This change eastward seemed to give greater vitality to the business, and high hopes were entertained that this state of things would continue. However, after a few years dark clouds hovered over the establishment, notwithstanding that another partner had been assumed. Some time after this the company had to give way. To touching incidents connected with its dissolution I abstain from referring.

More than sixty years ago we had in the Candleriggs the office of Messrs. Chalmers & Collins, their book shop being in Wilson Street. Mr. Collins was father of the present Sir William Collins, while Mr. Chalmers was a brother of the great and energetic Dr. Thomas Chalmers. Their office was not very large. Upwards of fifty years since they erected new premises at the corner of Montrose Street and Stirling Road. With this extended accommodation the firm entered more largely than before into book printing, which proved successful. On the entrance of young Mr. Collins into the management, it was found they would again require to enlarge their borders. The scene of the change was to Herriot Hill. From that time

to this addition after addition of fresh departments have been opened. Each of these expanded far beyond what was most sanguinely expected, till now it is one of the largest concerns in our city. One of its recent and able partners was Mr. John Morison, who retired from the business a few years ago. With freedom from business cares, and while his health permitted, he proved a most indefatigable member of our Glasgow School Board.

I will now refer to master printers whose businesses were on a smaller scale than the foregoing, and whose offices were situated much nearer the centre of the city.

In Nelson Street we had Mr. James Stark's, opposite the old Post-Office. He did both jobbing and bookwork. He was quiet and pleasant in manner. In 1832 his health failed him, and he emigrated to Canada.

On the other side of Nelson Street was Mr. William Lang's office. In politics he was a strong Radical, as he espoused and joined in the exploits of Hardie and Baird, who were beheaded as alleged traitors. He felt matters were getting too hot for him here, and he fled for safety to America. After a time, when political affairs in Glasgow calmed down, Mr. Lang returned to St. Mungo. Although his office was small, he came to have a fair-going business. He was highly respected, and was chosen a Commissioner of the Police Board; he was also an office-bearer in the Rev. Dr. Heugh's church. Brass rules for tabular or scheme matter were unknown in those days, so that tin had to be used. Mr. Lang was the agent of a company who supplied these tin slips. Many a time I went there for a sheet of tin. Each one cost 2s. 6d.

Mr. William Aitken was on the stairhead with Mr. Lang. He was an easy-going person. His business was small, his printing being chiefly for auctioneers.

At 48 Nelson Street was the office of Mr. Duncan Mackenzie —the grandfather of the present William Mackenzie, of Howard Street. His printing was chiefly for works published by himself, principally of theological books in monthly parts. I think he issued an edition of Haweis' Family Bible, which, seventy or eighty years ago, was popular. Mr. Mackenzie, when I knew him, was pleasant and well liked in the trade. His son was coming on for business when a westward movement set in. The Nelson Street premises were vacated for more commodious ones at the head of Maxwell Street. Shortly before this took place, the Rev. W. Symington, D.D., of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, had resigned his charge at Stranraer for the Church of this denomination in Great Hamilton Street, which had become vacant by the decease of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Symington's coming here created a great stir. His splendid talents, his fine toned eloquence, and his commanding appearance, all told most favourably for his great popularity. Mr. Mackenzie had arranged to bring out a new and beautiful edition of Scott's Commentary on the Bible. Dr. Symington became the editor and furnished it with fresh side notes, etc. As soon as this was made known, the demand for it in monthly parts was very great. New type was used for it, and the irrepressible manager of the office, the late Mr. Adam, spared not himself to have its typography first class. Other fresh and leading works on theology, science and art, as well as the "Men of the Times," proved successful. The premises got too

small, and larger ones were entered upon in London Street. At this time Mr. White was assumed as a partner. Then after a time came another removal to the still more extensive premises in Howard Street. The present Mr. Mackenzie is a gentleman highly respected in and out of the trade.

In 1831 Messrs, Bell & Bain commenced business in Antigua Buildings, off Nelson Street. They served their apprenticeship with the late Mr. James Curle in Argyle Street. In 1833 they removed to North Exchange Court, Queen Street. They were among the first tenants in the new buildings in that district. The change proved a successful one. At first they were chiefly jobbing printers, but gradually started book work; and it grew in their hands. They next removed to St. Enoch's Lane. Having more accommodation there, they further cultivated the book department. They remained there till they had to remove to Mitchell Street on account of the South-Western Railway requiring the space for their St. Enoch's Square station. Both of these gentlemen have finished their course—Mr. Bain predeceasing Mr. Bell by a number of years.

Mr. Andrew Young's office was at 96 Trongate. His business was never large, and was chiefly jobbing. He did a good amount of printing for religious societies in the city and country. He was a fine specimen of a worthy Cameronian elder. He died in 1831. His eldest son carried on the business till he finished his studies for the ministry in the United Secession Church. He was ordained at Catrine. The successors of this firm were Aird & Russell, 75 Argyle Street. Mr. John Aird, my brother, left it at the end of 1837, and along with his wife went to Jamaica, under the auspices of the United Secession

Church, to carry on mission work in that island. After fifty years' faithful service there, my brother died on 11th February, 1889, at the ripe age of 81.

Mr. George Richardson commenced business first in Inkle Factory Lane. He possessed a fair share of perseverance and force of will, and was a strict disciplinarian. As long as he was able, few men stuck closer to his office duties. He removed to Miller Street, and while there his trade expanded, and he had the honour of receiving the appointment of Printer to the University. Once more he flitted to the corner of Wilson Street and Glassford Street. It was in this office my partner in business, Mr. William C. Coghill, served his apprenticeship and received his training.

When I joined the printing business, Mr. John Graham, Trongate, was a leading job printer. He printed for many years the Post-Office Directory, which was infantile in appearance then compared with what it is now in 1890. It was considered a feat when it was published by the middle of June. As the poet Burns would say, Mr. Graham was a hearty chiel. He loved a crack and a joke. His little "Compositor's Text-Book" was an A1 production, and I would recommend it to all young printers. After Mr. Graham's death the office was removed to Royal Bank Place. Miss Graham, a daughter, in conjunction with Mr. James Shirra, managed the business for many years.

Mr. James Hedderwick, father of Dr. Hedderwick, was long a leading printer in Argyle Street. His productions were looked upon as models of artistic taste, and could almost be known without seeing their imprimatur. His office was tidy and orderly—a place for everything and everything in its place. It

is said he made it compulsory on all his journeymen and apprentices to wear carpet slippers in the office. He knew that sparables and tackets were injurious to types or leads when trampled on.

Who in these or earlier years has not heard of Mr. William Gilchrist? He was from the beginning till the end of his business life a man greatly beloved. Endowed with a large body, he had a still larger heart. He was shrewd and always prudent. Few could read character better than he, or could as soon discover who was true or who was false. He served his apprenticeship in the Chronicle office when it was in Buchanan Court. His first office was in the Trongate, near the corner of King Street. Here he succeeded very well. He next removed to St. Enoch's Lane, off Argyle Street, and afterwards to Spreull's Court. These premises also got too limited for his still increasing trade, and he quitted them for larger ones in Howard Street. There he had many years of toiling and moiling; but the increase of years told upon his once vigorous constitution, and gradually his sun set. His selection of type for posters was strikingly large and varied. No office in the city produced more unique bill work than that of our departed friend.

It seems to me but as yesterday when the late Mr. Robert Anderson was employed in the case department of the Glasgow Herald, and yet four decades have winged their flight. The dimensions of his first office in North Exchange Court were not great. At first he had a tough fight as a master printer. He was almost within a hair space of giving it up. Something said to him, "Be plucky; you will by and bye conquer all these imaginary difficulties." He at once resolved

to hold the fort. From that day till he laid down the weapons of toil success attended him. Week after week brought him increasing customers. Few letterpress printers in Glasgow enjoyed a fuller share of patronage. He had a kind and generous nature. The large company of friends who attended his funeral manifested how much he was respected. His two sons continue the business.

I only once or twice had the pleasure of meeting the late Mr. Walter G. M'Laren. He was trained, I think, in the office of Mr. J. Hedderwick. Mr. H. had grounded him well in his business, and therefore had much credit by him. His start in business and its many anxieties were often too great a strain upon him. Still he kept plodding on. When the corn in the ear was appearing in his field of labour his strength got weakened by the way. After a long illness he fell on sleep, very much respected as a man and a Christian. Two of his sons continue as printers still.

The brothers Samuel and Thomas Dunn opened their first office at the corner of Argyle and Virginia Streets, next to Marshall's new property in the Trongate. From it they removed to Prince's Square, and lastly to the old premises of a silk mill in Stirling Road. Mr. C. L. Wright, who had begun business on his own account, afterwards gave it up, and was assumed as a partner by the Messrs. Dunn. For many years this co-partnery lasted. It is several years since the original partners died. Mr. Wright is now the sole proprietor.

Mr. Thomas Duncan, for many years the able and faithful manager to Messrs. Dunn & Wright, commenced on his own account, and gained the patronage of many of his old friends.

He thoroughly knew his business, and how work should be executed. He was at his sudden and touching death a member of the Glasgow Town Council. He went, along with other official friends, to witness extensive blasting operations at Loch Fyne three years ago. Upon the explosion taking place he, along with others, went incautiously too near, was overcome by the liberated gases, and suddenly called from time into eternity.

The late Mr. John Neilson, of Paisley, opened a printing office in the Trongate. Mr. John M'Culloch was its overseer. The business got on very well. Afterwards it became the nucleus of Messrs. M'Corquodale's office. Mr. M'Culloch was a most superior tradesman, and was a model in administrative ability. I don't think he had a foe in the whole circle of the profession. Day by day he wore a pleasant smile. So he, too, has gone.

In the foregoing sketches I have attempted to give you some glimpses of those with whom I was more or less acquainted. Many of them left us much that we might safely profit by: a few had their shortcomings; but who is without his faults? Let us seek to overshadow these old brethren with the mantle of charity.

From the fac-simile toast list shown on opposite page you will see that a fraternal spirit existed among the master printers more than fifty years ago. There does not seem to be the same desire for fraternising or for social intercourse in these supposed advanced times of the Fourth Estate as there was in the days gone by. It is a weak part of our profession. Can it not be cured? As I glance over the names on the toast list my spirit is deeply touched. Only one person who was at that festive gathering is with us now, viz., Dr. W. G. Blackie.

## TOASTS, Master Brinters' Dinner,

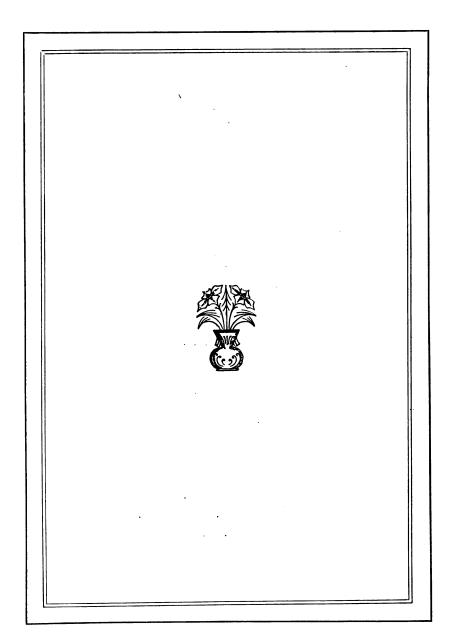
IN

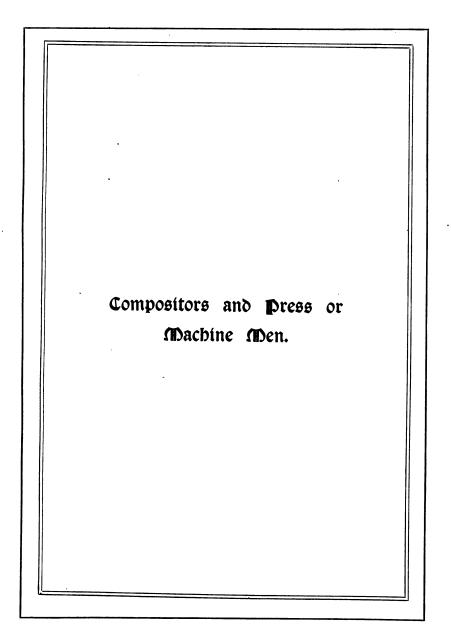
### WATERLOO TAVERN,

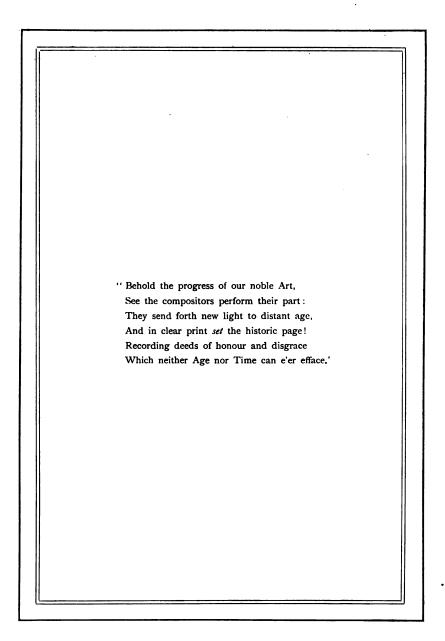
TUESDAY, 27th JUNE, 1837, at Five o'Clock, P.M.

MR. JOHN GRAHAM, Chairman. MR. EDWARD KHULL, Croupier.

1. QUEEN,	Chair.
2. Queen Dowager,	Chair.
S. The Royal Family,	Chair.
4. Her Majesty's Ministers,	Chair.
5. Both Houses of Parliament,	Chair.
6. The Army and the Navy,	Chair.
7. The Press,	Chair.
8. Our Friends who celebrate the Invention	
of the Art,	Chair.
9. The Newspaper Press,	Croupier.
10. The Literati of our Country,	Mr. Lamond.
11. The MASTER PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION of	
GLASGOW,	Mr. P. M'Kenzie.
12. May a good understanding always exist	
between Masters and Men,	
13. The Educational Institutions of Glasgow,	
14. The Commissioners of Police,	Mr. Russell.
15. The Lord Provost and Magistrates,	Mr. Lang.
16. The Secretary of the Master Printers'	
Association,	Chair.
17. The Publishers of Glasgow,	Croupier.
18. The Typefounders,	Mr. Hedderwick.
19. The Church of Scotland,	Chair.
20. The University of Glasgow,	Mr. W. G. Blackie.
21. The Stationers' Company,	Mr. D. M'Kenzie.
22. The Three Ps—the Plough—the Press—and the Pulpit,	
23. May the Rich be generous, and may the	Durvey.
Poor be grateful,	Mr. Bell.
24. The Printers' and Bookbinders' Society.	







## Compositors and Press or Machine Men.

WHILE writing the previous chapter of these Reminiscences, I felt my inability to give pen-portraits of so many upright, honourable, and useful men, who in their day and generation shed lustre on their public and private life; so, too, in this department I feel myself quite unable to do justice to many with whom I daily toiled. I do not want to flatter my old chums or acquaintances, but to depict them as I found them. The difficulty with me is with whom shall I begin this pleasant duty. I start, then, with those three seniors of our trade whose aggregate pilgrimage nearly amounts to 220 years! and are still denizens of Glasgow.

Mr. James Ross began his apprenticeship in 1825. Up till ten years ago he was one of the most able and industrious compositors in Glasgow. He was in the North British Daily Mail for nearly twenty-three years, and in the Evening Citizen for about fifteen. When he had to retire from the business on account of feeble eyesight, several of his fellow-compositors and other friends gave him a tangible token of their respect and esteem, presenting him at a social meeting with a cheque for £30. In natural force he is not much abated.

Mr. John Moore, now laid aside for some years, was a most intelligent man. He was sharp and clear-headed. In his intercourse with the craft he was ever straight in his remarks to them, and specially so at the business meetings of the Glasgow

Typographical Society. He was for some time its faithful secretary. He was employed in the *Courier* office, and was also one of its overseers in its later years.

Mr. Isaac Paterson is, I think, the oldest caseman in Messrs. M'Corquodale & Co.'s office. He was among the first in Glasgow who could set up music, and in his younger years he stood out pre-eminently in this new department of case work.

Mr. Lindsay Anderson, compositor, was one of the most faithful servants in his day in connection with the *Glasgow Herald*. For forty years he was overseer of the case department. He, as far as I recollect him, was always calm and pleasant. In his time he made up each page of the paper in a "coffin galley," now altogether abandoned.

Mr. John Rankine, lately deceased, was one of Villafield's oldest compositors and pickers. As a picker he was what educationalists would call a prizeman. His talents were appreciated not only in this his native city, but in Edinburgh also, where he was long in the employment of Messrs. Nelson & Son. In manner he was most unobtrusive; in temperament very genial; and in his whole deportment he was most gentlemanly. His later years were spent at Kilwinning. Mr. Wm. Rankin, of Renfield Street, did much to make the evening of his life serene. He died without a foe. I always found him a man whom I could esteem and respect.

Mr. William Milne, pressman, was, sixty years ago, very popular in the trade. His character was most transparent. In politics he was a Radical. Before Lord John Russell's Reform Bill became law in Great Britain, Mr. Milne did his best to show his loyalty. In 1832 there was a great Reform

procession in Glasgow. I think all the trades took part in it. The processionists were well dressed, and wore regalia in beautiful style. The picture rises up before me still, and I see some of the old worthies of the printing trade as they then appeared with their blue sashes and rosettes, medals and white Mr. Milne was mounted in a cart, with a small Ruthven press in it. There, with a lad to roll for him, he was, with all his Radical energies, printing a demy 8vo bill. This leaflet detailed all the glories that would result to the nation by this Reform bill. As each copy was printed Mr. Milne squeezed the slip and threw it among the great crowds who lined the streets. He considered himself honoured by the laudable work of that day. As his gloaming of life wore on, Messrs. Bell & Bain gave him light jobbing work at one of their small hand presses. Latterly he waited on the ministrations of the amiable and pious Rev. John Campbell, late of Row parish, upon whom our university conferred the honorary degree of D.D., and thereby honoured itself. Mr. Milne died as a modern Barnabas.

Alexander Spears, a native of Berwick-on-Tweed, was foreman of the case department in Fullarton's office. I wrought under him for some time. He was well qualified for the office he filled with that firm, both in Villafield, Glasgow, and also when they removed to Leith Walk, Edinburgh. He respected all his men, and so likewise did they esteem him. To the humblest in the caseroom he was always willing to give encouragement. He was an excellent disciplinarian, being both firm and gentle. His ability as a proof reader, both in English and Greek, was reckoned very high, while he was self-taught in Hebrew. He made a translation of Homer for his own use, and was a first-rate French scholar. He also wrote poems, which may be found in some poetical works of the present time. He was an admirable musician, both in theory and practice. For several years before his decease in Edinburgh he lived retiredly. I visited him more than once and thoroughly enjoyed his fellowship and conversation, it was so instructive and refreshing.

Mr. George Spears, a brother of Alexander, was foreman of the pressroom in Fullarton's. If ever an overseer strove to make the men under him contented and happy it was Mr. George. In many respects he partook of his brother's elements of mind and heart, and deeply interested himself in schemes for the improvement of youth. For example, he taught a class the rudiments of astronomy. He constructed a rather original orrery—a turnip representing the sun, while potatoes of various sizes represented the planets, thus in this simple way bringing before the eyes of the lads the motions of the heavenly bodies. He loved a good crack and joke. He, too, has gone over to the majority. His eldest son is a partner in the well-known Edinburgh firm of printers, Messrs. Turnbull & Spears; Mr. Turnbull is a son-in-law.

Mr. James Ferguson, pressman in Messrs. Blackie & Son's office, was a tradesman of high repute. His capabilities for management were A1. His fame soon became known in Edinburgh, and he accepted the offer of a situation there, where I know he gave good satisfaction. Not long after, he got a still better situation in Edinburgh, which he filled with great pleasure to the proprietor. Two or three years after-

wards Messrs. Nelson & Son were on the outlook for a machine manager, and out of the many applicants selected Mr. Ferguson. Here his talents were more than ever valued. He raised the character of their machine work; by his knowledge of chemistry he was able to manufacture all the different colours of ink required by the firm. Their chief machine-room was a model of tidiness; it charmed me to look over it. I could not see a piece of waste paper on its floor. Every machine had its waste basket. I have seen both in Edinburgh and Glasgow the floors of machine-rooms covered with waste paper like a joiner's shop with shavings. Such should not be the case. After prolonged illness, Mr. Ferguson died, about thirteen years ago, highly respected by friends far and near.

Mr. George M'Gibbon, compositor, was in the service of Messrs. Fullarton & Co. here and in Edinburgh. Formerly he had charge of Mr. Cameron's office in Buchanan Court, Argyle Street. Its proprietor was a dentist in Glasgow, who believed in a printing-office being a good industry for soon making a fortune. Mr. M'Gibbon had fine taste, and his work was well executed. With all his skill and smartness he could not make the concern a richly-producing gold mine to its unpractical superior; so it vanished. Mr. M'Gibbon's ability in picking up types was striking. Compositors were then all on their lines, and though paid less per 1000 than in 1890, he could make more than 30s. per week. He was what we called a "swift." He emigrated for his family's sake to the United States, where he died of paralysis a few years after. One of his sons studied for the ministry, and became colleague and successor to the famed Rev. Dr. Lang of Sydney. Other two of his sons became

successful merchants, one in New York and the other in South Carolina.

Mr. Charles Harvey was a compositor, and succeeded Mr. W. Eadie as foreman of the Glasgow Argus. He was very well liked when he used his composing stick, and this liking increased when his official career began. His management gave great satisfaction to this newspaper's proprietors. While all was going on smoothly with him his general health gave way, and eventually he succumbed to the disease which fastened upon him. I knew him well. It was cheering to have a shake of his hand and a talk with him.

Mr. James Williamson, compositor, was for several years on the Argus staff. His bearing was most prepossessing. As a tradesman he was clever and tasteful, and stood high among the compositors of his day. All jobbing devolved upon him. Like Mr. James Shirra, he possessed a fair share of dramatic ability. At last he was overtaken with sore disease and all curative skill failed to give him any relief from his sufferings. The trade mourned his loss.

Revs. David Thompson, of Appledore, Devon; Alex. M'Aulay, Manchester, late one of the Presidents of the Wesleyan denomination; John Lowe Munro, B.D., Linlithgow; John N-Russell, B.A., Port-Glasgow; and Thomas Gilfillan, London; were, when in their teens, apprentices in different printing offices in Glasgow. After their apprenticeship course was finished they earnestly and hopefully pursued studies for the office of the ministry. With two exceptions, on account of failing strength, the others are still in harness, fulfilling their high vocation in their different spheres of usefulness. Mr.

M'Aulay lately gave a gift of £100 to the widows of old Glasgow printers. Blessed are they who sow beside all waters.

Mr. Wm. Munn, compositor, was a smart and spirited caseman. Although of small stature, he could always confront any long sixes. For a considerable time he was overseer in the Citizen. He went to Liverpool, and took the management of a newspaper office there. All belonging to his department was well sustained by him. He died a year ago.

The quartette, Messrs. Hugh Paton, Wm. Drinnan, John Primrose, and John Haddow, who left Glasgow many years ago for situations in Messrs. M'Corquodale & Co.'s office at Newton-le-Willows, are now all deceased. Their talents as compositors in that English office were much lauded. I knew them well. At their post of duty there was ever faithfulness to their employer. They hated eye-service and scamping. Wm. Drinnan had a fine taste for, and knowledge of, sacred music.

Mr. William Aitken, machineman, Glasgow, was widely known. Between forty and fifty years since he crossed the Tweed for Messrs. M'Corquodale's office at Newton-le Willows. He was a most genial and obliging man, and soon made his mark in the above establishment. He was appointed to the managership of its machine department. His numerous duties during the last week of each month in getting out Railway Guides, etc., kept him almost day and night in the office. His deep anxiety that there might be no hitch in the issue of these time tables made him often oblivious to his need of rest, yet he was able to continue at his post till lately. He is in his ninth decade. The company now keep him comfortably in

the gloaming of life. His occasional visits to Glasgow were a great joy to him and a pleasure to his old friends. I suppose we shall see him no more in the city of his birth.

Mr. John Baird was foreman of the case department in the Scottish Guardian office. It is nearly fifty-five years since I came to know him. The longer I knew him the more I respected him. His work to him was a great delight. Never did I meet him in the office or on the street but he had a kind word and a pleasant smile. The men he had charge of greatly esteemed him. In his hours of leisure he was to be found in his garden near our venerable Cathedral. The giving of prizes in his day for the best kept plot was next to unknown. He did not need the stimulus of a gold or silver medal or a puff from any gushing pen in our journals as an incentive to pursue his favourite pastime. His passion for botany and its practical results in the white lily, the red rose, or the pansy were to Mr. Baird a grand reward for this labour of love. He has gone to his rest.

I got acquainted with Mr. John Logan, pressman, in 1842. He wrought in Fullarton's office. In all things he was unique, although most volatile. He was a kind and true man. As we printers often say, he always seemed to have a large supply of "copy." On all subjects, whether political, ecclesiastical, or commercial, he would be ever talking, whether inking the forme or when pulling the press bar. When his speech ceased he would entertain his co-workers with a song. After two or three minutes' rest he would offer the men some good whistling. Whether he is still a pilgrim in this nether world or gone where there is rest to the weary I know not.

Robert M'Gregor, foreman of the Chronicle office, and his son Adam were well known in the trade. Mr. M'Gregor, sen., was a hearty, stirring man. His word was as good as his bond. It is now a long time since I followed his remains to their last resting-place. His son Adam was a quiet and unobtrusive man, and much respected. For the last fourteen years of his life he was employed as a compositor in Messrs. Aird & Coghill's office. During all that time he was never known to be late in the morning or at meal hours. Towards the end of May this year he died suddenly. Besides many of his fellow-workers in the office, there were others from different places in the city at his funeral. The men with whom he was last associated placed a beautiful wreath on his grave, and one of them wrote a poem to his memory. Adam now sleeps in the Necropolis.

Mr. W. M'Bean, compositor, a native of Inverness, came to Glasgow forty-one years ago. For several years he was in the *Chronicle* office, and was very industrious and painstaking. He was greatly respected by his fellow-workers on account of his pleasant and obliging disposition. Through threatened feebleness of health, he left our city and started a small printing-office and stationer's shop in Melrose. He is still resident there. A few years since his strength broke down, and now the business is carried on by one of his sons. Few men in that district are more highly esteemed than Mr. M'Bean.

Mr. James Clark was a remarkable compositor forty years ago. In his apprentice career he studied English, Latin, Greek, French, and German, and also learned shorthand. His

general reading was very varied in its range. Besides, he studied the dogmas of the Church of Rome, and was an able disputant. In fact, he was an early Mr. Harry Long. In his later years he wrought on the North British Daily Mail. He died of fever after a week's severe illness. One of his brothers was also a compositor, and was judged one of the best in his time. He equipped himself for being a proof reader, and while in Glasgow succeeded well in this new department. Afterwards he got an excellent situation in a large printing-office in London. While his sun was fast rising there, he was laid down with consumption. He consulted Sir James Clark, who advised him to return to Scotland, and to reside in Stirling. He did so. There he faded like a flower, and went to the realms where bloom and lasting joy know no change.

Mr. R. Frame, one of the compositors of the late Scottish Guardian newspaper, was a first-rate workman. He did conscientiously his daily duty. He left the printing, and was the first in Glasgow to start the running of an omnibus from the Cross to Cranstonhill. This new spec. promised for a while to be a remunerative one, but the novelty of the conveyance soon collapsed. About this time our cab system had greatly increased, but both the cabmen and their vehicles appeared to be most slovenly kept. This state of matters soon caused complaints to the authorities, with the result that Mr. Frame was appointed as cab inspector. I am not sure how long he held this office. In his eighty-first year he is still hale and strong.

Mr. William Govan, pressman, was for many years in the employment of Mr. Geo. Richardson, printer to the University.

With great acceptance he afterwards acted as foreman to Mr. David Wilson. He was Nathanael-like in all he said or did. No man was better known and got more respect from his brother tradesmen than Mr. Govan. Never quick or rash in his utterances, his judgment was invariably to be relied upon. As a platform speaker, he was lucid, earnest and convincing. He was by conviction a Radical in politics, and was one of the many men of that creed who left the churches with which they were connected and formed what was called the Chartist Church. They met in the Lyceum Rooms, Nelson Street, and when this church collapsed a number of years ago, their meetingplace was the upper flat of the old Post-Office. Their chief preachers were Mr. Malcolm M'Farlane, Mr. Matthew Cullen, and Mr. W. Govan. They were not weak brothers in the sacred desk. Often some of the juniors of their kirk were called upon to exercise their gifts. Two in particular were favoured to give biblical expositions, namely, Mr. Wm. Dryburgh and Mr. Wm. S. Brown. Both were compositors. The latter could generally do fairly well both at the devotional and hortatory. Not so Mr. D. His sermons were allowed to be as good and orthodox as if he had been ordained by a bishop, but his prayers were considered very poor: little, if any, unction characterised them. One day Mr. Dryburgh was discoursing on some of Paul's hard sayings in the Epistle to the Romans. It tried all his learning and logic to give a lucid exposition of his text. At last he came to the conclusion that the great Apostle was not sound here, and he (Mr. Dryburgh) was orthodox! After this church was dissolved, Mr. Govan joined the Scotch Independents in Oswald Street.

Soon was he chosen to be one of their ministers, and continued to exercise his gifts till his death a few years ago. He was a man greatly beloved. The esteem in which he was held was shown by the number of friends and acquaintances who attended his funeral.

With these brief and imperfect references to old friends connected with the trade, I now close by alluding to Mr. W. Ferguson, or "Dutchy," Mr. Robert Reid, Mr. James Henderson, Mr. James Payler, Mr. Peter Stewart, Mr. Robert Morrison, etc. These were compositors of high standing. The superior of three of them for their efficiency at scheme or tabular work I have never met. Their disadvantages in their time were numerous. They had no brass cases or fine cutting-machines—only the big shears for their clipping. Some of their pieces of work, even at this day, can be viewed with great satisfaction.

To give you some idea of the wonderful change which has taken place, I quote the following from the speech of Mr. Alexander Sinclair, the able commercial manager of the *Glasgow Herald*, now for forty-six years connected with that periodical, at the centenary banquet of the paper held in 1882:—

"Upon examination I have found an unexpected mortality amongst the papers of Glasgow—a feature which is probably equally characteristic of other places. Of many which have existed, and those which have also appeared, the number amounts to over fifty; but the surprising fact is that out of them all (i.e., newspapers strictly speaking), the Glasgow Herald is the only one that lives—never more vigorous than now. The causes which largely tended to bring about such a misfortune

to some and new life and development to the Herald, were the abolition of the 1d. stamp, the duty of 11d. per lb. on paper, and of 1s. 6d on each ordinary advertisement. The lowest price of an advertisement at former times was 4s 6d., of which the Government got one-third. In the Herald's early years it had one printing-press, which was considered a paragon of workmanship. It was driven by two men, and turned out 1,000 copies per hour on one side; or say, for comparison with the present, which print on both sides, 500 completed. instead of two sturdy men exhausting their energies by turning a crank, we have four engines, one of the power of a hundred horses, and driving four of the most rapid and perfect printing machines which the mechanical genius of the world has yet invented. These machines print and fold papers of the size of the Herald of this day, or of the Evening Times, from webs of from three and a-half to five miles each, at the united rate of 100,000 complete copies per hour, a speed that is sometimes insufficient to meet the public demands."

"That the soul be without knowledge is not good," Solomon wrote, and every young printer should take advantage of all the educational facilities of which Glasgow can boast. Do not be discouraged although hardship should mark you for its own. Lives of great men remind us that in poverty sturdy fellows can be raised. Had Benjamin Franklin or President Lincoln been born with the proverbial silver spoon, they might never have attained to the honour which they came to enjoy. Richard Cobden was in his early manhood the commercial traveller, but he pushed on and reached position, and became the great apostle of Free Trade along with John Bright. Let every youth

put this question to himself, Does the world need me? Ponder on it calmly. Dr. Samuel Johnson, when asked the secret of his most extraordinary faculty of conversation, said, "When I have anything to say, I have always tried to say it in the very best manner that I could." "There," as one has said, "is the true principle of technical education; there is the principle that will elevate and glorify labour; there is the principle that will raise the working men of the country in the best sense and in the best manner, namely, by means of the power and the energy springing up within themselves, and devoted by themselves to the improvement of their work."

The changes in the price and size of the newspaper, and the freshness of intelligence of all kinds, are now far beyond our conception. As we look now at some of the newspapers of sixty and seventy years ago they seem to be destitute of interesting matter; but still they were everything to those who then lived in comparative quietness and contentment. The thirsty traveller is as much refreshed and cheered by the waters of the brook by the way as if he were quenching his parched tongue by the banks of the broad river; so were our predecessors with the brook-like newspaper.

To aid the readers of newspapers in our days to a clearer comprehension of great undertakings in art, of new mechanical and architectural designs, or of remarkable current events, quickly executed drawings and portraits are as rapidly produced by zincography, and brought before the public eye, such as those recently given of the Forth Bridge, etc. In the weekly illustrated papers, as well as in the journals of art, this is done in splendid style. In many ways the journalism of the present

day has become more attractive, instructive, interesting, and highly educative. Even the correspondence in our newspaper columns is an element of vital importance. Sometimes twelve or eighteen letters appear in one day's issue. Their miscellaneous character is at times a study as well as an amusement. Again, a few years ago how limited was the ability for the reviewing of books in our newspapers! Now in our dailies, especially in the publishing season, the marrow of a large volume is often given. An example of this we had when Stanley's "Dark Continent" was published. In all this have we reached the acmé of journalism? No. It must still be progressive-not retrogressive. As well attempt to fetter the lightning flash as to fetter thought. What is the use of all education, from the humblest Board School to the University, but for training men and women to stand higher in that which ennobles the human mind?

As to what extent mechanical agencies can do more triumphantly and efficiently now than did those of the past, let us take a sample. See what the steam-press has done both for pressmen and compositors. Sixty years ago, even in less time, they were looked upon as destructives. Who this day will think or speak of them in that way? Who can tell but that ere many years pass away the click of type in our case-rooms will scarcely be heard, the automatic machine taking the place of the compositor. Perhaps the next recorder of the Reminiscences of the Fourth Estate during the succeeding sixty years will have to tell to his auditory a great deal more than I have imperfectly done. The thought of this is both solemn and inspiring. However much we may wish to venerate the arts of the past and be content therewith, yet we cannot stand still. We must be ready to avail ourselves of the discoveries science is continually making for the people's welfare and the world's progress. What a beautiful art is steel engraving! the learners and the workers are getting fewer year after year. Why is this? Photogravure says to it—"I am far more clever and efficient than thou." The steel engraving of the Duke of Wellington's old comrades at Apsley House was six years in the engraver's hands. How long time to do it now by the new and beautiful process of photo-engraving? You can all answer this query. For works of art photo-lithography still holds its place, while modern etching is growing in popularity. In addition, there are numerous other well-known mechanical processes now used by printers for the illustration of books and newspapers, such as calotype, platinotype, collotype, zincotype, and that of Meisenbach, all of which are taking the place of wood engraving. A favourable example of collotype printing is shown in the frontispiece portrait of the author, which was executed by Robertson Brothers, Victoria Road, Glasgow.

If there is one change more worthy to be noted and commended than another in this lecture, it is the advance made in the temperance or total abstinence movement. In my early days it was far otherwise. Then there might be no more than 300 compositors and pressmen in Glasgow, a very large number of whom seemed to be afflicted with a passion for intoxicating liquors, and that to their moral deterioration. In one newspaper office the "bottle" and glass were daily to be seen on the imposing stone at 4.30 P.M. The men gathered

around the stone and got their "peasers" in turn. This social custom (now happily abandoned) had a most baneful influence upon many of them. At that time fortnightly payments were general in the larger offices, and usually for two or three days after pay day many of the men were conspicuous by their absence, the drinking of too much whisky having rendered them unfit for work. Happily, at the present time, when there are nearly 1,100 compositors and pressmen or machinemen in St. Mungo, I am delighted to say here to-night that I believe very few, if any, are slaves to the passion for strong drink! If this blessed state of things prevailed over the United Kingdom, Mr. Goschen's budget revenue from strong drink would not groan from its fatness; soon it would be like one of Pharaoh's lean kine. The sooner the better.

Before closing these Reminiscences, I will briefly notice the changes which have taken place in wages and hours of labour connected with the book and jobbing offices. Fifty years ago, and up to the last sixteen or twenty years, the establishment, or "'stab," weekly wage was 25s.; it next rose to 27s. 6d., again to 30s., and now it is 32s. 6d.—thus giving an increase of 7s. 6d. on the weekly pay. Up till the year 1872 the working hours were sixty per week; now they are reduced to fifty-four, and when this came into operation no reduction took place on the rate of wages. This lessened time is equal to 3s. 6d. weekly, which gives really an advance of 11s. per week extra on the rate when it was 25s.

As I started the writing of this lecture, a dulness of spirit came over me when I thought of so many old friends now no more moving among us. Happily this feeling was soon dispelled. Time after time I saw in my horizon friendly little bright suns which cheered and helped me on. The fulfilling of what I promised to the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia has been to me a great joy and pleasure in the evening of my life. And if by the perusal of these pages any young man shall be stimulated to excel in his profession, or be helped to seek a higher standard of usefulness, I will feel fully requited. Let the aim of all be to make "the best of both worlds."

The following lines, specially written by one of the compositors in Messrs. Aird & Coghill's employ, may appropriately close these Reminiscences:—

When memory fond, in my life's sere and yellow leaf,
In visions carry back my thoughts full sixty years
To scenes and recollections past of joy and grief,
How passing short this wide expanse of time appears!

My old companions all have passed the Border-land, Save here and there where one, like sentinel alone, Doth wait the beck'ning finger of the Unseen Hand To point and lead him to the Great Unknown.

These few rough pages, tribute of a heart repaid

By long and loving friendships which, alas! have been,

Are now put forth as stone inscribed and truly laid

To keep their memory and example ever green.

# Appendir.

The following Newspapers were printed and published in Glasgow from 1830 till 1890. Those marked \* are still published.

Name.	From	То	Days of Publication.	Where First Published.
Argus,	1833	1847	Mo. and Thur.	43 Argyle Street.
Argus, Weekly, -	1857	1857	Saturday, -	116 Ingram Street.
Artizan's Engineering				
Journal,	1868	1871	Monthly, -	90 Buchanan Street.
Advertiser,	1834	1864	Saturday, -	112 Queen Street.
Advertiser, Railway,				
& Shipping Journal	1850	1864	Thursday, -	21 Argyle Street.
British Friend, -	1852	*	Monthly, -	161 Gallowgate.
Bulletin,	1855	1861	Daily,	29 Gordon Street.
Bailie,	1872	*	Wednesday, -	10 Royal Exchange Sq.
Bee,	1873	1874	Wednesday, -	15 South Exchange Sq.
Bulwark,	1850	*	Monthly, -	Now at 263 Argyle St.
Courier,	1791	1865	Tu, Thur, Sat.	Tontine Buildings.
Chronicle,	1811	1857	Tu, Thur, Sat.	28 Nelson Street.
Chronicle, Weekly, -	1858	1859	Tuesday, -	65 Jamaica Street.
Constitutional,	1836	1855	Wed. and Sat,	21 Argyle Street.
Citizen, Weekly, -	1842	.*	Saturday, -	29 St. Enoch Square.
Citizen, Evening, -	1864	*	Daily,	29 St Enoch Square.
Commonwealth, -	1854	1860	Saturday, -	24 St. Enoch Square.
Christian News, -	1846	*	Thursday, -	65 Candleriggs.
Church News,	1872	1875	Monthly, -	142 Trongate.
Chiel,	1883	1889	Weekly, -	31 Renfield Street.
Christian Leader, -	1882		Thursday, -	263 Argyle Street.
Christian Herald,	1876		Weekly, -	102 Stirling Road.
Daily Exhibitor, -	1846	1847	Daily,	
Daily Mail,	1849	1851	Daily,	29 Dunlop Street.
Daily Express,	1866	1870	Daily,	80 St. Vincent Street.
Day,	1832	1833	Daily,	
Daily News,	1855	1857	Daily,	88 Jamaica Street.

Name.	From	То	Days of Publication.	Where First Published.
Examiner,	1844	1864	Saturday, -	7 Argyle Street.
Edinburgh, Leith, and				
Glasgow Advertiser,	1833	1838	Saturday, .	112 Queen Street.
Evening Herald, -	1865	1865	Daily,	28 St. Vincent Place.
Evening Mail,	1865	1865	Daily,	Union Street.
Evening Post,	1866	1868	Daily,	Turner's Court.
Evening Journal, -	1869	1869	Daily,	Turner's Court.
Evening Citizen, -	1864	*	Daily,	29 St. Enoch Square.
Evening Times, -	1876	*	Daily,	67 Buchanan Street.
Evening Star,	1870	1875	Daily,	Turner's Court.
Evening News & Star,	1875	*	Daily,	67 Hope Street.
Engineer and Iron				
Trades Advertiser,	1872	*	Wednesday	81 Buchanan Street.
Free Press,	1823	1834	Wed. and Sat,	90 Bell Street.
Free Press,	1851	1867	Saturday, -	73 Trongate.
Freemason, The, -	1868	1883	Saturday, -	98 West Howard St.
Gazette,	1855	1864	Saturday, -	24 Howard Street.
Guardian, Weekly, -	1858	1860	Friday, -	94 Miller Street.
General Advertiser, -	1857	1859	Saturday, -	
Gentle's Advertiser,	1859	1859	Weekly, -	48 West Nile Street.
Guide,	1880	*	Monthly, -	226 Argyle Street.
Hedderwick's Miscel-				
lany,	1862	1863	Weekly, -	St. Enoch Square.
Herald, The Glasgow,	1782	*	Daily,	Saltmarket.
Herald, Evening, -	1865	1865	Daily,	St. Vincent Place.
Herald, Weekly,	1864		Saturday, -	Buchanan Street.
Illustrated Glasgow				
Family Times, -	1859	1859	Weekly, -	83 Renfield Street.
Journal, Glasgow, -	1741	1845	Thursday, -	Lyceum Court.
Journal, Morning, -	1858	1869	Daily, -	62 Union Street.
Journal, Weekly, -	1869	1869	Saturday, -	62 Union Street.
Judy, Illustrated, -	1857	1857	Weekly, -	Gallowgate.
Liberator,	1833	1838	Saturday, -	40 London Street.
League Journal, -	1857	*	Thursday, -	108 Hope Street.
Lombard Daily Tele-				
graphic News,	1870	1870	Daily,	263 Argyle Street.
Leather Trader.	1880		Monthly,	25 Bath Street.

### APPENDIX.

Name.	From	. To	Days o. Publication.		Where First Published.
Mail, The	1842	1844	Wednesday,	•	182 Trongate.
Mercantile Advertiser	1849	*	Tuesday,	-	19 Royal Exchange Sq
Morning Journal, -	1858	1869	Daily, -	-	Turner's Court.
Mail, Weekly,	1863		Saturday,	-	Union Street.
Masonic News,	1873	1874	Monthly,	-	2 Oswald Street.
Masonic Magazine, -	1876	1883	Monthly,		9 Howard Street.
Military Record and	•				
Volunteer News,	1877	1883	Weekly,	-	25 Bath Street.
Mercantile World, -	1879	1880	Fortnightly,	-	50 Wellington Street.
Mercantile Age,	1881	*	Fortnightly,	-	50 Wellington Street.
Mace, The	1879	1883	Weekly,	-	16 Eglinton Street.
North British Adver-			-		_
tiser,	1839	1874	Saturday,	-	90 Miller Street.
N. British Railway and		1			
Shipping Journal,	1846	1860	Saturday,	-	40 Buchanan Street.
N. British Telegraph	,				
and Advertiser, -	1850	1851	Weekly,		34 Glassford Street.
North British Daily			1		
Mail,	1847	*	Daily, -		167 Argyle Street.
News, Weekly,	1856	1857	Saturday,	-	96 Union Street.
News, Daily,	1855	1857	Daily, -		88 Jamaica Street.
News, The Glasgow,	1873	1889	Daily,	-	67 Hope Street.
News, Evening, -	1875	*	Daily,	-	67 Hope Street.
National Liberator,	1842	1842	Saturday,	-	90 Bell Street.
National,	1844	1845	Saturday,	-	179 Argyle Street,
National Advertiser,	1847	1848	Saturday,		138 Argyle Street.
Northern Times, -	1856	1856	Saturday,	-	20 Dixon Street.
National PennyPress,	1858	1858	Saturday,	-	15 Union Street.
Nat. Advertising List	1869	*	Tuesday,	-	82 Mitchell Street.
News of the Week, -	1875	1877	Saturday,	-	67 Hope Street.
National Guardian,	1881	*	Wednesday,	-	53 Waterloo Street.
Observer, -	1885	*	Weekly,	-	Nelson Street.
Penny Post,	1856	1877	Saturday,	-	56 Maxwell Street.
Property Circular, -	1856	*	Tuesday,	-	59 St. George's Place.
Punch Bowl (Illustd.)	1849	1850	Weekly,	-	Jamaica Street.
Quiz,	1882	*	Thursday,	-	15 Bath Street.
Radical Reformer, -	1857	1857	Saturday,	_	17 Brunswick Street.

Name.	From	Τυ	Days of Publication.	Where First Pulbished.
Reformer, The, -	1887	*	Thursday, -	112 Bath Street.
Reformers' Gazette, -	1831	1837	Weekly, -	75 Argyle Street.
Scots Times,	1829	1841	Tues. and Sat,	90 Brunswick Street.
Scotch Reformers'	-			
Gazette,	1837	1855	Saturday, -	75 Argyle Street.
Scottish Guardian, -	1832	1861	Tues, and Fri,	90 Miller Street.
Scottish Railway				
Gazette,	1845	1848	Saturday, -	7 Brunswick Place.
Scottish Times, -	1850	1850	Weekly, -	24 Jamaica Street.
Scottish Journal, -	1865	1868	Saturday, -	Ann Street.
Scottish Banner, -	1859	1864	Saturday, -	24 Mitchell Street.
Scottish Standard, -	1869	1881	Saturday,	160 Buchanan Street.
Sentinel,	1851	1877	Saturday,	Antigua Place.
Saturday Post and	-			
Paisley and Ren-				
frewshire Reformer,	1827	1875	Saturday, -	28 Nelson Street.
Star, The,	1870	1874	Daily,	13 Turner's Court.
Signs of Our Times,	1870	1875	Wednesday, -	102 Stirling Road.
Scottish Freemason,	1876	1883	Fortnightly, -	194 Hope Street.
Scottish Reformer				
and Weekly Review,	1882	1886	Weekly, -	217 Buchanan Street.
Scottish Nights, -	1883	*	Saturday, -	Wellington Street.
Sphinx,	1883	1883	Wednesday, -	128 Renfield Street.
Scottish Reader, -	1884	1885	Friday,	16 Eglinton Street.
Scottish Athletic				
Journal,	1882	1888	Weekly, -	128 Renfield Street.
Scottish People, -	1886	1887	Saturday, -	25 Bath Street.
Scottish Umpire, -	1884	1888	Saturday, -	25 Jamaica Street.
SouthSuburbanPress,	1887	*	Saturday, -	Portland Bdgs., Govan.
Scottish Referee, -	1888	*	Monday, -	67 Hope Street.
Scottish Sport, -	1888	*	Tues, and Fri.	25 Jamaica Street.
Sabbath School Mag-				
azine,	1848	*	Monthly, -	181 Buchanan Street.
Times, Glasgow, -	1856	1869	Wednesday, -	37 Jamaica Street.
Volunteer News, -	1869	1876	Weekly, -	156 W. George Street.
Workman, The -	1856	1858	Saturday, -	29 Gordon Street.



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