

CONCERNING
THE FIRM OF
OF BLACKIE
AND SON
1809 1874



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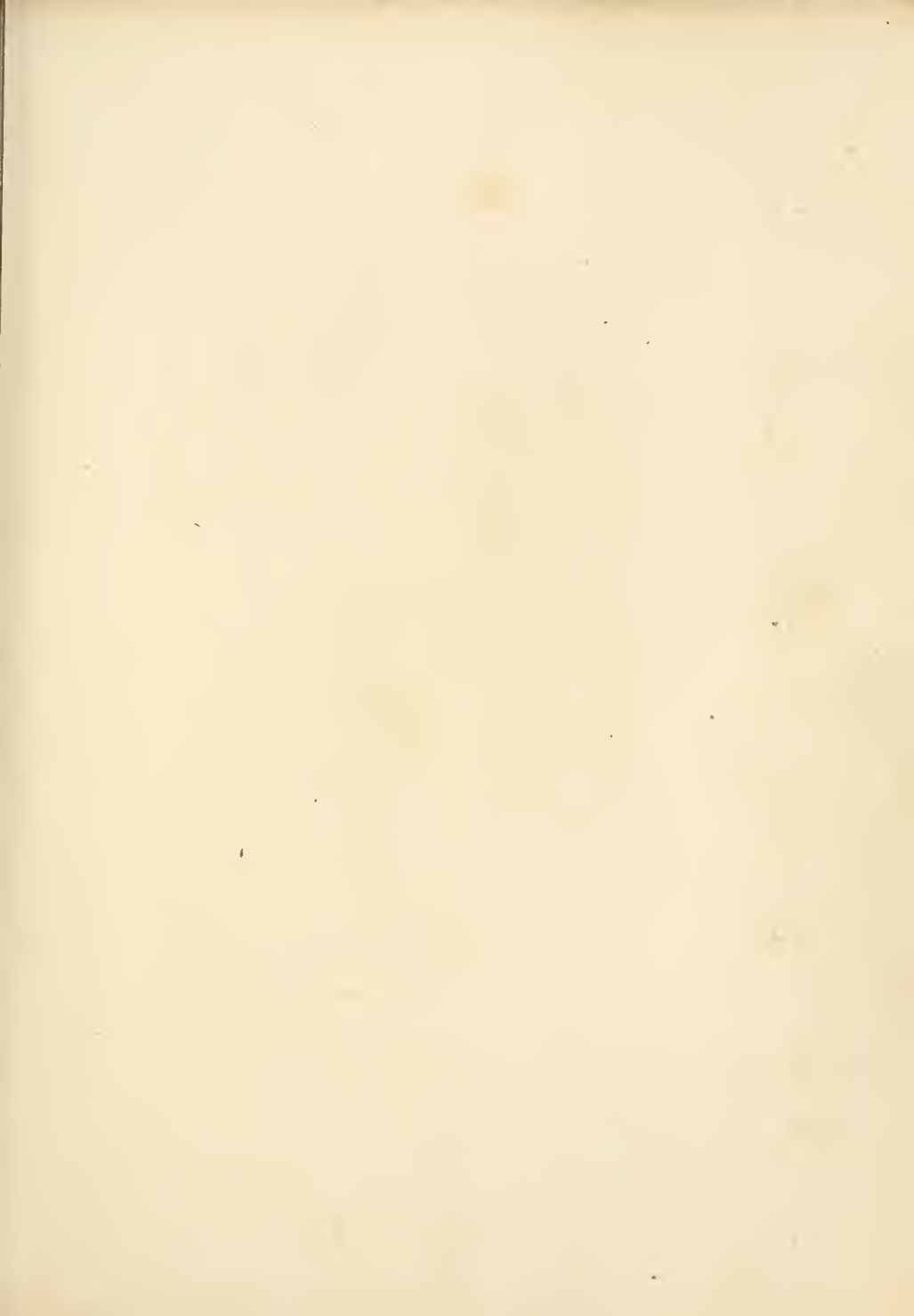
CONCERNING

BLACKIE & SON





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John Blackie, Senr.

at the age of 83.

SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND
PROGRESS OF THE FIRM OF
BLACKIE & SON, PUBLISHERS
GLASGOW, FROM ITS FOUNDA-
TION IN 1809 TO THE DECEASE
OF ITS FOUNDER IN 1874. WITH
APPENDED NOTICES OF JOHN
BLACKIE, SENIOR, AND OF HIS
SONS, JOHN BLACKIE, JUNIOR
AND ROBERT BLACKIE

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED BY
W. G. BLACKIE, PH.D., LL.D.

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*SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND
PROGRESS OF THE FIRM OF
BLACKIE & SON, PUBLISHERS*

The firm of Blackie & Son, Publishers, was founded in the year 1809 by John Blackie, afterwards known as John Blackie, Senr. He was a native of Glasgow, and was born there on the 27th October, 1782. His paternal ancestors belonged to the east of Scotland, his great-grandparents William Blackie and Margaret M'Alpine having been natives of Haddington. They had three sons, Peter, William, and John, all of whom married and had families. William became a papermaker, and his son, also named William, became parish minister of Yetholm, and died there in 1828 in his seventy-eighth year. John resided, for at least part of his married life, in the parish of Dirleton and Gullane, and had a son, also named John, who came to Glasgow in 1781 and was married the same year. At the time of his marriage he was only nineteen years of age, and his bride, Agnes Burrell, two years older.

Glasgow was then a comparatively small place, with a population, in 1785, of only 45,889. Its citizens, however, already exhibited those qualities of mental activity and commercial enterprise which have since raised the

city to its present position of eminence in the empire. Its trade with the continent of Europe and with America was even then considerable. In the importation of tobacco from the New World, Glasgow had gained so large a share of the trade as to excite the envy of the merchants of Liverpool and Bristol, who proceeded to overt acts of hostility against the young and rising port on the Clyde, which were fortunately ineffective to arrest the continued expansion of the trade. Various enterprises, including the founding of print-works, tin and copper works, carpet-weaving and silk works, improvement of the navigation of the Clyde, the building of a dry dock at their port, Port-Glasgow, and commencing the formation of the Forth and Clyde Canal, in furtherance of trading with the Baltic, may be specified as manifestations of the progressive spirit which animated the citizens of this period.

In this busy community, the youthful couple, John Blackie and his wife Agnes Burrell, began their married life. They took up house in the *Old Wynd*, which at that time was occupied by respectable tradesmen and small manufacturers, and here their son John (the third of the name) was born and grew from childhood to manhood. When the boy had reached eleven years of age, his father found it necessary to move with his family to Newcastle; but having decided that John should be a weaver, he apprenticed him to his friend Robert Dobbie, a proprietor of a four-loom shop in the Old Wynd. The

wages of the hand-loom weavers being good at this period, the trade was much followed in Glasgow.

The main conditions of the indenture were as follows:

1. The boy to serve five years as an apprentice, and afterwards two years as a journeyman.

2. The master to teach him his trade, and to give the apprentice board and lodging in the family with himself.

[This was quite a usual arrangement at the period, and even journeymen often resided in their employer's house and with his family.]

3. The master to allow the apprentice to work as a journeyman five weeks in harvest each year, during which five weeks he should maintain himself.

4. Disputes regarding wages, &c., between master and apprentice to be settled by the Deacon of the Incorporation of the Weavers for the time being.

The indenture is dated February 18, 1794. There is nothing to relate concerning the course of the apprenticeship. The indenture was discharged on January 30, 1800, with certification that the apprentice had served his time fully and honestly and faithfully.

As the five years expired in February, 1799, John Blackie had served Dobbie as a journeyman somewhat less than one year, instead of two as stipulated in the indenture. It is probable that Dobbie remitted him one year's service to enable him to take advantage of another

opening in the same trade to be referred to presently. Dobbie appears to have done his duty, both in teaching the youth his trade as a weaver and in attending to his up-bringing, for in after-life John Blackie always spoke with respect and even with affection of his master and his wife, Nanse Dobbie.

About this time young Blackie's maternal grandfather, James Burrell, accompanied by his wife, came to Glasgow. Burrell came to the city in connection with the bringing in of water from Craig's Park to the military barracks which fronted Gallowgate, and was bounded on the east by Barrack Street. The conduit for the water on its way from Craig's Park must have passed very near the Ark, a locality on the north side of Duke Street, occupied by a number of respectable inhabitants, among whom was a weaver of repute named John Duncan, who possessed a weaving-shop; probably a four-loom shop like that of Dobbie's in the Old Wynd. Burrell made the acquaintance of Duncan, and evidently formed a good opinion of him, for he recommended his grandson to him as a journeyman, and the recommendation was accepted. Accordingly young Blackie was engaged by Duncan, and went to reside in his house. He entered upon his engagement on January 30, 1800, the very day on which he was released from his apprentice indenture, and continued to reside with his employer for five years, namely, to December 31, 1804. Duncan's house was quiet and orderly, and both he and his wife, Mary Black, were

intelligent, pious people, who brought up a large family, all of whom maintained through life a consistent Christian character. They were natives of the island of Bute, and cousins, and had many relatives in that island. Their family were all grown-up, and their youngest daughter, Catherine, was the only member remaining at home. The young journeyman and his master's daughter were thus much in each other's society and as a not unnatural consequence became attached to each other. They were married on December 31, 1804, the husband being only twenty-one years of age, and the wife (born October 4, 1777) five years his senior. It is noticeable that the son, in marrying, followed the example of his father in taking a partner in life older than himself. At the same time he had complied with the recommendation embodied in the old adage: "In selecting a wife, see that you take a bird out of a good nest", for, writing so late as 1853, Mr. Blackie says, in reference to his father-in-law: "John Duncan's family, sober and well regulated. From him I got many good advices, and believe he was the means of keeping me from many of the evils I was exposed to." In fact, the quiet contented life led by this excellent couple was just such as that which is so well described by the author of *Olrig Grange*:—

"Well, well, our mother knew no laws,
Except the Ten Commandments clear,
Nor talked of First Cause, or Final Cause,
But walked with God in love and fear,
And always felt that He was near

By instinct of a Spirit true,
And she had peace and strength, in lieu
Of unrest and trouble here,
Which breaks like the billows on me and you."
(*Thorold loquitur—Obrig Grange.*)

The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Brodie, minister of the Relief Church, Dovehill, who was most probably the minister in whose congregation the bride and her parents regularly worshipped. The union thus formed was a happy one in every respect, and continued unbroken for forty-three years.

Doubtless one of the good services above alluded to which John Duncan had rendered to the young man was introducing him to the ministration of Mr. Brodie, and John Blackie long continued his connection with the Dovehill congregation, and in the year 1814, about ten years after his marriage, he was ordained an elder, under the ministry of the Rev. John Barr, who became pastor of the congregation in 1812, and with whom he maintained relations of the closest friendship till Mr. Barr's decease, which took place in 1839.

Being of a frank, genial disposition, John Blackie had all his life long the happy faculty of making friends. One of his earliest and best friends was Mrs. Graham, wife of Walter Graham, merchant, known on the Exchange as "The General", who held the position of police master in Glasgow from 1803–1805. Mrs. Graham showed kindness to young Blackie in many ways, but died soon

after his marriage. His acquaintance with Walter Graham¹ himself, however, continued long after the decease of Mrs. Graham, and in 1816 Mr. Blackie named after him the second youngest of his sons.

When alarm was spread over the whole country in the early part of the century by the preparations of Napoleon Bonaparte to invade England, and volunteer corps were organized in all parts of the country, the young weaver, animated by the true spirit of citizenship, joined the West Lowland Fencibles, a regiment raised in Glasgow and its vicinity. Along with other recruits he received part of his training within the Cathedral, and often used to tell how for a whole week he did military duty as one of the guard upon Linlithgow Castle; and how having obtained a day's furlough he walked into Edinburgh to visit his friends, and while there had his hair dressed and powdered in the barracks of the Castle by a brother in arms. Linlithgow being distant from Edinburgh sixteen miles by road, the young recruit must have walked above thirty-two miles on holiday excursion.

The newly-married couple took up house in Barrack Street, which is hard by the Ark, and there, on Sept. 27, 1805, was born their first child, a son, who received the name of John, after his father and both his paternal

¹ A portrait of this gentleman by Sir H. Raeburn, painted, probably about 1815, on the suggestion of his relative, John Graham, afterwards John Graham Gilbert, R.S.A., is in the possession of Mr. Graham's nameson—a legacy from Mrs. Wotherspoon, his niece, who, after Mrs. Graham's decease, kept house for him. "The General" was born in 1747, and died in 1833.

and his maternal grandfathers. In process of time this boy came to be known as John Blackie, Junr., and his father as John Blackie, Senr.

It seems quite probable that the occurrence of this joyful event may have stirred the young father to consider the problem of how to rear a family properly on the wages of an operative weaver, good as these wages were at this period, and may have had the effect of causing him to look about for more lucrative employment. He may thus have been predisposed to listen with favour to any proposal which might give promise of bettering his condition. Such a proposal was made to him about this time by Mr. A. Brownlie, of the firm of W. D. & A. Brownlie, Publishers, by whom he was asked to enter their employment. The Brownlies were early pioneers in the *number trade*, a branch of the publishing and bookselling business which they had developed to a considerable extent. The books sold in this trade were generally issued in sections done up in soft paper covers, and called *numbers*—hence the name given to the trade. This mode of publication enabled persons of moderate means to obtain large and expensive books by purchasing them in successive sections of a moderate price. Indeed, the *number trade* formed an important educative agency in the country, for book shops were not then numerous even in the larger towns. Newspapers were mostly issued only once a week, and were not easily obtained in country places, and the production of books

and newspapers was burdened with duties and restrictions now, happily, swept away.

How long John Blackie served the Brownlies is not precisely known (probably about two years), but it was for a sufficiently long period to enable him to become fully acquainted with the essential details of the business. The Brownlies must have been thoroughly convinced of this fact, otherwise the next proposal would not have been made to him, for it implied complete confidence in his business capacity, as well as in his integrity. The firm having got into pecuniary difficulties, Mr. W. Brownlie, one of the brothers, and also the principal creditor, came to Mr. Blackie and asked him to take up part of the business. He consented to do so, and a suitable arrangement between parties having been made, he started business on his own account, and continued for a time to conduct it alone,¹ and evidently with reasonable success; so much so, indeed, that he soon felt the need of having assistance in developing it. He therefore arranged a partnership with two acquaintances, who like himself had been in the employment of the Brownlies, and were familiar with the business. Their names were William Sommerville and Archibald Fullarton, with the former of whom Mr. Blackie had long been on terms of intimate friendship. Thus was founded the firm afterwards to be known as Blackie & Son, publishers.

¹ Mr. Blackie became a burgess of Glasgow in 1808, of Aberdeen in 1826, and of Dundee in 1838.

In carrying through the arrangements with his friends, Mr. Blackie naturally would make them aware of his own position in business and pecuniary matters. This he seems to have done by means of the subjoined statement, taken from an existing document in his own handwriting. It is dated 20th November, 1809, and runs as follows:—

1809, Nov. 20.—Statement of goods to Wm.

Sommerville and A. Fullarton,	£89	5	9
Debts owing in Delivery Books,	84	14	7
			<hr/>		
			£174	0	4

The copartnery thus formed, 20th November, 1809, was designated W. Sommerville, A. Fullarton, and J. Blackie & Co., the shares of the partners being equal. Their first place of business was in the Black Boy Close, near the west end of the Gallowgate, so named from a sign-board on one of the houses having on it the representation of a negro boy. In these premises the business was carried on for two years, and with such a measure of success that another statement, also in the handwriting of Mr. Blackie, dated June 4, 1811, shows a balance in favour of the firm of £600.

The extension of the business caused a removal this year (1811) to more commodious premises at No. 5 Salt-market Street, in which it continued to be carried on for five years. The connection which had previously existed between all the three partners and the Messrs. Brownlie rendered it natural that in the first instance

they should begin business by taking orders for the books, produced by their late employers. But whether from the dispersion of the stock of the Messrs. Brownlie or other causes, it is evident that the young firm soon began to manufacture books for themselves. It is believed that the first books they issued which had been specially prepared for their own sale were Fleetwood's *Life of Christ* and Thompson's *Travels in the Holy Land*, both of which were successful publications; and it is certain that within two years of the formation of the copartnery, that is in 1811, the first of their publications appeared, of which *the precise date* has been ascertained. Its title-page runs as follows:—

“Travels in Italy, exhibiting a view of society and manners in that country, with anecdotes relating to eminent characters, by John Moore, M.D., Glasgow. Printed by Edward Khull & Co., for W. Sommerville, A. Fullarton, and J. Blackie & Co., Booksellers, Glasgow, 1811.”

Dr. Moore, the well-known author of *Zeluco*, was a native of Glasgow, and father of General Sir John Moore, the hero of Corunna.

The year 1811 is a notable one in the history of Glasgow, for the census of that year showed it to contain a population of 108,830—fully more than double the number it contained at the time of Mr. Blackie's birth in 1782. It was now the second city in Great Britain in point of population; Edinburgh being third with 103,143, followed by Manchester with 98,573, and Liverpool with 98,371.

The young firm remained in the premises in the Salt-market for five years (1811–1816), during which time the business prospered and several important works were issued, among which may be specified:—

Haweis' Evangelical Expositor.

The Glasgow Geography, 5 vols.

Watson's Body of Divinity.

Hervey's Religious Letters and Sermons.

Watt's World to Come.

The *Glasgow Geography* was a large and important work, and apparently a venturesome undertaking for so young a firm. It was completed in due course and had a large sale. If not the actual editor, one of the chief collaborators engaged on the production of the *Glasgow Geography* was almost certainly James Bell of Campsie, a very remarkable person, and a dungeon of knowledge, not only of geography but also of history and theology. His erudition and thoroughness was markedly shown in the memoir he published on the *Lamas Map of Tibet*, respecting which a reviewer in one of the London magazines remarked to the following effect: "The author, though too modest to reveal his name, was most probably an Indian officer, who had visited Tibet and examined the country with his own eyes". Bell had never travelled more than fifty miles from Glasgow. A remarkable instance of his wonderful power of memory is narrated as follows. A publisher of a geographical work submitted to him, through an accredited

representative, a table showing the heights of the principal mountains in various parts of the world. Mr. Bell, without referring to any authorities, dictated the needed corrections, naming the year in which each mountain had been measured, and by whom, and whether trigonometrically or barometrically.

Mr. Bell likewise edited for the firm a reprint of Rollin's *Ancient History*, which was published ten years later. The notes he contributed were numerous and elaborate, and added much to the value of the work. A similar remark may be made respecting Rollin's *History of the Arts and Sciences*, also edited by Mr. Bell, and published by the firm.

The year 1818 was marked by the publication of another important and formidable work, the 4th edition of *Haweis' Evangelical Expositor*. That it was undertaken, and carried to a successful completion, showed a spirit of enterprise and a correct knowledge of the tastes of that section of the general public among whom purchasers were to be found. But all the partners were practical men and knew their market.

An important factor in the success of the business was the happy, genial disposition of John Blackie, who, if he were occupied for some days in a town or village new to him, seldom left it without having formed an acquaintanceship with two or three of the residents who would welcome him back again.

In these days the visit of the travelling bookman

often created quite a stir in country places. In fact, so far from requiring to seek out the customers at their dwellings, the customers came, cash in hand, to the traveller's lodgings, eager to obtain the next number or part of the publication for which they had subscribed. So eager were people to obtain the books that the traveller, having possibly lost time on the earlier part of his journey, sometimes endeavoured, and that successfully, to redeem part of his loss by sending out the town-crier to announce his arrival. Not only did existing subscribers flock to obtain their books or parts, but many people came to have their names entered as subscribers. On one notable occasion it is reported that at least forty or fifty orders for large Family Bibles were taken in this manner in a single afternoon by Mr. Blackie himself. In these days, and for many decades of years afterwards, the sale of Family Bibles was very great. Some desired to have one as a commentary for family reading or private study, *Harveis' Evangelical Expositor* being often taken for that purpose.¹ An indefatigable salesman of the firm, at a period somewhat later than that under consideration, committed to memory the whole of the *Exposition of the Sermon on the Mount*, which he

¹ A quarter of a century later, 1841, an arrangement was made with the Rev. Dr. M'Kay of Dunoon to translate into Gaelic the New Testament portion of *Harveis' Evangelical Expositor*, but this arrangement was never carried into effect. This project, though a very benevolent one as regards the Highland population of Scotland, was of very doubtful expediency in a business point of view, as the number of those who were able to *read* the Gaelic could hardly be supposed to warrant the expectation of a remunerative sale being effected.

repeated, in greater or less fulness, as opportunity offered in the houses of the peasantry, and rarely left without one or more orders from his hearers, who, charmed with the pith, clearness, and richness of the remarks, desired to possess a copy of the book that contained them. Other parties purchased Family Bibles from the desire to be possessed of a "Big Ha' Bible", and more especially one which contained some blank leaves to form a "Family Register" in which to record the births, marriages, and decease of the members of their family. Such registers, besides forming an interesting family record, were at one time valuable as evidence, and as such were accepted in courts of law. But after the General Registration Act was passed, and the offices of registrars became multiplied in the country, that use for the private "Family Register" was practically superseded.

Dr. Haweis, author of the *Evangelical Expositor*, born 1734, died 1820, was Rector of Aldwinkle in Northamptonshire, and one of Lady Huntingdon's chaplains. He was also a pioneer of foreign missions, and one of the founders of the London Missionary Society (founded in 1794).

This work affords a good illustration of the efficiency of the number system of publication. It was first published in London in 1765-1766. The number printed was probably not more than 1500, and it is reported that by the end of forty years the first edition was not entirely sold. There is little doubt that the prevalence of Moderatism in Scotland, and of similar views in religious matters in England during the eighteenth and earlier part of the nineteenth century, and the fact that the book bears "Evangelical" in the title, hindered its sale. It is believed that the extensive circulation

obtained for it in Scotland did much to promote the revival of evangelical religion in that country.

From an existing record it is inferred that two editions, in demy folio, of *Haweis' Evangelical Expositor*, amounting together to 5000 copies, had been printed for the Brownlies, and that on the breaking up of their business the portion of the printed stock remaining unsold, and the orders for that book then in course of delivery, were purchased by the firm that had so recently commenced business. It was a bold venture for a young firm possessed of very limited means to purchase the stock of a book that was issued in 87 parts at 1s. each. But they had experience of its selling power, and if they had little money they had plenty of industry. The speculation proved so successful that a third edition of 2500 was printed in 1815, and the printing of a fourth edition of 2000 was commenced in 1816. The sales of the four editions in demy folio to completion amounted to 7500, and above 10,000 were sold of the earlier parts. In 1818 the publication of an edition in demy 4to was commenced. It was issued in 168 numbers at 6d., forming three volumes. This edition was stereotyped, and continued in sale during many years. In 1848 it was reduced in price, and re-issued in 65 parts at 1s. Of the successive editions in demy 4to, 14,500 copies were sold throughout.

In 1816 the business was transferred from Saltmarket to new premises in No. 8 East Clyde Street, erected by the firm for their own occupation. The building consisted of five stories, of which the basement and first floor were occupied by Edward Khull, printer, to whom was committed the chief part of the printing required by the firm. The upper floors were occupied by the publishing business and the stitching and bookbinding departments. Here the business was carried on for the next twenty years, during which time it extended so greatly that a

disused chapel adjoining, belonging to the Methodist connection, was hired and occupied as a store for printed stock.

During the period 1816–1819 some important works were issued, which by their variety serve to indicate the endeavours to supply books suited to meet the tastes and wants of different classes of readers. Among them may be named:—

Burns' Poems.

Peddie's Linen Weaver.

The Scots Worthies.

Josephus' Works.

Peddie's Cotton Weaver.

The Harp of Caledonia, a collection of songs.

Owen's Discourses and Meditations.

Dwight's Theology.

Cullen's History of Scotland.

Henry on Prayer.

Brown's Dictionary of the Bible.

Buchan's Domestic Medicine.

Baxter's Saints' Rest.

M'Queen's Narrative of the Events of the Campaigns of
1812, 1813, 1814, and 1815.

The year after the removal from Saltmarket Street to East Clyde Street (1817) a catalogue was issued of "Valuable Standard Books on sale by W. Sommerville, A. Fullarton, and J. Blackie & Co.". Besides publications of the firm issued in *numbers* it contains similar works issued by some other publishers, and in addition a considerable selection of complete books at prices from 3s. 6d. to 84s.

This list makes it evident that a general trade in smaller-priced books was cultivated for a time. But there is no record of this kind of trade having been continued. The catalogue, therefore, of 1817 may probably be regarded as a clearing-out catalogue, as it seems to have had no successor of its own kind. A catalogue dated ten years later (1827) shows a number of small miscellaneous books to be still on hand; but a few years thereafter only larger books, and all of them publications of the firm, are to be found in the catalogues issued from time to time.

In May, 1819, a contract of copartnery was arranged whereby important changes were effected in the firm. An additional member was added to it on equal terms with the original three partners—namely, Mr. Edward Khull, printer. The business henceforth included letter-press printing as well as publishing, and it was carried on both in Glasgow and in Edinburgh under two distinct firms. The business of printing and publishing was carried on in Glasgow by Mr. Khull and Mr. Blackie, under the designation of Khull, Blackie, & Co.; and of bookselling only by Mr. Fullarton, in Edinburgh, under the firm of Fullarton, Sommerville, & Co. The united capital is stated to have been £10,557, 8s. 10½*d.*, contributed by the partners in equal portions. All the partners shared equally in the profits, and Messrs. Khull, Blackie, and Fullarton received each for their personal services a salary of £210 per annum.

In 1820 the firm came to be of opinion that they

should engage in the business of paper-making. They therefore proposed to obtain the sum of £2000 in loan, upon the security of their premises in Clyde Street, to enable them to supply the needful capital for entering upon this new undertaking, which was to be carried on in conjunction with Mr. James Brown, Paper-maker, Eskmills, near Pennicuick. A contract of copartnery between the parties was prepared, but was never completed, for it was signed only by Mr. Blackie and Mr. Khull, but not by Mr. Brown or Mr. Fullarton. Still, a private note, written by Mr. Blackie, states that on 26th October he, along with Mr. Khull, signed the tack of Eskmill, and that the signatures were witnessed by Mr. Gowans of Balfour & Co. It seems probable that the event referred to in next paragraph may have been the cause of this contract never being completed. Obviously a change in the copartnery of the publishing firm would have complicated the projected pecuniary arrangement.

The following year—namely, in 1821—a further change took place in the firm by the retiral of Mr. Sommerville, who at first proposed to go abroad, but ultimately took up a business of a different kind in Glasgow. Mr. Sommerville was highly respected by all his partners, and to the end of his life continued to be on terms of intimate friendship with them. He subsequently removed to Edinburgh, and ultimately became a successful paper-maker.

The retiral of Mr. Sommerville from the firm made

no change in its designation in Glasgow; but it made one in Edinburgh, where it became A. Fullarton & Co.

After these changes the business still continued to increase, and various important works were produced, from year to year, 1820-1823. Among them may be named:—

The Pilgrim's Progress, demy 8vo.
 The Beauties of Ralph Erskine, demy 8vo.
 Geographical History of America, maps and plates.
 The British Minstrel, a collection of songs.
 Hervey's Meditations.
 Park's Travels in Africa.
 Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded.
 Boston's Four-Fold State.
 Brown's History of Missions.
 Boston's Communion Sermons.
 Brown on the Psalms.
 Witsius on the Apostles' Creed.
 Peddie's Practical Measurer.
 Aikman's History of Scotland.
 Bell on the Covenants.
 Watson's Sermons and Discourses.
 Brown's Memoirs of Private Christians.
 Denon and Sonini's Travels in Egypt.
 Johnson's English Dictionary.

A catalogue of the firm, issued in 1823, contains advertisements of forty-six works, among which were:—

The Protestant, by William M'Gavin.
 Rollin's Ancient History, with extensive additions by
 James Bell.

Rollin's History of the Arts and Sciences of the Ancients,
edited by James Bell.

Mosheim's Church History.

Struthers' History of Scotland.

Murphy's Treatise on the Art of Weaving.

In 1826 a further change in the firm was arranged. Mr. Khull retired and took with him the printing department, though he continued for some years to occupy the same premises, and to print for the company. This separation would seem to have been in contemplation for some time before it was carried into effect; for, in April, 1825, Mr. Khull and Mr. Blackie had a conversation on the subject. Mr. Khull ultimately (in 1831) removed from Clyde Street, and took his business to other premises, where he was joined by his only son Edward.

This year also (1826) Mr. Blackie's eldest son, John, now twenty-one years of age, was admitted a partner in the publishing firm, and formed an important accession to it. He had received a more liberal education than any of the senior partners, and had made good use of it. His tastes were altogether literary and artistic, and his reading had been wide, more especially in the departments of poetry and light literature; and he was possessed of sound judgment and active habits like his father, and like him gave very close application to business.

The firm's connections were extended from time to time by planting new AGENCIES in various parts of the country. These *agencies* were centres for procuring

orders for the publications issued from time to time, and for distributing them periodically to the purchasers. They were managed by salaried representatives of the firm, and now extended over the greater part of Scotland, several parts of England, and part of Ireland. The supervision of these agencies and the periodical visitation of them had become an arduous and very important labour, and much of the success of the business depended upon its being properly conducted. Into this branch of the work John Blackie, Junr., who was an expert in accounts, was early initiated, and he very soon mastered the essential details. So much time did these visitations occupy, that a few years later, when the number of the agencies had still further increased, Mr. Blackie's journey through the English section alone sometimes occupied him three months consecutively. This was prior to the introduction of railways.

The firms were now (1826) Blackie, Fullarton, & Co., Glasgow, and A. Fullarton & Co., Edinburgh. Mr. Fullarton, though managing the Edinburgh business, continued to reside in Glasgow.

About this time was completed the publication of "*The History of Scotland*," translated from the Latin of George Buchanan, with notes and a continuation to the Union in the reign of Queen Anne by James Aikman, Esq.". A misunderstanding ensued between the firm and Mr. Aikman, which was of such duration that for a considerable time it prevented any arrangement being made

with the author to bring down the history to the following century. Through the judicious management of Mr. John Blackie, Junr., the youngest member of the firm, this misunderstanding was ultimately overcome, and the desired continuation was written by Mr. Aikman and published in due course. During the period of uncertainty prior to this satisfactory arrangement being effected, the publishers deemed it to be expedient to issue an independent continuation to the history. They employed for this purpose Mr. John Struthers, author of the *Poor Man's Sabbath*, *Dechmont*, and other poems, and this book was begun to be issued in 1826, and was completed in 48 numbers. Its full title was as follows:—"The History of Scotland, from the Union to the Abolition of the Heritable Jurisdictions, in 1748: Containing an Impartial Account of the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745; and the Rise and Progress of the various Religious Bodies in Scotland, to which is subjoined a Review of the Progress of Society, the State of the Arts, &c. &c., in Scotland, to the year 1827. By John Struthers."

The chief works issued the next few years (1827-1830) were—

The Casquet of Literary Gems.

Wodrow's History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland.

Brown's Self-Interpreting Family Bible.

Bell's System of Geography, Popular and Scientific.

Beauties of Ebenezer Erskine.

Struthers' History of the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745.

Watson's Select Works.
Napoleon Bonaparte and his Times.
Barr's Scripture Student's Assistant.
Knox's History of the Reformation in Scotland.
Bishop Hall's Contemplations.
Walker's Pronouncing English Dictionary.
Goldsmith's History of the Earth and Animated Nature.
Forsyth's Abridgment of the Statutes relative to Scotland.
Barr's Help to Professing Christians.
Works of the Rev. John Newton.
Willison's Practical Works.

The *Casquet of Literary Gems* was the first book issued by the firm on the suggestion and under the guidance of its junior member. The editor, Alexander Whitelaw, was a gentleman of literary tastes similar to those of John Blackie, Junr. He was widely read in what at that time was styled polite literature, and was possessed of a sound discriminating judgment. The selections of which the book was composed were drawn from the works of the best English writers, and only such pieces were admitted as were suitable to be read aloud in the family circle. The illustrations were engraved on *steel*, an art which about this period was brought to great perfection, the superior durability of steel having caused it completely to supersede copper in the production of fine illustrations. The *Casquet* was an eminently successful work, and had a very extensive sale. A selection from it was likewise published (1827) in five miniature vols. royal 48mo. At a later period the *Casquet* was extended to

six volumes and printed on a larger type under the editorship of Charles Gibbon, author of *Robin Gray*, in which form it gained still further popularity.

In 1831 the partnership of Blackie, Fullarton, & Co. was dissolved. The stock and plant of the business was divided into two equal portions, and a similar division of the agencies which had been started having been mutually arranged, the partners formed two separate and distinct firms. Mr. Fullarton went to reside in Edinburgh, and carried on business under the firm of A. Fullarton & Co. Mr. Blackie continued to reside in Glasgow, and along with his son established the firm of Blackie & Son, and for the next five years carried on business in the premises hitherto occupied by the dissolved copartnery.

Up to this time John Blackie, Senr., had taken the chief lead in the business, and to his shrewdness and close attention to every detail it was mainly indebted for its success. During the whole period he took charge of the cash himself, and he was sometimes called home from business journeys to provide means for some unexpected pecuniary demand which baffled the resources of his partners. He used to say that he never in all his life experienced any difficulty in obtaining money, and consequently in that department he was relied on. At one period a proposal was made that the care of the cash should be undertaken by another of the partners, who could act during Mr. Blackie's repeated absence on business journeys, but the

proposal was at once withdrawn when Mr. Blackie announced that the day he gave up the charge of the cash he would also give up the business.

The number of important works issued during the period 1831–1836 shows that the dissolution of the old copartnery had not affected, in a prejudicial manner, the onward progress of the new firm of Blackie & Son. Father and son worked with united energy and united close and thoughtful attention to all the details of what was evidently a rapidly-growing business. New agencies were established in various localities until, at length, every usefully available corner of the three kingdoms was brought within the sphere of the firm's operations.

The following were the principal works issued during this period:—

Napoleon Bonaparte and his Times.

Halyburton's Works.

The Republic of Letters.

Chambers' Lives of Eminent Scotsmen.

Goldsmith's Miscellaneous Works.

The Popular Encyclopedia.

Beauties of Jeremy Taylor.

The Book of the Constitution, by Thomas Stephen.

Adam's Roman Antiquities.

Stackhouse's History of the Bible.

Grier's Mechanics' Calculator and Dictionary.

Scottish Portrait Gallery.

Fleetwood's Life of Christ.

Tales and Sketches by the Ettrick Shepherd.

Chambers' *Lives of Eminent Scotsmen* was an impor-

tant national work, to the origin of which some interest attaches. The firm had engaged several writers to prepare suitable biographies. Of these a considerable number had been completed when they learned that Mr. Robt. Chambers (*Chambers' Journal*) was engaged in the preparation of a work of a similar description. Being all sensible business men, a meeting of the two parties was arranged, with the result that Mr. Chambers agreed to put his prepared manuscript at the disposal of Blackie & Son, and to act himself as general editor of the work. It was issued in four volumes, and sold well. At a later time a fifth volume was added under the editorship of the Rev. Thos. Thomson, and subsequently the work was augmented, and completely reset, and published in three volumes, super-royal 8vo. All the issues were illustrated by an extensive series of portraits of eminent Scotsmen engraved on steel in stipple, a style which about this period was much in vogue, and was executed by many artists with great perfection.

The *Popular Encyclopedia* was a great venture. It was based on the American translation from the German by Francis Lieber of the "world-renowned" *Conversations Lexicon*, and was re-edited and adapted to the requirements of British readers. In carrying out the adaptation much detail chiefly interesting to American readers was excised, and a large amount of matter interesting to British readers was introduced, the whole being carefully adapted to the requirements, not of the specialist in any

department of learning, but to the requirements and comprehension of that very large section of the community who are in search of general and accurate information. It was accompanied by three specially-prepared essays, one on the Progress of Physical Science, by Thos. Thomson, M.D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow; a second on the Rise and Progress of Literature, by Prof. D. K. Sandford, who occupied the Greek chair in the same university; and the third on the Rise and Progress of the Fine Arts, by the poet Allan Cunningham. It was carried through under the editorship of Mr. White-law, assisted in the scientific department by Wm. E. Grier, author of the *Mechanics' Calculator*; W. M. Buchanan, author of the *Dictionary of Mechanical Terms*; and other contributors. The illustrations, engraved on steel, were very numerous, and were derived from many sources; those for the important branch of Zoology were chiefly from drawings by Capt. Thos. Brown, author of *Popular Natural History*, &c. Botany was under the guidance of Dr. Rattray, author of a large and greatly valued Chart of Botany, and other sections of illustrations were under the direction of qualified experts. Fifty-six parts at 2s. 6d. each, a £7 book, printed on expensive duty-burdened paper, would have appalled less courageous hearts and business men less experienced in the number trade. It proved eminently successful.

1833. In the course of this year the firm was brought into communication with the Ettrick Shepherd, on a sugges-

tion to undertake the publication of his *Winter Evening Tales* in parts. Mr. John Blackie, Junr., visited Mr. Hogg at his farm at Altrive on the Yarrow, and made with him a mutually satisfactory arrangement whereby the firm became publishers of all the Shepherd's works. Mr. Hogg read the proofs of certain portions of the *Tales*, but he did not survive to see any of them in their final form, for his lamented decease took place in 1835, the year preceding that in which the publication of the first volume of the *Tales and Sketches* took place.

Adam's *Roman Antiquities*, issued in 1833, edited by Dr. Boyd, Rector of the High School, Edinburgh, was very fully illustrated by means of engravings on wood, printed in the pages. It is believed to have been the first work connected with the Latin classics that was illustrated in this manner. It was followed at a short interval by Potter's *Grecian Antiquities*, also edited by Dr. Boyd, and similarly illustrated. Of Adam's *Antiquities* above 20,000 copies were sold, a great success in classical literature for those days. The manner in which this book was illustrated, and in which a catalogue of the firm's publications, issued about the same time, was illustrated, gave, it is believed, a considerable impetus to the general adoption of woodcuts *printed in the text* as a means of book illustration, separately printed plates having been the usual method employed until that time.

In 1836 the further expansion of the business rendered increase of accommodation imperative. The old premises,

therefore, in Clyde Street, which had been occupied for twenty years, were left, and the business was transferred to commodious and more central premises which were rented at 38 Queen Street. Up to this time, and for some years later, the firm was exclusively engaged in the business of publishing and bookselling, their printing being executed by firms who devoted themselves exclusively to that trade. But, within a few years from this date, the firm found it advisable to establish a printing department of their own, which ultimately became extensive. It may be interesting, therefore, to introduce here some account of the transactions which led up to the formation of that department.

The publisher of books issued by the serial method avails himself much of the assistance rendered by the art of stereotyping. All books of any importance are stereotyped, in order that reprints may with celerity be produced. That Mr. Khull did not begin to be a stereotyper till after the dissolution of the copartnery between him and Blackie & Fullarton may possibly have been one of the causes which led up to the dissolution in question. By whom all the stereotyping work required by the firm was executed is not precisely known; but some of it was done by Mr. Robert Hutcheson, Printer and Stereotyper, Saltmarket, and with him, in 1827, John Blackie, Senr., formed a business alliance and partnership. The company consisted of four partners, Robert Hutcheson and John Blackie, William Lang, a

practical printer, who had a business of his own, and was employed at times to print for the firm, and George Brookman, a skilled operative printer, who had been in the employment of the then well-known firm of Andrew and J. M. Duncan. The contract was for three years, and any one of the partners could terminate his connection by giving three months' notice. Mr. Hutcheson made over to the company his whole stock in trade, and the lease of the premises in Saltmarket. The business was continued in these premises under the designation of Hutcheson and Brookman, Printers and Stereotypers, and Mr. Blackie was the sole cashier. Mr. Blackie, Mr. Hutcheson, and Mr. Lang put money into the business, but not Mr. Brookman. There was no provision for any of the partners drawing a salary, except in the case of Mr. Brookman, who was taken bound to devote his whole time unremittingly to the interests of the venture. His remuneration was to consist of a stipulated salary, and interest on a certain amount of the company's stock. This partnership existed for the three years provided for in the contract, and executed during that period the printing and stereotyping of the publishing firm. But, apparently at the end of the term, Mr. Hutcheson withdrew, and the business continued to be carried on for a time under the designation of George Brookman and then under that of George Brookman & Co., by the three remaining partners; George Brookman & Co. continuing to print and stereotype for the publishing firm.

Shortly before the expiry of the contract of copartnery of Hutcheson and Brookman the important printing firm in Glasgow of Andrew & J. M. Duncan ceased to exist, and their premises and stock-in-trade came into the market. The Duncans had feued ground from the Incorporation of Tailors on the lands of Villafield in the north quarter of the city, and built thereon somewhat extensive premises, chiefly of one story. The feued contract dates from about 1818. The junior partner of the Duncans, a very erudite person and a classical scholar, edited, for his firm, a number of classics, both Latin and Greek, which were produced in large and elegant volumes. When the business was dissolved, the eastern portion of the premises, with printing materials, apparatus, &c., was purchased by Mr. Blackie in 1829, and soon thereafter the business of Hutcheson and Brookman was transferred to it. The western portion of the Duncans' premises was purchased in 1830 by Mr. Hutcheson, who prior to this date seems to have withdrawn from the firm of Hutcheson & Brookman; and he rented his portion of the premises to A. Fullarton & Co., who carried on their printing department therein for some years after the firm had transferred its headquarters to Edinburgh.

The brothers Robert and Andrew Foulis, printers to the University of Glasgow (as is well known), in the latter half of last century, 1750-1770, brought the art of

letterpress printing to such a great state of excellence as to render the works they produced, notably Latin and Greek classics, celebrated all over the civilized world. Unfortunately they had no immediate successors in the art of equal ability, and consequently for many years the press of Glasgow was of little or even of no repute. Early in the present century, however, a change took place. About the end of the first decade Andrew Duncan became printer to the university, and produced sundry classical works. About eight or ten years later his younger brother, John M. Duncan, was joined with him in the business, under the firm of Andrew & J. M. Duncan. About 1819 this firm built premises for a printing work on the lands of Villafield in the north quarter of the city, and during its short life, as printers to the university, produced such a number of well-printed and carefully-edited classics as served in some measure to redeem the character of the Glasgow press. In 1829, as above narrated, Mr. Blackie purchased part of the premises and stock of printing materials of this firm, including fonts of Greek, Hebrew, Syrian, and Arabic type, and in 1837 established the printing business carried on under the firm of W. G. Blackie & Co.

George Brookman and George Brookman & Co. continued to carry on the printing and stereotyping business up to the middle of 1837, executing work, not only for Blackie & Son, but also for various firms in London.

There having thus been established what was in reality a printing department in connection with the firm, it was

obviously desirable that a member of the family should acquire a practical knowledge of the details of the business. It was therefore arranged that Mr. Blackie's second surviving son, Walter Graham, should be initiated into the mysteries of the printer's art. With that end in view he gave attendance at the works during several summers prior to this date (1837), his winters being devoted to studies in the University of Glasgow. By close application during the ordinary working hours, 6.30 A.M. till 7 P.M., he gradually acquired a good general knowledge of the business in all its details, and became a reasonably expert practical printer. Towards the end of 1836, he was put by his father into the counting-house to take charge of the business books. Soon thereafter (in 1837) the copartnery with Mr. Brookman was dissolved, and the general management was committed to Walter Graham, then in his 21st year of age. He was supported in the discharge of his various duties by skilled foremen in the printing and the composing departments. The printing business was henceforth carried on under the designation of W. G. Blackie & Co. Some time later Walter was assumed a partner with his father; and for several years thereafter the printing business was carried on as an independent copartnery quite apart from the publishing business of Blackie & Son, with which, however, it was amalgamated some years later.

As already noted, the business of the firm, which had been carried on under different combinations of names in

Clyde Street from 1816–1836, was now transferred to more commodious rented premises in No. 38 Queen Street, and there it continued for other twenty years. These were years of considerable activity, and many important works were published.

During this period the copper and steel plate printing department was organized. The printing of the engraved plates illustrating the publications of the firm, hitherto done partly in Edinburgh and partly in Glasgow, was so unsatisfactory that, in view of the much higher class of engravings they were about to produce, the firm found it expedient to commence plate printing on their own account. In 1836 Mr. Wm. Duncan (a relative), who had been trained in London in the best houses, was brought to Glasgow to organize and conduct this branch of business. Beginning in a small way, it was in course of time developed largely, as a succession of finely engraved plates were produced. Under Mr. Duncan's care were printed the beautiful plates of the *Land of Burns*, the *Imperial Family Bible*, and many others. He continued in the management till his death in 1865, when he was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Alex. Duncan, who was manager till the time he retired in 1892.

The following are the more noteworthy publications that were issued during the first six years of this period, 1837–1842:—

The Land of Burns.

Select Works of Richard Baxter.

Hogg's (The Ettrick Shepherd) Poems.
Family Worship.
Rhind's History of the Vegetable Kingdom.
The Imperial Family Bible.
D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation.
Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.
The Book of Scottish Song.
The Works of Robert Burns.

Several of these publications may be further noticed:

1837. The *Land of Burns*, a series of engravings of scenes associated with the life and writings of Burns, and of authentic portraits of the poet, his friends, and the subjects of his muse, with descriptive notices. Besides the ordinary edition a special edition was also issued on imperial 4to, with india proofs of the engravings. Publication commenced in November, 1837, and completed in November, 1840.

With a view to this work, a commission was given in 1834 to D. O. Hill, R.S.A., to visit all the scenes to be depicted, make studies and sketches of them, and to paint 60 pictures in oil. The sizes of the pictures, six of them 44×32 in., six 27×17 , and the remainder $18\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, or somewhat larger. The artist was a great admirer of the writings of Burns. He had made his mark as an able landscape-painter, and his work had much poetic feeling. The execution of this commission formed his principal work for fully four years. A number of the pictures appeared from year to year on the walls of the Royal Scottish Academy's Exhibitions in Edinburgh, where

they occupied prominent places and were highly appreciated.

The portraits.—To ascertain what portraits existed, and who were their possessors, entailed much careful inquiry and a deal of correspondence. Some details regarding them may be interesting. No portrait existed of Jessie Lewars (Mrs. Thomson) and Margaret Chalmers (Mrs. Lewis Hay), but these ladies were then alive, and their portraits were painted from life by John Irvine, A.R.S.A., who went to Dunfries for that purpose. But by this time both ladies were well advanced in life, and must have appeared very different from what they were when Burns made them the subjects of his muse.

No portrait of Mrs. Dunlop of Dunlop existed other than an indifferent sketch in pencil by one of her daughters. However, Mrs. Dunlop's daughter, Mrs. Vans Agnew, a charming old lady, was considered by her intimate friends extremely like her mother, and was then just about the same age as her mother was when she corresponded with Burns. Mrs. Vans Agnew kindly volunteered to dress herself in her mother's clothes, and sit for her mother's portrait, giving at the same time such directions for slight variations as were needful. Accordingly she gave sittings in Edinburgh to John Irvine, and in this way an authentic and characteristic portrait of Mrs. Dunlop of Dunlop was made. The only portrait of James, Earl of Glencairn, who befriended Burns, was said to be in possession of Lady Maxwell Wallace, to whom application for the use of it was duly made. After a delay of nearly a year a small packet, accompanied by a note, was handed to the publishers. It contained a reading-glass richly set in solid gold; the size of the glass itself rather less than a five-shilling piece, and on the cover of the eye-piece an excellent miniature of the Earl of Glencairn. The miniature was sent to Edinburgh, and placed in the hands of Kenneth Macleay, R.S.A., the eminent miniature painter, who made an enlarged copy of it. The miniature showed only the head and shoulders, the latter not quite complete; the figure was completed to the waist by Mr. Macleay in making the copy, and

so it appears in the engraving. When the copy was completed, Lady Maxwell Wallace was written to, requesting instruction as to how the original should be returned to her. No reply being received she was written to again, but with the same result. Years passed on, when at last there came a communication, and at length the publishers were relieved from the custody of this valuable relic.

Of Miss Burnet, daughter of Lord Monboddo, the "fair Burnet" of Burns's "Address to Edinburgh", there existed a miniature, showing little more than the head, and a loose pencil sketch of the lady in a sitting posture. By combining these two in his enlargement, Mr. Macleay produced the beautiful drawing from which the engraving was made.

The portrait of the Rev. John Skinner, author of "Tullochgorum", was copied in black-lead pencil by James Giles, R.S.A., of Aberdeen, from a defective original picture that belonged to Bishop Skinner, a son of Tullochgorum, and in making the copy the defects in drawing of the original were set to rights. The portraits of Mrs. Burns with her grandchild, Dr. Moore, John Syme, William Smellie, Hew Ainslie, and Euphemia Murray were engraved directly from the original pictures; those of George Thomson, Rev. Dr. Lawrie, Mrs. Bruce of Clackmannan, and Lucy Johnstone (Mrs. Oswald) were engraved from reduced copies made by W. Bonnar, R.S.A., John Irvine, A.R.S.A., and Robert Cooper.

Descriptive notices of the scenes were supplied by Robert Chambers, of *Chambers' Journal*. For the work an introductory essay on the "Genius and Character of Burns" was written by Professor John Wilson, of the University of Edinburgh, editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*, perhaps better known as "Christopher North". Though a rapid writer, the Professor did not at all times supply the printer with MS. at the time it was specially required, and, consequently, often needed a reminder to be

sent to him. A case in point occurred with this work. Publication of the illustrated and descriptive section was near completion, but the MS. of the Essay, which was to precede the descriptive text, was not forthcoming, notwithstanding frequent reminders sent him on the part of the firm. At length, after having endured a delay of nearly two years, and despairing of success by letter-writing, John Blackie, Junr., went to Edinburgh, and called upon Wilson, who, upon recognizing his visitor, at once fled to the opposite side of the table as if to escape from the righteous wrath of his injured publisher. But when Mr. Blackie announced his intention to remain where he was and not leave the Professor till the MS. was completed and safely secured in his pocket, he came forth from his stronghold, remarking "That's capital! Mrs. Wilson will prepare a bed for you on the sofa and make you comfortable, and I'll set about writing the essay". However, a better arrangement was soon come to. The Professor promised copy without further delay, and this time kept his promise. The MS. began to flow in upon the printer in detached portions by several posts each day. It was written on backs of funeral letters, remnants of grocers' bags, and in fact on any kind of scraps of paper that would carry ink, and on some that carried it very imperfectly. When the essay was about half-way completed the Professor asked the printer to send him proof of all that preceded. The printer took what was handiest to himself and sent the author back

his MS. This, however, did not satisfy the Professor, for he immediately wrote, "Send me proof, for though *you* can read my MS. *I* cannot".

1838-1840. *Family Worship* was in certain respects even more remarkable than the *Land of Burns*. It consisted of a series of prayers, with expository remarks on selected passages of sacred Scripture for every morning and evening throughout the year, and was the pet work, both as respects its subject and its authors, of the senior member of the firm. He possessed a wide acquaintance among ministers, and by personal visits and correspondence he induced a great number of them to aid him by writing for the work. So successful was he, that the expositions and remarks on passages of Scripture and the prayers of which each morning and evening service is composed were written by 180 ministers of the Church of Scotland. In this way variety of thought and expression was attained which is so often wanting in books of this kind written by one individual. From its first appearance *Family Worship* was a great success. In a subsequent edition of royal 4to size the number of the writers was increased to 220.

In the summer of 1838, soon after the Queen had been crowned, the elder brothers, John and Walter, arranged to visit the French capital. Railway communication between Scotland and London not having yet been established, the younger of the two found his way to the metropolis by steamer from Newhaven, and there

joined his elder brother who had preceded him by land, calling and doing business at several of the firm's agencies on his way south.

From London the route selected was by coach to Southampton, thence by steamer to Havre de Grace (now Le Havre), from which by diligence the travellers reached Paris the second morning after they left the British metropolis.

Examination of the city, its churches, places of historic interest, and art collections did not occupy the attention of the travellers exclusively. They gave special attention to shop windows, an unfailing source of interest and instruction in all new places, and more especially so in a city such as the French capital during a first visit. The attention of the travellers to this special source of information was well rewarded, for among other objects of interest sundry new books were observed which presented features interesting to them as publishers. Such were the works of Molière, illustrated by Tony Johannot, and La Fontaine's Fables, illustrated by J. J. Grandville. The general style of the former seemed to be admirably adapted for book illustration, and the genius of the latter, in which the animals were treated as human beings, imparted a fresh and lively interest to La Fontaine's adaptation or imitation of the fables of the ancient Greek. Through the same medium they became acquainted with a new or revived branch of the decorative art as applied to the paper covers of books, which led to important

business results. Some of the Paris type-founding firms had produced a great variety of details of ornament as types to be employed in letterpress printing, which could, with facility, be combined into a vast variety of decorative designs, the variety being limited merely by the talent and skill of the artist or workman who undertook to make the combinations. The utility and advantage of this means of producing decorative ornament was at once perceived; the requisite types were procured, with the result that the books of the firm became notable for a new style of exterior decoration in advance of those of other publishers in this country.

Walter having acquired a knowledge of some of the Latin languages before or during his university course, it was thought expedient, in 1839, for him to spend some time in Germany in order to improve his knowledge of the German language, the study of which he had begun some years previously. He sailed from London for Antwerp on 30th September, proceeded by the Rhine to Frankfort-on-the-Main, and thence by coach (eilwagen) to Leipzig and on to Dresden. After spending a week in the capital of Saxony, he returned to Leipzig, arranged with a tutor (Dr. Möckel) to come to him daily, and settled down definitely to work on Monday, 21st October—three weeks having thus been occupied in travelling, sight-seeing, and arranging for tuition. Having one day mentioned to his tutor that he had attended all

the classes in the University of Glasgow required for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and that had he remained at home this winter it was his intention to have taken the additional class or classes required for the degree of M.A. (Master of Arts), his tutor remarked, Why not take a degree while you are here in Leipzig, and become Doctor in Philosophy? Having ascertained the conditions imposed on candidates for this degree by the University of Jena, steps were taken to comply with them. Evidence of curriculum of study passed in Glasgow and of extent of reading in various departments having been adduced, and sundry other specified requirements having been complied with, a certificate of a degree of Doctor in Philosophy was issued to him, dated 13th February, 1840.

He returned home early in the spring of 1840 by nearly the same route as that by which he had proceeded to Leipzig five months previously. A summary of that journey may be of interest.

Leaving Leipzig on Sunday evening by coach he reached Frankfort-on-the-Main on Tuesday afternoon, after a journey of above forty-two hours, and there took up his quarters in a hotel for the night. The Rhine being filled with floating ice the journey could not be continued by steamer; therefore on Wednesday morning at 6 A.M. he started by the coach, and, after passing through Wiesbaden, Schwalbach, and Ems, reached, late in the afternoon, the village of Ehrenbreitstein on the Rhine, opposite Coblenz. Ferrying over the river amidst

floes of ice, he again took his place in the coach, and early the following morning (Thursday) reached Cologne. Thence again by coach, starting about 6 A.M., he reached Aix-la-Chapelle early in the forenoon. After a rest there of several hours, the journey was resumed by night to Liège, whence by railway to Ostend; which was reached on the afternoon of Friday. Refreshed by a night's rest in a hotel, he started on Saturday morning about 9 A.M. by the steamer bound for Dover, which was duly reached after a voyage of eight hours over a somewhat troubled sea. Learning on arrival that a coach started for London about six or eight in the evening he secured a place, and arrived in London early on Sunday morning, having accomplished the journey in seven days and sixteen hours, during which only two nights had been passed in bed. The journey from London to Leipzig can now be accomplished in twenty-seven hours, including a night's rest in the steamer.

In the year 1839 the well-known Scotch artist, Wm. Bonnar, R.S.A., Edinburgh, received a commission to paint a life-sized sitting portrait of John Blackie, Senr.—a work which was duly completed to the satisfaction of the family and the numerous friends who flocked to examine it. This painting is now in the possession of the family of Mr. Robert Blackie, and is a characteristic and favourable specimen of the work of the eminent artist who produced it. This portrait was the occasion of a very interesting

movement which took place among the agents and other parties employed by the firm. They desired to offer some public expression of respect to the senior member of the firm, and one of their number suggested it should take the form of an engraving of Bonnar's portrait. This suggestion having been adopted, the painting was placed in the hands of Mr. Henry Cook of London, one of the foremost engravers of the day, by whom, in due time, a most beautifully-executed work was produced. The presentation of this very gratifying testimonial took place (29th September, 1840) in Glasgow at a dinner in the large hall of the Black Bull Hotel, which was attended by a party of 126, consisting of the donors and other friends of Mr. Blackie, Senr. The meeting was a highly enjoyable one, and gave ample evidence of the good understanding and good feeling which prevailed between employers and employed. See Appendix *X*.

In 1842 John Blackie, Junr., received a similar compliment, forming further evidence of the friendly relations existing between the members of the firm and those in their employment. By the agents, clerks, and others belonging to the business he was invited to a complimentary dinner on Thursday, 29th September, and presented with a handsome token of their esteem. Details of this meeting will be found in Appendix II.

In 1842 the two younger brothers, Walter and Robert, were assumed as partners in the publishing firm. At

the same time the printing business and the publishing business were united, but were carried on for many years afterwards under their special designations of Blackie & Son, publishers and bookbinders, and W. G. Blackie & Co., printers and stereotypers. Indeed it was not till 1889, when the business was formed into a private limited liability company, that the designation of the printing firm ceased to exist.

1841-1844. The *Imperial Bible* was a work notable for its large-type text, beauty of printing, the relatively great extent of explanatory notes it contained, and for the series of splendid engravings with which it was illustrated. Whether the number, the selection, or the execution of those beautiful pictorial subjects is considered, it is questionable if an equally attractive edition of the Scriptures was published before it or has appeared since.

The engravings for the *Imperial Bible* are principally from celebrated works by the old masters, a few from the designs by the modern Germans, and a number from the works of John Martin, five of them being from drawings made for the book. Engravings subsequently added to the series were made directly from paintings by S. A. Hart, R.A., E. Armytage, R.A., and H. Le Jeune, A.R.A. The cost of the engraved plates was from £60 to £120 each. The whole superintendence of the illustration was carried through by Mr. R. Blackie. In touching some of the engravers' proofs he had the aid of Sir William Allan, R.A., from whom he also received some valuable hints on composition.

In July, 1843, the two elder brothers proceeded on a journey to the Continent, in which the primary object

was to make themselves acquainted with the Rhine and other parts of the many states which at that time formed what was known as Germany, but their plan was ultimately modified and directed to a business purpose. By steamer from London the travellers reached Ostend in fifteen hours, and thence they journeyed by railway and coach to Liège, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Cologne. The cathedral and other sights detained them for a couple of days in Cologne, and then they proceeded by steamer on the Rhine to visit Bonn, Godesberg, Königswinter, with the Drachenfels, &c., to Coblenz, and thence to St. Goar, Oberwesel, Bacharach, Bingen, Rüdesheim, Biebrich, Wiesbaden, Mainz, and at the end of a week after leaving Cologne they reached Frankfort-on-the-Main. Thence by coach they reached Eisenach, with the Wartburg in its vicinity, Gotha, Erfurt, and Leipzig, all places connected with the history of Luther, with the Thirty Years' War, and the wars of Napoleon. From Leipzig they found their way to Berlin, *part* of the way by means of a *railway*. From Berlin the intention was to visit the Riesengebirge (Giant Mountains) on the confines of Prussia and Bohemia, but a new idea occurred to them. The firm had issued (1841) a translation of part of D'Aubigné's *History of the Reformation in the Sixteenth Century*, and a new volume was expected to be completed by the author very soon. The travellers, therefore, thought it might be well, if possible, to have a meeting with Dr. D'Aubigné in Geneva, his usual residence, and endeavour to make some

business arrangement about the expected volume and its successors. They accordingly changed the plan of their journey, omitted the important section which included the Riesengebirge, and turned their faces towards Switzerland. They took Dresden, Bayreuth, the Franconian-Switzerland, Nürnberg, Stuttgart, Baden Baden, and Strasburg on their route, a journey accomplished wholly by coach. From Strasburg to Basel, the recently-opened railway took them at accelerated speed, but thence by Neuchâtel and Lausanne to Geneva, the only conveyance again was by coach. Ascertaining Dr. D'Aubigné to be from home on a visit to Marseilles, his address in that noted seaport was obtained, and he was written to. Return post being three days, the travellers employed the time in visiting the famous Alpine valley of Chamonix, and on their return to Geneva they were chagrined to learn that Dr. D'Aubigné would not be home again for a considerable time. Their journey from Berlin to Geneva had, consequently, in a business point of view, been a failure. But not so otherwise, for a stock of information was acquired and laid up in the memory which proved in future years to be eminently useful. The journey home was taken by Berne, Basel, and Strasburg to Kehl on the Rhine, the port of the last-named place. There the travellers caught a steamer at an early hour, which by the evening took them to Mannheim, where they slept on shore. Starting next morning early by the steamer again, they reached Cologne in the evening.

Their journey thence to London was very much a repetition of their journey from London to Cologne in the reverse direction. Ultimately they reached Glasgow after an absence of ten weeks.

The next thirteen years (1843–1856) formed a very active epoch, as during it were issued some of the most important works in the history of the firm. Among them were the following:—

The Engineer and Machinist's Assistant.
Italy: Historical, Classical, and Picturesque.
Cooke's Brown's Bible.
Ladies of the Covenant.
Ogilvie's Imperial Dictionary of the English Language.
The Complete Works of John Bunyan.
Davidson's Comprehensive Family Bible.
Morton's Cyclopedia of Agriculture.
Ornamental Designs.
The Imperial Gazetteer, a General Dictionary of Geography.
Clark's Railway Machinery.
The Engineer's Drawing Book.
The Ten Years' Conflict.
Stackhouse's History of the Bible.
The Comprehensive History of England.

In 1845 John Blackie, Senr., acquired by purchase the western portion of the property at Villafield, then in the hands of Mr. Robert Hutcheson. He acquired subsequently additional sections of ground to the north from the same heritable superiors, the Incorporation of Tailors, and gradually covered the entire block extending from

Taylor Street to Stanhope Street with buildings, partly dwelling-houses and partly workshops.

1845–47. *Italy: Historical, Classical, and Picturesque* was published at the joint risk of Blackie & Son and James Duncan of Paternoster Row, London, the venture being in equal shares. The book was of imperial 4to size. Soon after the issue in parts was completed Mr. Duncan's share was purchased by Blackie & Son. There was issued a large-paper edition of limited number, with india proofs of the engravings, as well as the ordinary edition. In 1861 this book was reissued on medium 4to size with new descriptive text.

1846. In this year Dr. Walter Graham Blackie, second surviving son of the senior partner, was married to Miss Marion Brodie, second daughter of Mr. Wm. Brodie, of Endrick Bank, in Stirlingshire, an old and valued friend of the family.¹ The event took place on 15th April, and was celebrated on the part of the workers in a demonstrative and pleasant manner. See Appendix V., contributed by one who was present.

1847–1850. *Ogilvie's Imperial Dictionary*. A work in two large volumes containing (including a supplement subsequently published) above 3000 pages, and having printed in its text above 2400 wood-cut illustrations. As

¹ The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Alex. Lochore, minister of the parish of Drymen, in Stirlingshire, uncle of the bride.

Adam's *Antiquities* led the way in this country to the illustration by means of engravings on wood inserted in the text of works connected with the ancient classics, so The *Imperial Dictionary* led the way in illustrating the meanings of terms and phrases in Dictionaries by means of pictorial illustration. It has had a host of imitators. The revised and augmented edition of this work (four volumes, above 3000 pp., and above 3000 wood-cut illustrations), edited by Dr. Annandale, issued in 1883, sustains the reputation of the earlier one, and keeps the lead among dictionaries of its kind.

1849. In this year took place the marriage of John Blackie, Junr., eldest son of the senior partner, with Miss Agnes Gourlie, second daughter of Mr. William Gourlie, merchant, a well-known and much-respected citizen. The occasion was celebrated in a harmonious and joyful manner in the printing works at Villafield. See Appendix VI.

This year (1849) was marked by the publication of one of the most important works on agriculture hitherto issued from the press of this country, namely, the *Cyclopedia of Agriculture, Practical and Scientific*, under the editorship of John C. Morton, editor of the *Agricultural Gazette*, assisted by upwards of fifty of the most eminent farmers, land-agents, and scientific men of the day. In articles arranged alphabetically the work treated fully of the business of the farmer, stock-breeder, and dairy-

farmer, and was profusely illustrated with engravings on wood and steel.

1850-1855. Three years after the publication of the *Imperial Dictionary* appeared the *Imperial Gazetteer*, two large vols. imperial 8vo, with above 700 views, costumes, maps, and plans, printed in the text. This work was under the general editorship of Dr. W. G. Blackie, who was engaged on it for about ten years with an efficient staff of assistants. For their use a considerable reference library of about 3000 volumes was gathered together, which, besides books in English, included works in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish, and Danish. Articles on special subjects were contributed by many leading geographers of the day, among whom may be named W. D. Cooley, author of *Physical Geography*, *Inner Africa Laid Open*, &c., a recognized writer on geographical subjects, more especially those connected with Africa; R. H. Major, of the map department, British Museum, author of *Early Voyages to Australia*, *Life of Prince Henry of Portugal, called the Navigator*, &c.; Henry Beveridge, advocate, author of the *Comprehensive History of India*; Sir Robert Schomburgk, discoverer of the *Victoria regia*, whose name has recently become popularly known in connection with the *Schomburgk Line*, so frequently mentioned in the Venezuela boundary dispute. The home articles on towns and places within the British islands were mostly compiled from information supplied by parties in the

locality described. The *Gazetteer* when completed was pronounced by certain critics to be the most important contribution to geographical knowledge since the publication of the great work of Malte Brun.

The selection and preparation of the illustrations for the *Imperial Dictionary* and the *Imperial Gazetteer* was undertaken by the two junior partners of the firm, all questions involving a knowledge of Art being referred to Robert. Every illustration being necessarily a separate and distinct fact, the labour involved in obtaining suitable copies for the wide range of subjects to be represented was heavy and protracted. Endless works had to be examined, which could only be found in the larger libraries, and notably the library of the British Museum, where the brothers laboured for weeks together at the tables of the reading-room with piles before them of the most rare and costly publications both home and foreign. This work of selection and preparation was continued at frequent intervals over a number of years.

To obtain suitable authorities for the illustrations was a work of much labour and research. The wide range of material now to be found in photographs was not available, for the means of multiplying photographs had not been invented. Having in the course of his reading and examination of catalogues, home and foreign, accumulated a long list of illustrated works of travel and of topography, it fell to Mr. Robert Blackie to look these up in the British Museum, and to make notes of all subjects likely to be suitable. The drawings on the wood were for the most part made by the artists in the Museum, the references to authorities being supplied to the draughtsman from the extensive notes previously made.

Mr. R. Blackie noted carefully the titles of all the books he did not find in the voluminous Museum catalogue, and applied for information respecting them to Mr. Watts, then the head of Book Department, a gentleman of the most obliging disposition, of extraordinary memory, and able to read above twenty languages. Mr. Blackie submitted to him a list of some twenty-three books he could not find. Mr. Watts looked it carefully over, and thus proceeded:—"That is not in the library, but in the print-room; its date is 1723, too old to be of service to you. This ought to be in the library, but it is not. This one is at the binder's." He then proceeded to dictate press-marks, 747 b, 1436 l, 943 f, and so on through the list, winding up by saying, "All the press-marks may not be quite correct, but they will bring the books, and that is what you want".

1856-1861. The *Comprehensive History of England* was based upon an abridgment¹ of the civil and military section of *The Pictorial History of England* by its author, Charles Macfarlane. A series of chapters on the History of Society, some additions to the general narrative, and a continuation were contributed by the Rev. Thomas Thomson, who also edited the work. It having been determined that the illustrations for the *Comprehensive History* (above 1000 in number) were to consist of views, portraits, relics, plans, &c., the searching for authorities, and engaging of artists to make the drawings on wood, became a long and laborious work for Mr. Robert Blackie.

In 1842 the firm issued a small "Literary and Commercial" almanac, a tasteful production containing a

¹ This abridgment was published by Charles Knight in twenty-six small volumes under the title of the "Cabinet History of England".

certain quantity of literary matter of an entertaining character both in prose and in verse, accompanied by a catalogue of the firm's publications. A copy of this almanac was presented to every one whose name appeared in the company's books as a purchaser. This publication was issued annually up till 1872, or, in all, for thirty years, and the number printed for several years was 80,000, and one year over 100,000.

In 1853 Mr. Robert Blackie was married on April 27 to Anne Robertson, daughter of the deceased James Robertson, an esteemed merchant in Glasgow.

A branch of the business had been established in New York in 1852, and as it did not appear to prosper Mr. Robert Blackie was deputed to proceed thither and report, and at the same time to visit some business correspondents in the United States and Canada. A voyage to the United States at this period was a much greater undertaking than it is now. It having been arranged that while this was a business journey, it should at same time be a marriage trip, Mr. Blackie and his young wife sailed for New York on the Cunard steamer *Africa* ten days after their marriage, and landed on the twelfth day after their sailing from Liverpool. At this time eleven or twelve days was the usual duration of a voyage from Liverpool to New York.

Immediately after landing Mr. Blackie made a partial examination of the business in New York, and proceeded to Philadelphia, where

a sub-agency had been established, and investigated its condition. Thence to Baltimore, where there was a resident under sub-agent. Returning to Philadelphia, and then to New York, he proceeded to investigate the business more fully, and he found things in such an unsatisfactory condition that he dismissed the agent; and remained in America from early in May till end of September, till an experienced successor could be obtained from home. Under this agent the business prospered, but unfortunately he required to resign his position on account of the health of his wife after a service of three years. His successor managed the business so indifferently that Mr. Blackie in 1859 made a second trip to New York, and after a short investigation he came to the conclusion that the business could not be carried on profitably, and took steps to wind it up. This work, and the extent of travel incident to it, occupied him the whole summer. It was fortunate for the firm that the American branch was thus wound up, for the Civil War, which broke out in the following year, would have completely destroyed the business they had been seeking to establish.

The extension of the business rendered necessary another removal to larger premises. On looking about for better accommodation, attention was directed to a building in North Frederick Street, which was ultimately purchased, extended, and fitted up in a suitable manner, and entered upon in 1856.

In these premises the business was carried on for the next fourteen years, in course of which many new publications were issued. Among those issued during the first four years (1857-1860) may be specified:—

Ewart's Agriculture.

Shaw on the Confession of Faith.

Thompson's Gardener's Assistant.

Beveridge's History of India.
Dr. Buchanan's Clerical Furlough.
Dr. Buchanan's Ecclesiastes.
Curtis's Farm Insects.
Prof. Wilson's Our Farm Crops.
Bunyan's Allegorical Works in Welsh.

In 1860, June 1st, John Blackie, Senr., the founder of the business, retired. For the long period of fifty-one years he had been at the head of the firm, and of the firms which preceded it. He was still hale and active, and continued to take an interest in all that concerned the business until the end of his days, some fourteen years later.

During the next nine years (1861–1870) the following are among the works which were issued:—

Family Worship, new edition.
Memorable Women of Puritan Times.
Baxter's Select Works.
Ogilvie's Comprehensive English Dictionary, sup.-roy.
Fairbairn's Bible-Dictionary.
Gurnall, The Christian in Complete Armour.
Hogg's (the Ettrick Shepherd) Complete Works, sup. roy. 8vo.
Henry's Commentary on the Bible.
Book of Scottish Songs.
Villa and Cottage Architecture, imp. 4to, 20 parts.
Keith, Evidence of the Fulfilment of Prophecy, in Welsh.
Welsh Bible, imperial edition.
Admiral Smyth's Sailor's Word-book.
Schnorr's Bible Pictures.
Deschanel, Natural Philosophy.
Cymru (Welsh).

Villa and Cottage Architecture. This was a book issued on new lines, inasmuch as the plans of the houses included represented structures that had actually been carried into execution, and not merely *designs* furnished by one or more architects. The idea carried out in the book was much valued, and contributed greatly to the acceptance it met with.

Most of the works published by the firm contained pictorial illustrations. In many cases these consisted of views or portraits engraved on steel, and in others of figures engraved upon wood inserted in the text, and printed as a matter of course along with the text. Though the efforts of the firm in printing the wood-cut illustrations had been fairly successful, yet considerable difficulty was experienced in the technical department in order to obtain a perfectly satisfactory result, notwithstanding that the machinery employed in printing the books containing these wood-cut illustrations was of a superior description, having been obtained from the best makers both in England and in the United States of North America, where much attention was paid to fine letterpress printing accompanied with wood-cut illustrations.

The French periodical *Le Tour du Monde*, issued by Messrs. Hachette & Co., Paris, being very fully illustrated by means of engravings on wood, which were remarkably well printed, it appeared as if Messrs.

Hachette's printers could produce work which the firm was unable to equal without spending much more time upon it than could be afforded. In order to get some light on the matter Dr. Blackie in 1859 visited Paris, and called upon Messrs. Hachette, who obligingly gave him a note of introduction to their printer, M. Lahure. He was shown over the whole of the printing establishment, and there had an opportunity of seeing the work in question, *Le Tour du Monde*, in the process of being printed. In Scotland, in England and in the United States up till this time good and fine wood-cut printing was done upon machines which delivered the necessary pressure upon the types and wood-cuts by means of a *completely flat* surface. The printers and machinists in these countries apparently did not believe in the possibility of producing fine work by means of machines in which the impression was delivered through a horizontal *roller* or cylinder. Such machines were thought to be fit only for the production of newspapers, magazines, and other work for which really fine printing was not deemed to be essential. It was with surprise, therefore, that Dr. Blackie learned that in France printers did not believe in flat machines, but did all work by means of cylinder machines, single and double. This was to him a most unexpected revelation, but nevertheless most welcome, for he saw in it definite means of overcoming the difficulties hitherto experienced in producing good wood-cut work at a

reasonable cost. The French printers and machinists had turned their attention to perfecting the cylinder machine, and their efforts have been crowned with very marked success. As the result of this inquiry it was resolved as soon as possible to obtain improved cylinder perfecting machines equal to those used in Paris. An order was therefore placed with a Scotch firm which had begun to make machines on the French model, and were called by their makers Anglo-French. The first of these was delivered in 1861, and a second followed a year later. But though the work produced by them was good, it was not equal to that produced in Paris, therefore a double perfecting machine by the famous Parisian maker *Alauzet* was obtained and placed in the works at Villafield in 1869. This machine greatly delighted the operative printers, by whom it was pronounced to be more like a watch than a printing machine, so smoothly did the parts work without hitch or jerk. Another machine of the same kind was added three years later, and with the assistance of the two the difficulty of producing good wood-cut work was speedily overcome. It is believed that the introduction of these machines into Glasgow, the first, or among the first, imported from Paris into Great Britain, had a considerable effect in accelerating the production of the admirable printing machines which have for some time back been constructed in various parts of this country, equalling if not surpassing those of foreign manufacture.

In 1866 lithographic printing was added as a department of the firm. For some time the work was entirely confined to transfer printing from engraved plates.

It was now becoming evident to the partners that a further extension of the business premises would require to be provided at no distant date. After due consideration, they resolved to erect buildings upon a vacant space of their property adjoining the printing works and facing Stanhope Street. This street was opened first by Mr. Blackie, Senr., several years before, and named by him in honour of Earl Stanhope, who had perfected the process of stereotyping, and thereby rendered great service to both printing and publishing. The new premises, being in direct communication with the printing works situated immediately behind, afforded improved facilities for general supervision and for expediting the production of work. The removal from Frederick Street to Stanhope Street took place in 1870, and the advantages anticipated from the change were fully realized, the whole business in all its departments of manufacture—composing, stereotyping, printing (letterpress, copperplate, and lithograph), bookbinding—was concentrated into buildings adjoining the publishing department, the editorial department, and partners' business rooms.

The Binding Department, which forms an important section of the company's business, extended gradually with the general business, till it attained very consider-

able dimensions. It was commenced on a small scale in the newly (1816) built premises of the firm in East Clyde Street. The most of the books then issued having merely thin paper covers, the binding of them was a somewhat simple process, and was executed chiefly by girls. The sheets were folded and then gathered in numbers or parts, as the case might be. Each number or part was covered with coloured paper, and then the sheets were stitched together. The irregularities of the fore-edges were finally cut off or smoothed by the aid of a large knife, and the consecutive number of each part was impressed by a hand stamp—both operations being usually performed by a male assistant.

This method of *stitching* the parts together in paper covers was soon followed by another called *boarding*. The sheets of a large division or volume were aggregated, sewed or otherwise attached to cords, and then fastened within stout paste-board boards; these boards were finally covered with coloured paper. At first plain paper was employed, but soon afterwards the plain paper was superseded by paper decorated in various ways. Subsequently the exterior paper of such boards was replaced with cloth, after which books were said to be bound in cloth or in cloth boards.

This binding in cloth was a long way in advance of the previous practice of doing up the books in covers, and became the style in which most books were issued to purchasers when supplied in divisions or volumes. A

still further advance took place by the introduction of binding in leather,—chiefly calf, morocco, and russia. At first all the processes in the Binding Department were carried on by hand, latterly much of the work was done by machinery. From employing a few dozens of hands in East Clyde Street, this department increased when transferred to Villafield so greatly as to necessitate the employment of several hundreds of workers.

1871–1874. Till the middle of the year 1874 the production of publications went on as in preceding years. The following were the chief:—

Welsh Bible, super-royal.

Waring's Illustrations of Architecture and Ornament.

Casquet of Literature, with second series.

Marcoy, Travels in South America.

Pugin's Illustrations of the Architecture of Normandy.

Bunyan's Select Works.

Ceinion. Selections from Welsh Literature.

The Pew and Study Bible.

Cruden's Concordance.

The Universe; or, the Infinitely Great and the Infinitely Little. By F. A. Pouchet, M.A.

But the most important work that engaged the energies of the partners during this period, as well as one of the most important works ever issued by them, was the preparation and carrying forward of a new edition of the Popular Encyclopedia, which was commenced in 1870. It was thoroughly revised, much enlarged, and furnished

with a completely new series of illustrations, in which work many literary assistants and artists were engaged.

While this work was in progress, and before publication had begun, the firm suffered a grievous loss in the decease of the senior partner, John Blackie, Junr., after a brief illness. His death took place on the 13th of February, 1873. The active part which he had always taken in the affairs of the business, and the control he had maintained of every department, in each of which he made his abilities for management felt, caused his loss to fall the more heavily on the surviving partners, his brothers Dr. W. G. Blackie and Mr. Robert Blackie, the first of whom was ten years and the second fourteen years his junior.

Some nineteen months after the death of John Blackie, Junr., his venerable father followed him to the grave, full of years and honour. He died on the 16th of June, 1874, having reached the patriarchal age of ninety-two.

With the death of John Blackie, Senr., this account of the business which he founded comes to a close. Two years after his death J. Alexander Blackie, eldest son of Dr. W. G. Blackie, was adopted as a partner, and later J. Robertson Blackie, son of Mr. Robert Blackie, was assumed, and later still Walter W. Blackie, younger son of Dr. Blackie. The business has continued to grow, and has been extended in many directions. While the original number-book business has been maintained, general publishing through the channels of the book-



W. G. Blocker, Ph. D. LL. D.

at the age of 78

selling trade has been added, educational and juvenile literature having been specially cultivated. The increase in the space for the printing and binding works of the firm may be taken as a measure of the growth of the business in these years. The floor space occupied in 1874 was 6000 square yards in extent; in 1896 it was 10,000 square yards. In 1889 the firm was for family reasons formed into a private limited liability company, with the partners as directors.

By the decease in 1896 of Mr. Robert Blackie, Dr. W. G. Blackie, chairman of the directors, was left sole survivor of the second generation of the firm founded by his father in 1809.

*NOTES ON THE LIFE OF
JOHN BLACKIE, SENR.,
BORN 27TH OCTOBER, 1782;
DIED 16TH JUNE, 1874*

The founder of the business was called to his rest, 16th June, 1874, in the ninety-second year of his age. Up to the last his mental faculties were unimpaired, and, even towards the end of his days, those who applied to him for counsel in any matter of difficulty found him a safe and sagacious adviser. He had been confined to his house for about nine months preceding his decease, but continued to take a lively interest in the general news of the day, and especially in whatever concerned the Church of Christ all over the world, and more particularly with everything that affected the Free Church, of which he had been an honoured office-bearer since its first inception at the Disruption of 1843. Much of his thought in connection with the Free Church was given to the promotion of its various schemes for the promotion of home and foreign missions, and education; and, above all, that great sheet-anchor, as he commonly called it, the Sustentation Fund.

In spite of being so fully occupied with his own affairs, John Blackie, Senr., found time to give some attention

to public matters. Before the passing of the Reform Act (1832) the police of the city was under the management of a board called the Police Board of Commissioners. Of this body he was a member for some years. Having gained his freedom as a citizen by serving an apprenticeship to the weaving trade, as we have seen, he naturally became a member of the Incorporation of Weavers, and after passing through the usual subordinate offices he became Deacon of the Incorporation in 1831.

Meantime the city had been extending rapidly. Its population, which in 1811 numbered 108,830, in 1831 had increased to 202,000, but church accommodation had not kept pace with the advance of population. With a view to remedy this deficiency in some measure a scheme was devised in 1834 by Mr. Wm. Collins,¹ for erecting in the city twenty new churches—each church to have its own minister, kirk-session, and defined district, in which to carry on aggressive religious work. Subscriptions in aid of this scheme of £200 were solicited, payable in five annual instalments of £40 each, and so great was the support which the scheme received that at least fifteen churches were erected, all of which were intended to be parochial, and in connection with the Established Church of Scotland. Mr. Blackie became one of the earliest subscribers, and took an active part throughout in promoting and carrying on the work along

¹ His eldest son, William, was Lord Provost of Glasgow during 1877–80, and received the honour of knighthood.

with his friend Mr. Collins, and other well-known citizens, all of whom were desirous that the means of grace should keep pace with the increase of the population.

About this period the Voluntary controversy began, in which Mr. Blackie took a great interest. He was an office-bearer in the Relief Church, and often entertained as guests ministers of that body from a distance when visiting Glasgow, but he could not on that account countenance attacks upon the Established Church such as were made by many extreme writers and speakers in the controversy. He used to say that he had never been informed of any difference existing between the Relief body and the Established Church except on the question of patronage. Holding to this view he kept aloof from the controversialists of the dissenting bodies, and ultimately withdrew from the Relief Church altogether, a movement which was cordially seconded by his wife. He joined St. John's Parish Church, which at that time enjoyed the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Brown, D.D., and not long thereafter was inducted as an elder of the congregation. He continued in this congregation till the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, when he left the Established Church and, with his minister Dr. Brown, and all the members of the kirk-session, joined the Free Church.

Soon after the Disruption active steps were taken to provide a suitable church for Dr. Brown and his retiring congregation, in which Mr. Blackie took a pro-

minent part, and which in due time resulted in the erection of St. John's Free Church. This elegant edifice was opened for public worship by Dr. Brown's two predecessors in the parish church, the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, D.D., then Professor of Divinity in the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and the Rev. Patrick Macfarlane, D.D., of Greenock. The collection on the opening day for the building fund amounted to above £1700. It was the first of the great church-door collections which marked the liberality of the members of the Free Church for many years during its upbuilding.

Though Mr. Blackie had been several times a member of the General Assembly, he was not a member of the meeting which was held in 1843, the year of the Disruption. Nevertheless his great interest in the impending crisis took him to Edinburgh, that he might be an eye-witness of whatever might happen. Accordingly, on the morning of the famous 18th of May, he was early at St. Andrews' Church, in which the meeting was to be held; was present during the reading of the Protest by Dr. Welsh, and accompanied the retiring members when, with grave countenances, they left the building. As soon as the Protesters reached the street a procession was formed, headed by Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Welsh. It proceeded, flanked on either side by admiring multitudes, to Tannfield Hall, which, in anticipation of this expected secession, had been prepared for their reception, and where immediately was instituted the Free Church of Scotland.

Mr. Blackie used often, in conversation with friends, to refer to this great event, and to tell how he marched, alongside of Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Welsh, with both of whom he was acquainted, to the rendezvous in Tannfield Hall.

His name appeared on the list of managers or committees of many of the religious associations, and he was an early promoter of the first Normal School in Glasgow, which was erected under the auspices and through the energy of his friend David Stow, and he was a liberal contributor to its funds. When that institution, after the Disruption in 1843, became the property of the Established Church, he joined heartily with other friends, including Mr. Stow, in promoting the erection of a new Normal School in connection with the Free Church. Both of the institutions were remarkably successful, and still continue to do admirable service in promoting education; they are now designated the Church of Scotland Training College and the Free Church Training College. With other three kindred institutions Mr. Blackie was more or less identified both through his personal services and liberal contributions, namely, the Free Church Colleges of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the Glasgow Academy. This last-named institution, founded in 1846, was a secondary school on a footing with the Burgh High School and supplied a felt want in the city; it still exists and does admirable work in handsome and commodious buildings erected in the west end of the

city. Of the Glasgow Academy he was a director for many years until he retired in favour of his second son, who still retains a place on its board of management.

Mr. Blackie took a deep interest in the Old Wynd, in which he was born, and where he had served his apprenticeship. In process of time its character changed very greatly, and instead of being the residence of respectable people, it came to be occupied by a degraded population. It was in the Tron parish, and toward 1850 was selected by the Rev. Dr. Buchanan, minister of the Free Tron Church, and his office-bearers for active Christian efforts. School premises being required, Mr. Blackie, though not connected with that congregation, purchased an old candle-work at a cost of £500, and presented it to the Mission. The seed thus cast into the ground yielded very ample returns, for the success of the Mission soon caused a church also to be erected, and the progress of that church was so great that the minister of it soon after retired from the Wynd with a band of efficient office-bearers and raised a new church in Bridgegate, a district in which the operations of Christian workers were very much required, while the Wynd Mission was carried on by his successors. Three times afterwards was the same process repeated, so that the Wynd Church became the parent of the Bridgegate Church, Trinity Church, the Free Barony Church, and Augustine Church, each of which in its turn became the parent of another. In all these changes Mr. Blackie

was a friend on whom reliance could be placed for an encouraging word and material aid.

After having enjoyed a happy married life of forty-three years, Mr. Blackie was bereaved of his beloved wife on 17th December, 1847.¹ Their family consisted of seven sons and one daughter, only three of whom, the oldest and two youngest sons, attained mature years, five having succumbed to diseases of childhood. Naturally the chief care of the family devolved upon the mother, and faithfully were the needful duties discharged, both in relation to the physical comfort of the children, or the training of their minds in the ways of righteousness. She was a constant reader of the Holy Scriptures and of books of a religious character,² which, together with the home training under her parents, enabled her to impart to the youthful minds a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, and to train them in accordance with its precepts. She was further excellently equipped for training and interesting children, being possessed of a most retentive memory, which, well stored with old ballads and old stories, formed a never-failing

¹ In 1841 a life-size portrait of Mrs. Blackie was painted by Dan. Macnee, R.S.A., as a companion to the portrait of Mr. Blackie, Senr., by Bonnar, already referred to. A smaller portrait of Mrs. Blackie was painted in water-colours by Kenneth Macleay, R.S.A., in 1845. The smaller picture is much the more perfect likeness. Both these pictures are now in the possession of the family of Mr. Robert Blackie.

² Haweis' *Commentary*, *Horne on the Psalms*, *Memoirs of the Countess of Huntingdon*, the *Scots Worthies*, with the works of Willison and Bunyan, *Memoirs of Count Sully*, *Minister of Henry IV. of France*, are samples of the literary and spiritual nourishment on which she was accustomed to feed.

resource for securing the attention of the young mind. Being shrewd and capable, her husband found her to be a valuable counsellor in all the changes of life, and one whose opinion on a wide range of recurring matters he was not slow to turn to practical use; to her good sense and kindly feeling, wise advice and encouraging support in the midst of difficulties, her husband gratefully attributed much of the success with which he was able to carry on his business. Her sons regarded her with devoted affection, which tended to make her life happy, and which was returned to them in abounding measure.

Two incidents in Mrs. Blackie's early life are worth recording, illustrating as they do in a vivid manner the difficulties which beset travellers in the early part of the present century.

Prior to the introduction of steam-boats on the Clyde, travelling by the river was a somewhat uncertain means of transit to places lower down the river and on the firth. It was rendered all the more so by sand-banks and other obstacles which impeded navigation except when covered by the tide. The fly-boat, propelled by sail and oars, took passengers to Greenock, and it was no unusual experience for that vessel to be stranded on the way and detained till the next tide before it could continue its voyage. A case in point may be narrated.

Mrs. Blackie's parents, as we have seen, belonged to Bute. Naturally, therefore, Mrs. Blackie made occasional visits to Rothesay. Two of these visits may be noticed,

each of them in its way somewhat remarkable, one for the protracted duration of the journey, the other for its great celerity; both took place prior to the general introduction of steamboat navigation on the Clyde. On the one occasion Mrs. Blackie took passage in the packet-boat from the Broomielaw on a Monday. The vessel was detained several days by storm under the shelter of Dunglass Castle, Bowling, and several days more by a like cause in the river Leven, and it was not until the Monday following that Mrs. Blackie was landed in Rothesay, thus enduring a voyage of eight days.¹ The other trip referred to was much more fortunate. Leaving with an early and good tide, the *fly-boat* landed her with her son in Greenock early in the forenoon. There was a vessel at the quay bound for Rothesay, but she was not to sail till next day. Mrs. Blackie therefore secured lodgings for the night, but had scarcely got fairly established in them when the town-crier's drum was heard with the announcement that the Rothesay packet would sail that day at two o'clock. This change in the arrangements was afterwards ascertained to be due to a gentleman who with his family had arrived and offered sufficient pecuniary inducements to the captain of the packet to anticipate his departure by a day. Favoured by a fine wind the packet made a smart voyage and landed her passengers in Rothesay early in the evening. When Mrs. Blackie informed her friends that she

¹ The usual time now taken from Glasgow to Rothesay is an hour and three-quarters.

and her son had left Glasgow in the morning of the same day, their astonishment was great; such a passage performed in one day having been hitherto quite unheard of.

Of a somewhat retiring disposition, a prominent feature in Mrs. Blackie's character was forethought and unselfishness, combined with attention to the interests of others besides herself. One example of her solicitude in this direction may be narrated. She privately looked forward to her sons in due time entering the married state, and knew that except herself they had no near female relative to aid them in many necessary details which accompany such a change in condition. She, moreover, felt herself to be advancing in life, and was apprehensive that when such changes took place in the family she might not herself be there to lend assistance. She therefore procured three good-sized trunks, had a brass plate put on each, with the name of a son inscribed on it. Many times the sons made a joke of those trunks, which they conceived were their property in virtue of the name of each one being engraved on the brass plate. The secret of the trunks was well kept, and not revealed till the first marriage took place, that of Walter, when it was found that his trunk was filled with a complete assortment of bed and table linen, all duly marked by his mother's own needle with his initials, W. G. B., and the year, 1839. The marriage having taken place in 1846, the date was thus seven years old, and much was the amusement when the mystery was explained.

Great was the joy of Mrs. Blackie when this, the first marriage in the family took place, and that joy was increased when she became a grandmother. That position of honour she was not fated to occupy long, for in rather less than a month before the first anniversary of her grandchild's birth she was called to her rest! Her end, like her life, was peace. She passed away with the words of the prophet Isaiah, xliii. 2, on her dying lips, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee".

On 4th Nov., 1850, Mr. Blackie entered a second time into the wedded state, being on that day united in marriage to Margaret Frame, widow of David Ferguson. This marriage took place about three years after the decease of the first Mrs. Blackie, and about one year after the marriage of the eldest son, John. As Mr. Blackie was born in 1782, he was 68 years of age at the time of his second marriage. This marriage was in every respect a happy one, and the care and attention bestowed upon him by his second wife tended not only greatly to his comfort and happiness, but to the preservation of his health and the prolongation of his life. She survived her husband eight years, and died July 3rd, 1882.

John Blackie, senr., was gifted with a large share of common sense, was a close observer of human nature, and possessed a clear insight into character. He befriended

many young and rising men, and was kind to those of his relatives, however distant, who had not prospered in the world. His observations on men and manners, or rather on the affairs of the day, were shrewd and pointed, and many of the friends who used to visit him in his old age were attracted by his racy remarks and lively conversation.

He was early imbued with the spirit of evangelical religion, which was reviving and spreading in the early part of the century, and took deep interest in its progress. If this happy state of mind was not due to the teaching and example of the godly pair who became his father-in-law and mother-in-law, it was doubtless greatly fostered by them, and by the teaching of that much-esteemed servant of God, the Rev. Mr. Brodie, under whose ministry he for some years worshipped. His religion being of a thoroughly practical kind, affected his mind not only in his private relations at home and with friends, but in the conduct of his business. Desiring, therefore, to aid the progress of the evangelical movement by supplying suitable literature, he influenced his firm to produce a number of religious works of a practical kind. In doing so his efforts were most probably very cordially seconded by his partner, Mr. Sommerville, who in religious matters was like-minded with himself. During the first ten years of the existence of the firm more than half of the publications were of a religious character, and as long as Mr. Blackie lived similar literature formed an impor-

tant feature in the publications of the firm. He greatly admired *Harveis' Evangelical Expositor*, and desired to publish a translation into Gaelic, for the benefit of the Highlanders, of the volume containing the exposition of the New Testament. Though he could not expect such a publication to defray the cost of production, he proceeded to circulate through the Highlands, among the ministers of Gaelic congregations and others, proposals for its publication, and that at a very low price. From these, however, he received but little encouragement, and was farther discouraged by the great difficulty in finding a competent translator. He was informed by one of the most accomplished Gaelic scholars of the day (a man who heartily commended the project), that while there were many ministers who preached in Gaelic, very few of them could write in that language. Mr. Blackie would have faced these difficulties had his proposals met with a cordial reception, but as in many quarters they seemed to be received with indifference, this benevolent project fell to the ground.

From the time of the Disruption of the Church of Scotland, 1843, up to 1860, Mr. Blackie continued to worship in the church of Free St. John's, under the ministration of his friend, the Rev. Thos. Brown, D.D., and his successor, the Rev. John Roxburgh, D.D., during which time, besides discharging the ordinary duties of an elder, he was treasurer for the Sustentation Fund, and took a general and active interest in all that affected the wel-

fare of the congregation, whether of a missionary or educational character. Some years after his second marriage, having taken up his residence in the west end of the city, he (1860) resigned his eldership in Free St. John's, and united with friends in promoting the erection of a new place of worship near the Botanic Gardens. In this church, which on its completion received the name of Kelvinside Free Church, he continued to attend ordinances and to act as an elder up to the time of his decease. It owed much to him as one of its founders, and as one who always took a deep interest in its prosperity, bearing in his mind not merely its financial affairs, but also the progress of spiritual religion among its members.

The first minister of the young congregation was the Rev. Wm. Trail, M.A., of the Free Tron Church, Glasgow. "He was inducted into the charge on Thursday, 18th June, 1862, five years and four months after the first public meeting for the erection of a church had been held in the Religious Institution Rooms." On the fourth day of September following the foundation-stone of the permanent edifice was laid by Mr. Blackie, who expressed "the gratitude of the promoters of the undertaking that their labour had so far prospered that they had now a good hope of seeing at no distant date their earnest wishes realized by the completion of the edifice, whence might be proclaimed from year to year, when those present were gathered to their fathers, the truths of the blessed Gospel, carrying comfort and delight

to the hearts of God's children, and bringing light into the eyes of them that sit in darkness".¹ In connection with this interesting event, the Deacons' Court, at its meeting held in March of the following year, passed a formal resolution on the subject, a copy of which is subjoined:—

“Kelvinside Free Church.—Excerpt of Minute of Meeting of
Deacons' Court, held 26th March, 1863.

“The Deacons' Court, being desirous to express their deep sense of many services rendered to the FREE CHURCH by John Blackie, senr., Esquire, as well as to commemorate the laying of the FOUNDATION STONE of their new place of worship by him on the fourth day of September, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, unanimously Resolve that a Record of that interesting event, signed by his fellow office-bearers and those associated with him at an earlier period in the progress of the Congregation, shall be inscribed on vellum and presented to him at the first social meeting of the Congregation, to be held in the Queen's Rooms on the seventh day of April next.

“GEORGE GRAY, Deacon.	WILLIAM TRAIL, M.A., Moderator.
A. R. MUNRO, Deacon.	JOSHUA PATERSON, M.D., Elder.
W. S. SAWERS, Deacon.	P. FERGUSON, Elder.
DD. GRAY, Deacon.	W. G. BLACKIE, Elder.
D. CALDER, Deacon.	GEO. SAWERS, Elder.
D. E. OUTRAM, Deacon.	D. MORRISON, Elder.
JOHN MACDONALD, Deacon.	JOHN M. STARK, Elder.
ROBERT BINNING.	JOHN BLACKIE, Junr.
THOMAS CORBETT.	ALEXR. STRONACH.”

At the date indicated, this minute, written on vellum, was duly presented by the office-bearers and friends

¹ Semi-jubilee Kelvinside Free Church.

whose signatures appear on this document, and only three are now (September, 1896) known to be still in the land of the living.

The present incumbent of Kelvinside Free Church, the Rev. Walter Ross Taylor, D.D., was settled in the charge, 25th June, 1868. Six years thereafter, on the Sabbath after Mr. Blackie's decease, preaching from Matt. xxv. 21, he made special reference to his elder and the father of the Kirk-Session in his discourse. He said:—

“Since I had the happiness of becoming acquainted with Mr. Blackie, one thing which increasingly impressed me was the completeness of his Christian character. He was singularly free from one-sidedness. Like the physical frame which could outlast three generations of men, and live on to its ninety-second year, his spiritual nature also was notably free from weak points. It was healthy and vigorous throughout. Thus, while he was intensely practical—always on the alert to devise and execute schemes of usefulness—he none the less found his joy in sitting, like Mary, at Jesus' feet, in quiet contemplation; and accordingly his favourite reading was the Psalms, that home of devout and meditative natures. Thus also, while earnestly intent to see the realization of his benevolent desires, he was yet characteristically calm, deliberate, and patient, full of holy wisdom as well as of holy zeal. This admirable symmetry of character was partly due to natural gifts: for, as his business career testifies, he possessed no ordinary degree of clear, practical

sagacity, and calm, resolute perseverance, and, as every friend can testify, his heart was as warm as his judgment was wise. . . . At the trying period of the Disruption he took a front place among the large-hearted men who gave willingly and liberally of their substance for the thorough equipment of the Church, when she chose to renounce State endowment, that she might be free from State control; and during the one-and-thirty years which have since elapsed, neither his devotion to the principles he then professed, nor his desire to aid them to the utmost of his power, knew any abatement. Liberality in the past was never with him a reason for frowning on new schemes of Christian effort; he welcomed them with joyful satisfaction, and as a faithful steward of the means intrusted to him, contributed to each according to its importance. For with him giving to the cause of Christ was no mere thing of impulse, but the expression of strong Christian principle. He was thoroughly convinced of the wisdom and duty of systematic giving—that is to say, of consecrating weekly to God's service a definite proportion of his income, and of laying it regularly aside for sacred uses; and on this plan he acted constantly for years. . . . He knew quite well that he was dying, but approaching death had no terrors for him; on the contrary, he looked forward to the better country with an unclouded, unruffled expectancy. Nothing could have been more peaceful than that deathbed; nothing more calmly triumphant than his

trust in the all-sufficiency of Christ, and very striking it also was to observe how his interest in Christ's cause continued strong to the last."¹

The following excerpts from a private note-book of John Blackie, Senr., will form a fitting conclusion to this sketch of the life of a good man. The notes extend over a period of about twenty years, the first being dated October, 1853, and the last January 12th, 1872, about eighteen months prior to his decease. They consist chiefly of pious ejaculations entered once each year on the recurrence of his birthday in the month of October and at the opening of the new year.

November 1, 1855.

On 27th October I completed my 73rd year. During the past year the Lord has been very merciful to me. All the families have been spared, and have had a measure of health; and everything has prospered in a worldly way, and I trust there has been a progress in spiritual matters. On Sabbath, 21st October, my son John had a third son—the mother and child doing well up to this day, 1st November.

O Lord, fill me with gratitude to thee for eleven grandchildren. If it be Thy will may they all be trained up in Thy fear, and enabled through a humble dependence on Thee to be strengthened for the great conflict which is before them, if it be Thy will to spare them. O Lord, how wonderful are all Thy ways to me, Thy unworthy servant! Thou hast spared me to see our College question in a manner settled during the past year, which I hope will lead to peace and harmony in our Free Church. But, O Lord, keep us humble,

¹ See also Appendix VII. for a further appreciation of Mr. Blackie's services in connection with Kelvinside Free Church by the Kirk Session.

and enable me and all concerned to say, Not of us, O Lord, but unto Thee be all the glory and praise. Guide me to look up to Thee continually, grant me heavenly desires and a growing in grace. Wean my heart and desires from the things of the world, and may Thy glory be my chief desire—that Christ may be all in all. O lead me to all truth, for the sake of Thy son. J. B.

October 27th, 1862.

This day completes my 80th year, fourscore being the lot of few; and I can say the Lord has been guiding and directing me since my earliest days. Everything has prospered. I have been abundantly blessed in my family, they having been enabled to live useful lives and be a blessing to many.

This day I had a visit of nine children of my son Walter, six girls and three boys, and three of my son John, who is at present one of the magistrates of Glasgow. . . . The children were all happy, and I gave each a crown in commemoration of this 80th birthday. O Lord, give me grace to live to Thee, rendering thanks to Thy name. Enable me to walk uprightly all the days of my life. Be with me, and all the children thou hast given me, to direct their way that they may be kept from the evils to which they are exposed. Lead them to learn from Thy word to call on Thy name and believe thou art their Father in heaven, who alone can keep them from the snares of the world, and in whom they can trust. This I have experienced all my life long. To Him through our Lord Jesus Christ be all the glory; in me there is nothing but sin. Lord, make me thankful for all I have enjoyed. J. B.

*NOTES ON THE LIFE OF
JOHN BLACKIE, JUNR.,
BORN 27TH SEPT., 1805;
DIED 13TH FEB., 1873*

John Blackie, Junr., was born in Glasgow on 27th September, 1805, the year in which Nelson gained his great victory off Cape Trafalgar. He was the eldest son of John Blackie, Senr., the founder of the firm, and the eldest child of a family of eight, of whom five died in childhood and one still survives. It was probably from the union, through his parentage, of the mental qualities which characterize the distinct races, the Saxon and the Celt that he came to be endowed with that prudence, thoughtfulness, and perseverance which formed conspicuous features of his character, combined with an amount of latent fire which supplied a constant impetus to exertion, and which, when it encountered unwonted obstacles, could be converted into a condition of very marked activity.

From the school carried on by Mr. Angus, a well-known and much-esteemed teacher of the day in Glasgow, he passed to the High School, where he was enrolled in the class of Mr. Gibson. He manifested his appreciation of his class and his school companions by attending with exemplary constancy for many years the annual dinner on

the 10th of October, where he and his old class-fellows met to celebrate the anniversary of their names being for the first time enrolled in the class list of the Grammar School, a red-letter day in the history of many a youth. In commercial arithmetic and accounts, in which he became very expert, he was taught by Thomas Rennie, to whose intelligent and thorough mode of tuition many business men bore grateful testimony in this life. Having completed his school education he was taken into his father's business; and in 1826, when twenty-one years of age, he was admitted a partner. For this new and important position he was admirably qualified by his methodical business habits and his literary tastes. The latter had been cultivated by a wide course of reading, both in prose and in poetry, which, aided by a retentive memory and very suggestive mind, rendered him a valuable member of the copartnery. His influence in the business was soon made manifest by the publications issued by the firm, which from that time, till his decease in 1873, were produced mainly under his guidance. More especially was this the case subsequently to 1831, in which year Mr. Blackie and his father became the sole partners in the business.

While in his earlier years Mr. Blackie's attention was attracted chiefly by the lighter class of literature, it came afterwards to be turned in quite a different direction. The firm having commenced the publication of annotated editions of the Scriptures, questions of copyright in



John Blackie, Junr.

at the age of 60.

respect of the notes arose, which he thought it expedient to examine carefully for his own information and satisfaction. By this means he was led into an extended study of Biblical literature, which was continued long after the originating impetus thereto had ceased to operate, and had the effect of qualifying him for a task upon which he entered with characteristic zeal, that of suggesting the publication of books connected with biblical literature, and that of aiding in their editorial supervision when passing through the press.

Mr. Blackie's eagerness for the diffusion of sound literature induced him to take a very active part in establishing *The Scottish Guardian*, the first religious newspaper published in Scotland. The first number of this journal was issued in 1832 and the last in 1862. It was liberal in politics and evangelical in religious matters; and during the whole thirty years of its useful existence was conducted in the spirit of its motto, an utterance of Lord Erskine, "The people of Great Britain are a free and a religious people, and, by the blessing of God, I will lend my aid to keep them so".

In consequence of the appalling state of overcrowding which was found to exist in the common lodging-houses of the city, with its concomitant evils, moral and physical, Mr. James Watson,¹ stockbroker, commenced a movement (in 1847), which was cordially joined by Mr. Blackie, to

¹ Subsequently Lord Dean of Guild and Lord Provost of the City, and afterwards honoured by knighthood being conferred upon him.

form an association having for its object to substitute for evil dens of immorality and centres of disease, so prevalent at the time, cheap, cleanly, and healthful lodgings. With this view three excellent houses were established, two for males, with 643 beds, and one for females, with 200 beds, all of which came to be fully patronized by the classes for whose benefit they were erected. This useful association, of which Mr. Blackie continued throughout to be an active member, was dissolved in 1877; but the good work it began is still continued on a much-extended scale by the Corporation of Glasgow and other parties. By 1871 (two years prior to his decease) the 643 beds it provided had increased to 2092, uniformly well occupied from one year's end to another.

In 1857, at the request of the municipal electors of the seventh ward in Glasgow, Mr. Blackie came forward as a candidate for a seat in the Town Council, and was duly elected. In this active body he found himself associated with several esteemed friends, and entered upon the duties of the office with his usual ardour. The intelligent attention he gave to the business of the corporation soon caused him to be recognized as a leading member of the Council. While he took part frequently in the discussions which occurred he never spoke unless he had something of importance to say, when his words were well weighed and pregnant with suggestive thought. At the end of two years' probation he was elected a Bailie of the Burgh, an office which he occupied one year during

the provostship of Mr. Galbraith, and three years during that of his warm friend Provost Clouston. In 1863 Mr. Blackie was elected to occupy the civic chair by the unanimous vote of the Town Council, and thus became Lord Provost of the city for the ordinary term of three years. It is needless almost to add that he carried into the duties of that high office the zeal which had distinguished his career in the Town Council, and did not shrink from any amount of personal labour in his ardour to become thoroughly acquainted with the details of business brought before not only the Council as a whole, but of each of the numerous committees of which he was official chairman. The excessive work which he undertook during his tenure of office unquestionably injured his health, and shortened his days.

In 1864 Mr. Blackie was entertained at a Complimentary Dinner, as Lord Provost of the city, by the COMPANY OF STATIONERS of Glasgow, an old benevolent incorporation of which he had been President thirty years before. This friendly meeting was attended by a large number of Members of the COMPANY and other friends, and the chair was occupied by David Robertson, Junr., son of a worthy sire, David Robertson, Senr., Her Majesty's bookseller in Glasgow, an old friend of Mr. Blackie, well known as the publisher of *Whistle Binkie*, and as the encouraging patron of young poets and aspiring writers generally.

The crowded and pestilential condition of many of the

lodging-houses, and the beneficent efforts made to combat this evil, have been referred to already. But a far greater evil was found to exist in the city, arising from the houses in numerous localities being built too closely together, so much so in many places as to exclude a due proportion of light and air, and induce a state of filth and disease which raised the death-rate in them to the alarming figure of 17 in the thousand higher than the average of the rest of the city. With a view to remove these plague-spots and nurseries of vice, and replace them with well-lighted, well-aired houses and open breathing-spaces, Mr. Blackie proposed the City Improvement Scheme, a measure which above all others will serve to distinguish his tenure of office. This scheme was first brought by him before the Town Council on September 17th, 1865, and was then well received both by the Council and by the citizens generally. When fully matured, it included the dealing with 88 acres of over-built ground, the formation or improvement of forty-five streets, and the power to expend £1,250,000 on the purchase of property, and to assess by taxation on rental 6*d.* per £ for five years and 3*d.* per £ for ten years, figures which were prominently brought under public notice both in the discussions that took place in the Council and in the columns of the newspapers of the day. The Improvement Act was passed almost without opposition in the Parliamentary session of 1866, and immediately thereafter a tax of 6*d.* per £ on the rental of the city to be paid by occupiers was im-

posed for the first year. Up till this time nothing but praises had been heard of the new scheme. Every one professed to be delighted with the prospect of the city being not only cleansed, but in many respects beautified. No one seemed to consider the cost as inordinate, at least no voice had hitherto been raised in that sense. The imposition, however, of a tax of 6*d.* per £ on rental announced by the Town Council stirred up the ire of the tax-payers to an extraordinary degree, and naturally the chief brunt of the recriminations fell upon the proposer of the scheme.

Mr. Blackie's term of office as Lord Provost and Town Councillor expired in November, 1866, and being desirous to render what assistance he could in carrying through the details of the Improvement Scheme, he offered himself again for election. But the storm raised by the imposition of the tax of 6*d.* per £ stirred up a keen opposition to him, with the result that his opponent was elected by a majority of two votes. This defeat might have been averted had Mr. Blackie's friends been on the alert; but no one believed he could be defeated, and unfortunately many of his supporters did not record their votes. While he was doubtless annoyed by this adverse vote, he soon dismissed the matter from his mind and set about his ordinary business with his usual alacrity. He continued his usual attention to business for some years, but his physical system, shaken by the overstrain caused by his labours during his provostship, never recovered its former

condition, and notwithstanding a journey to Rome and other parts of the Continent in search of sound health, he ultimately succumbed to a sharp attack of pleurisy on February 13th, 1873, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

The great merits of the Improvement Scheme came gradually to be fully recognized by the citizens generally, and now there are few who will dissent from the following opinion, expressed by the *Scotsman* in an obituary notice which appeared the day after his decease:—"Ex-Provost Blackie, as originator of the Improvement Scheme, has perhaps done more for the good of the city of Glasgow than any other of its chief magistrates, with the exception of Lord Provost Stewart, who promoted the Loch Katrine Water Scheme".

The tax imposed under the Improvement Act, commenced as has been noted at 6*d.* per £ of rental, continued in existence for about thirty years, being gradually reduced from time to time, till in 1896 it stood only at $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* per £. In that year, by the vote of the Town Council at the meeting held on September 16th, it was completely abandoned. A local newspaper, issued two days before that meeting took place, printed the following observations, with the spirit and appropriateness of which few citizens will disagree:—"With the Improvement Trust rate at vanishing point, or entirely gone, the ratepayers of to-day have no conception of the indignation and animosity that were roused against Lord Provost Blackie, who was the father of the Trust. In 1843 Mr. John

Blackie, Junr., began to interest himself in the model lodging-house movement, and when he entered the Town Council in 1857 it was with the firm conviction that an extensive scheme of city improvement was the necessity of the moment. The bill which he introduced was carried without opposition, but when the maximum rate of 6*d.* per £1 was imposed in 1867 the storm broke. Desirous of returning to the Town Council in the interests of the new Trust, Lord Provost Blackie sought re-election for the Sixth Ward, but he lost his seat by two votes. Mr. Blackie never completely recovered from the shock administered by a short-sighted and selfish electorate." —*Glasgow Evening News*, Monday, September 14th, 1896.

Besides the Improvement Act, the other more notable events of Mr. Blackie's Provostship were the presentation of the freedom of the city to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, the latter on the occasion of his visiting the city to unveil the equestrian statue of his father, the late Prince Consort, in George Square. He had the honour and satisfaction of entertaining both the great commoner and the young prince at his residence, Lilybank, Hillhead.

During the last year of his tenure of office, the armorial bearings of the city were authoritatively fixed for the first time by the Lord King-at-Arms in accordance with suggestions made by Mr. Andrew Macgeorge

in an admirable history of the arms which he drew up at this time. This interesting history was produced at the expense of Mr. Blackie in a fully-illustrated volume, and one of the last of his official acts was to present a copy of this volume to the Corporation and to each of the members of the Town Council. His services during the three years he had been in office were recognized by a very cordial vote of thanks being passed by the Council unanimously, accompanied with a resolution that a copy of the "Minute recording their thanks should be presented to Mr. Blackie in a silver casket". This resolution was carried into effect, after the close of his civic career, at a large meeting convened for the purpose, and held on 12th December, in the Corporation Rooms, presided over by Lord Provost Lumsden, his successor in office. He was further honoured by his funeral being made a public one, by special request of the Town Council. It was attended by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and many members of the Town Council in their official capacity.

Mr. Blackie was an elder of the Free Church, a warm supporter of her schemes, and often a member of the General Assembly of that church. He took an active interest in promoting the establishing of the Free Church Theological College in Glasgow, founded in 1855 by a gift of £20,000 from Dr. Clark, of Western Moffat, on condition of other £20,000 being raised to form part of an endowment for it; and became one of the guarantors

of this sum in order to fulfil the condition on which the gift was made. The ultimate success of the whole scheme owed much to his intelligent and persistent action. Being appointed a member of the Assembly's Committee for negotiating a union with the United Presbyterian Church, he entered upon the duties very zealously, and exerted his influence uniformly on the side of union. He was also one of the representatives of the Free Church on the Board of the Ferguson Bequest, in the operations of which he took a lively interest; and in like manner his name was identified with many other charitable and religious institutions in the city.

Mr. Blackie was an agreeable companion, and often delighted his friends in social meetings, or when on an excursion on foot or otherwise, with apt quotations from the older and later poets, and by drawing upon a fund of anecdote which seemed to be inexhaustible. He had a family of three sons, all of whom and his widow survived him.

*NOTES ON THE LIFE OF ROBERT
BLACKIE, BORN 6TH MARCH, 1820;
DIED 2ND APRIL, 1896. CONTRI-
BUTED BY HIS DAUGHTER, A. R. B.*

On March 25th, 1896, a quartette of travelling companions left Charing Cross station, London, for Paris. The party consisted of Mr. Robert Blackie, his only unmarried daughter, his daughter Mrs. Aikman, and the eldest daughter of Dr. W. G. Blackie. Everything seemed auspicious, and the journey was entered upon with the happiest anticipations. In the first instance, the object was to reach Marseilles in such time as to enable the travellers to meet Dr. Blackie at that port on his return from Egypt, where, accompanied by two of his daughters, he had been spending the winter.

For many years it was the pleasant custom of Mr. Robert Blackie to make a continental tour in summer, and in this way an extensive acquaintance with the beautiful both in art and nature was acquired.

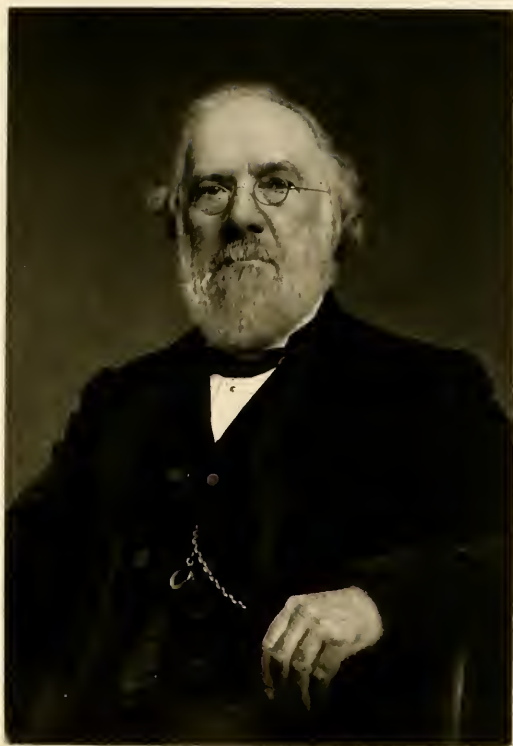
On the present occasion a start was made earlier than usual, for the reason already named, and by good fortune, on the very eve of departure, Mrs. Aikman found it possible to be of the party.

It was intended that on Dr. Blackie's arrival his

daughter should join him, while Mr. Blackie and his party prolonged their tour along the Riviera into Italy. A night spent in Paris and a day in a south-going train brought the travellers to Avignon—that city of old memories. With his usual keen interest in all which surrounded him, Mr. Blackie did not fail to make a detailed inspection of the Palace of the Popes, and other monumental buildings; indeed, it is feared that the fatigue of that visit may have been a predisposing cause to the illness which seized him so shortly afterwards.

On March 28th Marseilles was reached, and on the day following (Sunday) a piercing “mistral” swept the city. Though not actually exposed to the wind, the draughts caused by it must have penetrated the apartments occupied by the family, for before evening Mr. Blackie complained of having caught cold. That this was not serious is shown by the fact that next day he went out in the morning to view the neighbourhood, though later he found it well to remain indoors. On Tuesday morning early (31st) the arrival of the steamer from Egypt was signalled, and the brothers had the pleasure of meeting once more, and of enjoying that intercourse which had always been a happiness to both. Little did either of them think that this was to be the last talk they were to have together.

On the day following a crowded train bore the whole party along the beautiful shores of the Mediterranean. Not long, however, after starting Mr. Blackie showed signs



Robert Blackie.
at the age of 74.

of illness, and before Cannes was reached he was seriously unwell. Arrived at the hotel a doctor was summoned, who pronounced the patient to be suffering from congestion of the lungs, and took from the first the gravest view of his condition. Throughout the night and the greater part of next day everything was done which medical skill and filial love could devise; but before four o'clock on 2nd April all that was left to the sorrowing family was the lifeless tenement of one who had passed peacefully to that other world, where there are no more tears.

Born at Adelphi Place, Glasgow, 6th March, 1820, Mr. Robert Blackie had just entered his 77th year at the time of his death. He was, as we have seen, the youngest son of John Blackie, senr., and his wife, Catherine Duncan. From boyhood Mr. Blackie showed special artistic leanings, which he cultivated by study and travel. The late W. L. Leitch, the eminent water-colour painter, and instructor of the Queen, was an early teacher, and to him Mr. Blackie always expressed a debt of gratitude. An art critic of a high order, he had a power of discrimination seldom surpassed. In due course he became a member of the firm (1842), and in business life his knowledge of art and keen perception of the beautiful were of great value. He had an extensive acquaintance with many of the leading artists of the day, and his power of discovering promise of distinction in young artists was almost always justified in later life.



In April, 1853, he married Ann Robertson, daughter of James Robertson, iron merchant in Glasgow, and his wife, Janet Henderson. Almost immediately the newly-married couple set out on a journey to America. They sailed for New York on the Cunard liner *Africa*, and though there were only about forty-eight hours of rough weather, a voyage of twelve days was considered a good one. The object of this journey was to attend to the affairs of the firm; but it was also a "wedding journey", and many happy pictures lingered in the memory in after years. Six children were born of this marriage—one son and five daughters. Two of the daughters died in childhood, but the rest of the family survive. These are James Robertson Blackie, now a member of the firm; Mrs. W. G. Aikman, Anna Robertson Blackie, and Mrs. H. M. Ewing. Mr. Blackie's wife died in 1873, and in 1877 he married, for the second time, Lucy Herndon, daughter of Dr. Brodie Herndon, of Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A. This marriage subsisted till March, 1887, when Mrs. Blackie died unexpectedly at Alexandria, in Egypt, where, accompanied by one of Mr. Blackie's daughters (the same who was ever after his companion), she had been spending the winter in search of health. It may be well to mention that the mortal remains both of Mr. Blackie and of his second wife were brought home, and interred in his family vault at the Necropolis, Glasgow.

Mr. Blackie's range of information was remarkable, being acquired by long years of study and great powers

of observation; a logical mind enabling him to make the best use of his knowledge and experience whether in social intercourse or in business. His views of art were of no superficial character; he was able to judge and discriminate what was good and beautiful; a thorough critic, he could take a thing to pieces and build it up again. He had a comprehensive knowledge of art in its history and development, combined with technical information and an exquisite taste for form and colour. He was thoroughly versed in the study of architecture as a fine art, and knew intimately the treasures in all the greater collections of Europe, while his retentive memory made his knowledge of great practical utility.

At an early age, when travelling was by no means the easy, not to say luxurious pastime which it now is, he made acquaintance with many art centres; and as his love of travel was shared by his wife, his marriage was no hindrance to its gratification. Together Mr. and Mrs. Blackie visited Rome and Florence, Paris and Turin; and to Mr. Blackie the visits to noted art collections were no mere casual walk round a gallery, he really studied what was before him, and what he saw he made his own. He knew in what galleries were to be found the best specimens of individual old masters, and of modern paintings his careful examination of the great annual exhibitions gave him an intimate and accurate acquaintance. He travelled in America, as well as in Europe, Palestine, and Egypt, and from

every source he constantly amassed valuable information.

A special hobby of the subject of this sketch was arboriculture. Of it he made a thorough study. And in the grounds of his summer home on Loch Long he gathered together a very large collection of trees and shrubs, each of which was to him as a friend. He made it a point to know what conditions were best suited for each variety of tree or shrub—whether city smoke or sea spray could be successfully withstood, whether shade or sunshine were necessary to ensure successful cultivation. Indeed, he was never happier than when in the midst of his garden, surrounded by beautiful growing things which owed their well-being to his care and forethought.

While not taking an active part in the public life of his native city, Mr. Blackie had at all times a keen interest in all which concerned its welfare and that of the country at large. He was consistently, but not ostentatiously benevolent, and many have cause in him to mourn a kind and considerate friend.

Like his father, at the Disruption of the Church of Scotland, he joined the Free Church. First as a member of St. John's Church, and later as an office-bearer of St. Matthew's, his powers of organization were felt and appreciated. Shortly after removing his home to Kelvin-side he joined the then newly-formed congregation of Westbourne Church, and though he declined office he was

a member whose judgment and counsel were held in high esteem.

It seems a curious coincidence, that though death came upon him in the strange and sudden manner which has been described, and that far from home, yet the minister of Westbourne Church, Dr. A. Orrock Johnston, was there,—indeed, he occupied the room adjoining that of Mr. Blackie,—and it was very much in anticipation of pleasant and friendly converse with him that a halt at Cannes had been arranged.

Mr. Blackie took a special interest in all matters relating to art and art training in the city of his birth. He was for 21 years on the Committee of Management of the Glasgow School of Art and Haldane Academy, and for many of these years an Examiner under the Local Prize Scheme arranged annually for the students. His knowledge of light and shade and of the figure was of value, both as affording a standard to the student and as an index of how the students' training could be made serviceable in after life. The bridging over the step between a student's school study and his work as an actual designer or draughtsman—oftentimes a very difficult one—he sought to practically effect by occasionally giving commissions from his firm to the more promising of the students of the School, and by being ever ready and willing to advise with any student desiring help or criticism of his productions when completed. Never severe and

always sympathetic, he was the first to see any signs of promise and to aid in their fulfilment; his death has robbed the students of an excellent adviser and the School of a true friend.¹

He identified himself with the Institute of the Fine Arts as a member of the Council, and took a leading part in its advancement. For the promotion of art he was associated with the Glasgow Art Union, and was appointed one of the original trustees of the Alexander Thomson Travelling Studentship.

In the formation of the very fine Art Gallery, which was a special feature of the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888, Mr. Blackie took an important part. His accurate knowledge of where the great masterpieces of modern time had found a home did much to facilitate the work of his committee.

Knowing and understanding the true principles of art, he was enabled to delegate any particular object to its relative position as a work of art. Catholic in taste, he could recognize beauty in all styles, but simplicity was one of his leading principles, and richness was not allowable, whether in architecture or ornament, unless subordinated to the structural lines. Nothing was too trivial for him to take cognizance of; he knew how by simple treatment some element of beauty could be

¹ For details of connection with School of Art the writer is indebted to F. H. Newbery, Esq., Headmaster, and for notes on Architecture to Alex. Skirving, Esq., I.A.

added in form or colour to give to what was apparently a small detail its true value. While fastidious to please, it was a pleasure to hear his frank and friendly criticism, that those could best understand who had the privilege of working with him.

As a man of taste he had a great admiration and partiality for the Greek style of ornament and architecture from its intellectual and abstract beauty of form and refinement. As the Greeks were the most ardent worshippers of beauty, and attained in its representation the highest perfection, so like them his mind was ever striving to find by new combinations that harmony in form or colour which embellished and adorned whatever he touched.

A quality that was apparent in Mr. Blackie's genial disposition was his consideration and regard for those he addressed, whether friends or employees, and they knew and appreciated his worth and venerate his memory. "The True, the Good, and the Beautiful" might be appropriately quoted and applied to express all that was attractive and lovable in his nature, for "*he went about doing good*".

APPENDIX I., BEING A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE CHIEF PUBLICATIONS OF THE FIRM FROM 1809 TO 1874.

1809.

Fleetwood's Life of Christ.

Thompson's Travels in the Holy Land.

1811.

Travels in Italy, by John Moore, M.D., Glasgow.

1813.

Haweis' Evangelical Expositor, 1st and 2nd edns. demy folio,
87 parts at 1s.

1814.

Bell's Glasgow Geography, demy 8vo, 154 nos. at 6*d*.

Cloud of Witnesses, 12 parts.

Watson's Body of Divinity, 1st to 5th edns. demy 4to, 36 nos. at 6*d*.

1815.

Bell on the Covenants, 14 nos. at 6*d*.

Haweis' Evangelical Expositor, 3rd edn. folio.

Hervey's Religious Letters and Sermons, 1st edn., 14 nos. at 6*d*.

Watt's World to Come, demy 8vo, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

1816.

Burns' Poems, 1st edn. demy 8vo, 13 nos. at 6*d*.

Haweis' Evangelical Expositor, 4th edn. folio.

M'Queen's Narrative of the War in 1812-1815, 3 vols. 8vo.

Peddie's Cotton Weaver, 1st to 3rd editions, 6 nos. at 6*d*.

1817.

Hervey's Religious Letters, 2nd edn., 14 nos. at 6*d*.

Peddie's Linen Weaver, 13 nos. at 6*d*.

Scots Worthies, 1st to 4th edns. demy 8vo, 16 nos. at 6*d*.

1818.

Brown's Memoir of Private Christians, 8vo, 15 nos., or bound, 8*s*.

Harp of Caledonia, 18mo, 3 vols. 15*s*., or in 27 nos. at 6*d*.

Haweis' Evangelical Expositor, demy 4to, 168 nos. at 6*d*.

Peddie's Cotton Weaver, 4th edn., 6 nos. at 6*d*.

Whole Works of Flavius Josephus, 1st to 3rd edns. demy 4to, 56
nos. at 6*d*., or 14 parts at 2*s*.

1819.

Baxter's Saints' Everlasting Rest, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

Brown's Dictionary of the Holy Bible, demy 8vo, 41 nos. at 6*d*.

Buchan's Domestic Medicine, 22 nos. at 6*d*.

Burns' Poems, 2nd edn., 13 nos.

Cullen's History of Scotland, 36 parts.

Dwight's Theology: a Complete Body of Divinity, demy 4to, 100
nos. at 6*d*.

Henry on Prayer, Communion with God, and Meekness, 1st edn.
demy 8vo, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

M'Queen's Narrative of Events in 1815, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

Owen on the Holy Spirit, &c., 40 nos.

Watson's Body of Divinity, reissue in 36 parts.

1820.

Beauties of Ralph Erskine, demy 8vo, 38 nos. at 6*d*.

British Minstrel, 16 nos. at 6*d*.

Geographical History of America, 38 nos. at 6*d*.

Henry on Prayer, 2nd edn., 18 nos.

Pilgrim's Progress, demy 8vo, 17 nos. at 6*d*.; issued in 23 nos. in
1836, 24 nos. in 1843.

Scots Worthies, reissue in 16 nos.

Watson's (Thomas, of London) Sermons, 28 nos. at 6*d*.

Whole Works of Flavius Josephus, 4th edn., 56 nos.

Wilson's Sermons, 16 nos.

1821.

Boston's Fourfold State, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

Burns' Poems, 3rd edn., 13 nos.

Dwight's Theology, crown 4to, 70 nos.

Hervey's Meditations, demy 8vo, 15 nos. at 6*d*.

Richardson's Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded, demy 8vo, 26 nos. at 6*d*.

Park's Travels in Africa, demy 8vo, 20 nos. at 6*d*.

1822.

Boston's Communion Sermons, 18 nos. at 6*d*.

Brown's History of Missions, 50 nos. at 6*d*.

Psalms of David in Metre, with Notes by Rev. John Brown, 13 nos.
at 6*d*.

The Glasgow Geography, new edn., 154 nos. at 6*d*.

1823.

Aikman's History of Scotland, demy 8vo, 84 nos. at 6*d*.

Denon and Sonini's Travels in Egypt, 14 nos. at 6*d*.

Johnson's English Dictionary, 16 nos. at 6*d*.

Peddie's Practical Measurer, 10 nos. at 6*d*.

Witsius on the Apostles' Creed, 38 nos. at 6*d*.

1824.

Rollin's Ancient History, demy 8vo, 63 nos. at 6*d*.

Rollin's History of the Arts and Sciences of the Ancients, demy 8vo,
28 nos. at 6*d*.

The Protestant, by William M'Gavin, crown 8vo, 60 nos. at 6*d*.

1825.

Mosheim's Church History, demy 8vo, 29 nos. at 6*d*.

1826.

Barr's Plain Catechetical Instructions on Infant Baptism, stitched, 6*d*.Barr's Plain Catechetical Instructions for Young Communicants, stitched, 6*d*.Struthers' History of Scotland, 48 nos. at 6*d*.

1827.

Casquet of Literary Gems, 1st and 2nd series, 64 nos. at 6*d*.Rollin's History of the Arts and Sciences of the Ancients, reissue in 28 nos. at 6*d*.Wodrow's History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, demy 8vo, 88 nos. at 6*d*.

1828.

Barr's Scripture Student's Assistant (Rev. John Barr), 12mo, 3s. 6*d*.

Bell's System of Geography, Popular and Scientific, 42 parts at 2s.

Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible, demy 4to, 92 nos. at 6*d*.

Foreign Tales and Traditions, 14 parts at 1s.

1829.

Beauties of Ebenezer Erskine, 20 nos. at 6*d*.; again issued in 1843.

Struthers' History of the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, 12 parts at 2s.

Watson's Select Works, 28 nos. at 6*d*.

1830.

Barr's Help to Professing Christians, 12mo, 4s. 6*d*.Bishop Hall's Contemplations, demy 8vo, 34 nos. at 6*d*.

Church Establishments, by William M'Gavin, boards, 2s.

Forsyth's Abridgment of the Statutes relative to Scotland, 12 parts at 2s.

Goldsmith's History of the Earth and Animated Nature, royal 18mo, 64 nos.

Knox's History of the Reformation in Scotland, 28 nos. at 6*d*.Murphy's Treatise on the Art of Weaving, 32 nos. at 6*d*.Walker's Dictionary and Key, royal 18mo, 19 nos. at 6*d*.

Willison's Practical Works, 7 parts at 3s.

Works of the Rev. John Newton, 8 parts at 2s.

1831.

- Chambers' Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Scotsmen (Edited by Robert Chambers), demy 8vo, 96 nos.
Gospel Truth accurately stated and illustrated, 14 nos. at 6*d*.
Halyburton's Works, 30 nos. at 6*d*.
Napoleon Buonaparte and his Times, 20 nos. at 6*d*.
Republic of Letters, royal 18mo, 48 nos. at 6*d*.

1832.

- Goldsmith's Miscellaneous Works, royal 18mo, 27 nos. at 6*d*.

1833.

- Adam's Roman Antiquities, royal 18mo, cloth, 5*s*. 6*d*.
Beauties of Jeremy Taylor, 24 nos. at 6*d*.
Book of the Constitution of Great Britain (Stephen), 33 nos. at 6*d*.
The Popular Encyclopedia, 56 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

1834.

- Brown's Dictionary of the Holy Bible, new series, 32 nos. at 6*d*.
Dwight's Theology, new edn., 70 nos.

1835.

- Grier's Mechanic's Calculator and Pocket Dictionary, 27 nos. at 6*d*.
Stackhouse's History of the Bible, super-royal 8vo, 40 nos.
The Portrait Gallery of Scotland, royal 8vo, 14 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

1836.

- Brown's Concordance to the Bible, small 18mo, cloth, 1*s*. 6*d*.
Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible, 80 nos.
Ettrick Shepherd's Tales and Sketches (James Hogg), royal 18mo, 20 parts.
Fleetwood's Life of Christ, royal 8vo, 28 nos. at 6*d*.
Haweis' Evangelical Expositor, issued in 144 nos.
Prevention and Cure of Smoky Chimneys, cloth, 1*s*. 6*d*.
The Protestant (by M'Gavin), reissued in 53 nos. at 1*d*. and 37 at 6*d*.
Watson's Body of Divinity, super-royal 8vo edn., 30 parts.

1837.

- Baxter's Select Practical Works, imperial 8vo, 47 nos. at 6*d*.
 The Land of Burns : a Series of Landscapes and Portraits, demy 4to,
 23 parts at 2*s*. (Edited by Robert Chambers.)
 Potter's Antiquities of Greece, cloth, 9*s*.

1838.

- Adam's Roman Antiquities: Questions, cloth, 1*s*. 6*d*.
 Allan's Unitarian Handbook, cloth, 5*s*.
 Commercial Handbook, 48mo, 1*s*. 6*d*.
 Ettrick Shepherd's Poems, royal 18mo, 17 parts.
 Family Worship, super-royal 8vo, 40 nos. at 6*d*.
 Goldsmith's Earth and Animated Nature, royal 8vo, 66 nos. at 6*d*.
 Hartley's Oratorical Class-book, foolscap 8vo, bound, 2*s*. 6*d*.
 Lawrie's Mercantile Arithmetic, bound, 3*s*. 6*d*.
 Lectures on the Gospel according to Luke, by the Rev. James Foote,
 M.A., Minister of East Parish, Aberdeen, 6 vols., f'cap 8vo.
 Theory of the Differential and Integral Calculus (Rev. John Forbes),
 cloth, 10*s*. 6*d*.

1839.

- Ferguson's Interest Tables, roan, 5*s*.
 Webb's Farmer's Guide, cloth, 4*s*.

1840.

- Casquet of Literary Gems, new edn., 24 parts at 1*s*.
 Cyclopaedia of Medicine, 17 parts at 1*s*.
 Macculloch's Land Measurer, 2*s*.
 Rhind's History of the Vegetable Kingdom, 36 parts.
 Stow's Training System, cloth, 5*s*. 6*d*.
 The Christian's Daily Companion, 40 parts.

1841.

- Adam's Roman Antiquities, with Questions, 8vo edn.
 Barnes' Notes on the New Testament, post 8vo, 33 parts.
 Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible, reissue in 32 parts.
 D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, demy 8vo, 33 parts.
 Imperial Family Bible, imperial 4to, 38 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

1842.

Aikman's History of Scotland, 53 parts at 1s.

Barnes' Questions on the New Testament.

Book of Scottish Song, 16 nos. at 6*d*.

Literary and Commercial Almanac, annually from 1842 to 1872.

Peddie's Practical Measurer, new edn. extended, 12 parts.

The Practical Works of John Willison, 39 nos. at 6*d*.

Works of Robert Burns, 21 parts at 2s.

1843.

Engineer and Machinist's Assistant, imperial 4to, 28 parts at 2s. 6*d*.

Footsteps of the Flock (Anderson), cloth, 1s. 9*d*.

Goldsmith's Earth and Animated Nature, reissue in 16 parts at 2s.

Reid's Treatise on Clock and Watch Making, 10 parts at 2s.

Rollin's Ancient History, reissue in medium 8vo, 16 parts at 2s.

Watson's Body of Divinity, reissue in 29 nos. at 6*d*.

1844.

Baird's Religion in the United States of America, 1 vol., 14s.

Book of Scottish Ballads, 15 nos. at 6*d*.

Construction of Cottages, cloth, 4s.

Fleetwood's Life of Christ, 16½ parts at 1s.

Imperial Family Bible—Psalms.

Luther and Calvin (D'Aubigné), translated by W. G. Blackie,
stitched, 9*d*.

Past History and Future Destiny of Israel, 8vo, 3s. 6*d*.

Stackhouse's History of the Bible, reissue in imperial 8vo, 16 parts.

1845.

D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, emerald edn., 4 vols.,
cloth, at 6s.

Illustrated Pocket Bible, 24 nos. at 6*d*.; and Psalms.

Italy: Classical, Historical, and Picturesque, imperial 4to, 21 parts
at 2s. 6*d*.

Ranke's History of the Popes, 24 parts at 1s.

The Protestant, reissue in 16½ parts at 1s. and 26 nos. at 6*d*.

1846.

Ainsworth's Annotations on the Pentateuch, 14 parts at 2s.; 2 vols. cloth, demy 8vo.

Cooke's Brown's Dictionary of the Bible, 20 parts at 1s.

Cooke's Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible, 46 parts at 1s.; and Psalms.

Comstock's Manual of Natural Philosophy, 1 vol. small 8vo.

Inability of Man (Rev. James Gibson), cloth, 5s.

Scots Worthies and Ladies of the Covenant, 22 parts.

Stow's Bible Training, cloth, 1s. 6d.

1847.

Goldsmith's Miscellaneous Works, new series, 10 parts at 1s.

Imperial Dictionary, imperial 8vo (Ogilvie), 30 parts at 2s. 6d.

Sandford's Essay on the Rise and Progress of Literature, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

Tytler's Elements of History, with continuation, 1 vol.

Walker's Dictionary, double foolscap, 11 parts.

1848.

Comprehensive Family Bible (Davidson), super-royal 4to, 36 parts at 2s.; and Psalms.

Coutt's Tailors' Guide, super-royal 8vo, 14 parts.

Haweis' Family Expositor, issued in 65 parts.

Machinery and Mill Work.

Scott's Bible, 38 parts.

Works of John Bunyan, complete edition, 50 parts at 1s.

1849.

Book of Ornamental Design, imperial 4to, 10 parts.

Engineer and Machinist's Assistant, reissued.

Hall's Contemplations, reissue in medium 8vo, 15 parts at 1s.

Morton's Cyclopedia of Agriculture, super-royal 8vo, 28 parts at 2s. 6d.

Ritchie's Farm Engineer.

Ten Years' Conflict, demy 8vo edn., 2 vols.

1850.

Barnes' Notes on the Old Testament, 19 parts at 1s.

Book of Common Prayer, 16 nos. at 6d.

- Cabinet-Maker's Assistant, imperial 4to, 23 parts at 2s. 6*d.*
Chart of Scripture Chronology, 4*d.*
Imperial Gazetteer, imperial 8vo (Edited by W. G. Blackie, Ph.D.,
F.R.G.S.), 33 parts at 2s. 6*d.*; and later Imperial Atlas.
Ladies of the Covenant (Anderson), 14 nos. at 6*d.*
Republic of Letters, reissue in 16 parts at 1*s.*
Staffa and Iona, foolscap 8vo, 2*s.*
Whole Works of Flavius Josephus, reissue in 22½ parts at 1*s.*

1851.

- Cabinet History of England, 13 vols. at 2*s.*
Gerlach's German Dictionary, bound, 5*s.* 6*d.*
Goldsmith's History of the Earth and Animated Nature, reissue in
36 parts at 1*s.*
Poems and Lyrics, by Robert Nicoll, small 8vo, 3*s.* 6*d.*
Railway Machinery, by D. Kinnear Clark, imperial 4to, 30 parts at
2*s.* 6*d.*
The Agriculturist's Calculator, 17 nos. at 6*d.*
The Christian's Daily Companion, reissue in 20 parts at 1*s.*

1852.

- Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen, medium 8vo, 46
parts at 1*s.*
Fleetwood's Life of Christ, imperial 8vo, 20 parts at 1*s.*
History of the Jews, cloth, 1*s.* 6*d.*
Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte, medium 8vo, 23 parts at 1*s.*
Ten Years' Conflict (Rev. Dr. Buchanan), post 8vo edn., 25 nos. at 6*d.*
Works of Robert Burns, 25 parts at 1*s.* and 8 supplementary parts
with engravings.

1853.

- Engineer and Machinist's Drawing Book (D. K. Clark), imperial 4to,
16 parts at 2*s.*
How to Choose a Good Milk Cow, cloth, 3*s.*

1854.

- Imperial Dictionary Supplement, imperial 8vo, 6 parts at 2*s.* 6*d.*
Ladies of the Reformation (Anderson), 1st and 2nd series, 34 nos.
at 6*d.*

Moffat : its Walks and Wells (Wm. Keddie), foolscap 8vo, 1s.
 Rhind's History of the Vegetable Kingdom, royal 8vo, 22 parts at 1s.
 White's Rural Architecture, imperial 4to, 21 parts at 2s.

1855.

Hand Place Book of United Kingdom, bound, 2s.
 Israel of the Alps, 16½ parts at 1s.
 Stackhouse's History of the Bible, imperial 8vo, reissue in 35 parts
 at 1s.

1856.

Comprehensive History of England (Rev. Thos. Thomson), super-royal
 8vo, 36 parts at 2s.
 New Farmer's Almanac (J. C. Morton), annually from 1856 to 1862, 1s.
 Profession and Practice, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 The Sheepfold and the Common (Timothy East), 28 nos. at 6d.

1857.

Carpenter and Joiner's Assistant, super-royal 4to, 24 parts at 2s.
 Exposition of the Confession of Faith, foolscap, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 M'Crie's Sketches of Scottish Church History, demy 12mo, cloth, 4s.
 The Agriculturist's Assistant, foolscap 8vo, 3s. 6d.
 The Christian Encyclopedia, super-royal 8vo, 22 parts at 1s.
 The Popular Encyclopedia, new edn., 63 parts at 2s.
 Twofold Concordance, post 8vo, 18 nos. at 6d.
 Wayside Flowers, by Alexander Laing, cloth, 2s.

1858.

Elements of General History, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 5s. 6d.
 History of India, by Henry Beveridge, Advocate, super-royal 8vo,
 28 parts at 2s.
 Recent Practice in the Locomotive Engine (D. K. Clark), imperial 4to,
 10 parts at 2s. 6d.
 The Gardener's Assistant (Thompson), super-royal 8vo, 12 parts at
 2s. 6d.
 Theopneustia : Divine Origin and Entire Inspiration of the Bible
 (Gaussen), cloth, 3s.

1859.

- Comstock's Natural Philosophy, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6*d.*
Farm Insects, by John Curtis, super-royal 8vo, 8 parts at 2s. 6*d.*
Notes of a Clerical Furlough (Rev. Dr. Buchanan), cloth, 7s. 6*d.*
Our Farm Crops, crown 8vo, 12 parts at 1s.
The Book of Ecclesiastes: its Meaning and its Lessons (Rev. Dr. Buchanan), cloth, 7s. 6*d.*

1860.

- Ditching and Draining, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s.
Hay and Cattle Measurer, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6*d.*
Select Works of Bunyan (in Welsh), imperial 8vo, 20 parts at 1s.

1861.

- Agriculturist's Calculator, new edn. foolscap 8vo, 17 nos. at 6*d.*
Family Worship, new edn. royal 4to, 25 parts at 1s.
Goldsmith's History of the Earth and Animated Nature, super-royal 8vo, 36 parts at 1s.
Imperial Dictionary, new series including Supplement, 30 parts at 2s. 6*d.*
Memorable Women of the Puritan Times, 2 vols. crown 8vo, 12s.
Works of John Bunyan, extra super-royal edn., 52 parts at 1s.

1862.

- Baxter's Treatises on Practical Religion, imperial 8vo, 17 parts at 1s.
Comprehensive English Dictionary (Ogilvie), super-royal 8vo, 28 parts at 1s.

1863.

- Family Worship, imp. 8vo, 15 parts at 1s. (without the engravings).
Imperial Bible Dictionary, imperial 8vo, 27 parts at 2s. 6*d.*
The Christian in Complete Armour (Gurnall), imperial 8vo, 20 parts at 1s.
Works of the Ettrick Shepherd, new edn. super-royal 8vo, 30 parts at 1s.

1864.

- Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible, royal 4to, 32 parts at 2s.
Willison's Practical Works, reissue in extra super-royal 8vo, 16 parts at 1s.

1865.

Book of Scottish Song, miniature 4to, reissue in 13 nos. at 6*d*.

Student's English Dictionary, 16mo, cloth, 10*s*. 6*d*.

Villa and Cottage Architecture, imperial 4to, 20 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

1866.

Imperial Gazetteer Supplement (W. G. Blackie, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.),
imperial 8vo, 6 parts.

Keith on Prophecy (in Welsh), medium 8vo, 12 parts at 1*s*.

Ladies of the Reformation, reissue in 17 nos.

Y Beibl Teuluaidd Cynwysfawr, imperial 4to, 36 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

1867.

Illustrated Pocket Bible, reissue on larger paper, 24 nos. at 6*d*.

Imperial Family Bible, new series in 36 parts.

Ogilvie's School Dictionary, imperial 16mo, cloth, 5*s*. 6*d*.

Sailor's Word-Book, by Admiral W. H. Smyth, K.E.S., D.C.L., R.N.,
medium 8vo, cloth, 21*s*.

1868.

Fleetwood's Life of Christ, new edn. royal 4to, 16 parts at 2*s*.

Schnorr's Bible in Pictures, super-royal 4to, 18 parts at 2*s*.

Stackhouse's History of the Bible, new series, 32 parts at 1*s*.

1869.

Robin Gray, by Charles Gibbon, 3 vols. small 8vo.

1870.

Barnes' Evidences of Christianity, 1 vol.

Cooke's Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible, reissue in 48 parts (with
Psalms) at 1*s*.

Cymru: Wales, Historical, Topographical, and Biographical, 22 parts
at 2*s*.

Deschanel's Natural Philosophy, 4 parts at 4*s*. 6*d*.

Illustrations of the Architecture and Ornament of Normandy,
imperial 4to, 14 parts at 2*s*. 6*d*.

Pileur: Wonders of the Human Body, 1 vol. crown 8vo, 2s. 6d.

Praxis Primaria: Progressive Exercises in writing Latin, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s.; Key, 3s. 6d.

The Universe, by M. Pouchet, 14 parts.

Y Beibl Teuluaidd Cynwysfawr, reissue in super-royal 4to, 31 parts at 2s.

1871.

Casquet of Literature, new edn. demy 8vo, 36 parts at 1s.

For Lack of Gold, by Charles Gibbon, 3 vols. small 8vo.

Journey across South America, by Paul Marcoy, translated from the French by Elihu Rich, super-royal 4to, 16 parts.

1872.

Days in Kirkfield (Jonathan R. Anderson), 1 vol.

Imperial Atlas Index, 5 parts at 2s. 6d.

Specimens of the Architecture of Normandy, royal 4to, 14 parts at 2s. 6d.

The Popular Encyclopedia, new edn. super-royal 8vo, 14 half-vols. at 11s.

1873.

Diamonds and Precious Stones, 1 vol. crown 8vo, 4s. 6d.

Little Books by John Bunyan, 8 small vols.

Steam in the Boiler.

The Yellowstone Region, 1 vol. crown 8vo, 4s. 6d.

1874.

Book of Scottish Ballads, miniature 4to, cloth, 5s.

Ceinion Llenyddiaeth Gymreig (Beauties of Welsh Literature), super-royal 8vo, 12 parts at 2s.

Cruden's Concordance, 1 vol., 3s. 6d.

Eminent Scotsmen, new edn. super-royal 8vo, 36 parts.

Goldsmith's Earth and Animated Nature, revised edn. super-royal 8vo, 20 parts at 2s.

Journey across South America (Marcoy), medium 4to edn.

Pew and Study Bible, double-post 8vo, 12 parts at 1s.

Volcanoes and Earthquakes, 1 vol. crown 8vo, 4s. 6d.

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ADDITIONAL BOOKS published by Messrs. Blackie in the earlier part of the period 1809-1874, the exact date of their issue being uncertain.

Aitken's Measurer, cloth, 12s.

Aitken's Measurer and Tradesman's Assistant, cloth, 3s.

Annals of Glasgow, 10 parts.

Balbi's Statistics of the Globe, 4s.

Booth's Reign of Grace, 12mo, 3s. 6d.

Boston's Crook in the Lot, 1s. 6d.

Brown's History of the Marrow Controversy, 14 nos. at 4d.

Burt's Anatomy, 8 parts at 2s.

Chart of Chemistry.

Gaelic Casquet, 6d.

Gilfillan's Poems.

Lays and Laments for Israel, cloth, 3s. 1844?

Leabhar nan Cnoc: or, The Mountain Sketch-book, by Evan M'Coll,
12mo, 4s. 1838?

Letters to Young Ladies, cloth, 1s. 6d. 1842?

Life on Board a Man-o'-War (Macpherson), 12mo, 4s. 1837?

Management and Cultivation of Forest Trees (Smith), cloth, 5s.

Maver's Johnson's Dictionary, 18mo, 3s.

Morris's Life of Henry Bell, cloth, 2s. 6d.

Rattray's Botanical Chart, 4s. 6d.

Ready Reckoner, 1s. 6d.

Scott's Practical Cotton-spinner and Manufacturer, 1 vol.

Spalding's History of the Troubles in Scotland 1624-1645, 1 vol.
10s. 6d.

St. Kentigern, by Alex. Whitelaw, cloth, 6s. 1836?

The African: a Tale, by Dugald Moore, 2d edn. 12mo, cloth, 6s.

The Bridal Night, by Dugald Moore, 7s. 6d.

The Youth's Companion, 32mo, 1s. 6d.

Treatise on Diet (Davidson), cloth, 4s.

Wardlaw on Man's Responsibility, 12mo, 3s. 6d.

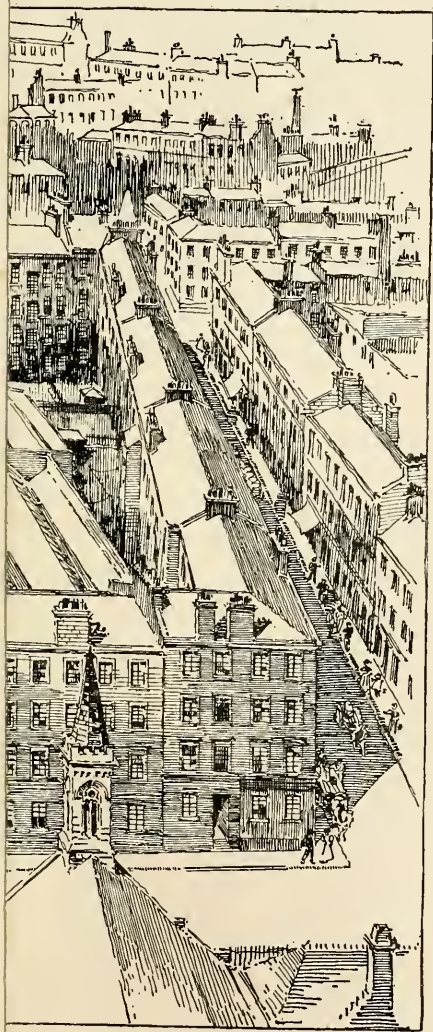
*APPENDIX II., CONCERNING THE
GROWTH AND EXTENSION OF THE
PRINTING AND BINDING WORKS.*

THE business premises and works of Blackie & Son consist of buildings erected on the lands of Villafield¹ feued from the Incorporation of Tailors in the north-eastern part of Glasgow. The block, of which these buildings form a part, is bounded on the south by St. James's Road, formerly called Dobbie's Loan, being part of the old road (which can still be traced) leading from the Palace of the Archbishop, which formerly stood in the vicinity of the Cathedral, to his country seat on the banks of the Kelvin, near Partick. On the east it is bounded by Stanhope Street, on the west by Taylor Street, and on the north by Parson Street.

The first portion of the ground on which these buildings were erected—that facing Dobbie's Loan—was purchased by John Blackie, Senior, in 1829. The buildings thereon had been erected some years before by Andrew and J. M. Duncan, printers. The ground purchased was the eastern portion of that which the Duncans held, and extended to about one half of their whole property. The western portion, which was occupied in part by buildings of one story, was purchased from the Duncans in 1830 by Mr. Robert Hutcheson, who built on it to the west some dwelling-houses, fronting Taylor Street and corner of Dobbie's Loan. In 1845 Mr. Blackie acquired from Mr. Hutcheson the whole of this portion, and thus became sole proprietor of the property, which comprised in all an area of 2487 square yards. Subsequent acquisition to the north and east increased the area of the property held by the firm, so that in 1874 it extended to 6227 square yards.

The buildings which Mr. Blackie purchased in 1829 from the Duncans were mostly of one story, lighted from the roof. The

¹ The lands of Villafield were originally intended to be feued for suburban villas, two of which were actually erected: hence the name.



entrance was from Dobbie's Loan, by a gate forming a cart entrance to a court, and a small gate on the left leading to a passage formed on one side by a wooden paling and on the other by the buildings of the composing-room, counting-room, readers' room, and press-room. On the right side of the court was a row of buildings partly of one low story and partly of two stories. These were occupied chiefly as stereotype foundry, picking-room, &c.

In 1831, two years after the first purchase, there was added a brick building of three floors, which extended east and west right across the upper part of the court. A few years later (1838) a building of three stories was erected in continuation of the one just mentioned, towards the west. During all this time the eastern portion of the ground originally purchased from the Duncans was a garden, in which a few common flowers and some rhubarb were grown. To the east of this garden for a considerable distance there were no buildings.

The next addition was made in 1841, and involved the removal of the original buildings erected by the Duncans. It consisted of a stone building of three stories, occupying the frontage to St. James's Road and extending from the dwelling-houses erected by Mr. Hutcheson, and across the part hitherto a garden, to the line of a new street formed on the eastern margin of the property. This street was named after Earl Stanhope, the improver and virtual introducer to the general trade of the important process of stereotyping and the inventor of the printing-press which bears his name. The portion at its eastern end was occupied as dwelling-houses. In following years the dwelling-houses fronting Stanhope Street were extended northwards to line with the building erected across the top of the court in 1831.

The first building erected to the north of the 1831 portion extended east to west from a line with the back courts of Stanhope Street to the line of the courts in Taylor Street. It was all built of brick, and was of three stories.

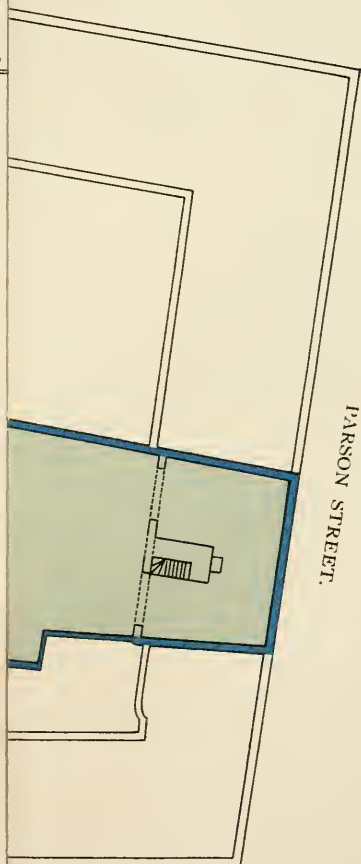
Some years later a large building was erected stretching north and south along the west end of the building just referred to, across the end of the northern court of the works, and across the end of the

three-story building on the south side of this court. In 1854 this building was extended southward to St. James's Road.

The premises of the publishing department, situated in North Frederick Street, having for various reasons become unsuitable, a new building was erected in Stanhope Street, on a vacant piece of ground immediately to the north of the dwelling-houses. This building was completed in 1870, and in that year the publishing department was removed to Stanhope Street. From that time onward the whole business in Glasgow, both manufacturing and publishing, has been carried on in the premises situated in Stanhope Street and St. James's Road.

The necessity for the constant expansion of the buildings is evidence of the steady increase of the business. It is interesting to note that the floor space of the premises purchased from the Duncans in 1829 could not have been much more than 350 square yards. On Mr. Blackie's death in 1874 there were fully 6000 square yards in daily use. At the present time (1897) the floor space amounts to a little over 10,000 square yards.

Approximate
Buildings ere
Buildings ere
Boundary of



*APPENDIX III., BEING A MEMORIAL OF
THE DINNER TO JOHN BLACKIE, SENIOR,
GIVEN IN THE BLACK BULL HOTEL, 29TH
SEPT., 1840, ON OCCASION OF HIS BEING
PRESENTED WITH HIS PORTRAIT, BY
THE AGENTS, CLERKS, AND OTHERS, IN
THE EMPLOYMENT.**

THE Dinner and Presentation to Mr. BLACKIE originated in a desire on the part of those immediately in his employment to offer him some public and permanent expression of the respect they entertain for him, and which might serve also as an acknowledgment of the kind and liberal treatment they have uniformly received at his hands.

To Mr. Hugh Mackay, the Agent of Messrs. Blackie & Son in Edinburgh, belongs the merit of defining the mode in which the expression should be conveyed. A finely executed and very characteristic Portrait of Mr. Blackie having been painted by William Bonnar, R.S.A., Mr. Mackay requested permission to place it in the hands of a talented artist to be Engraved, a proposition kindly acceded to by Mr. Blackie. On the first communication of his plan to Mr. George Maitland, agent in Aberdeen, Mr. Alexander Martin, agent in London, and to others in the employment of the Firm, Mr. Mackay received assurances of their wishes to co-operate with him; and a very few days sufficed to place at the disposal of the committee an amount of subscriptions sufficient to secure the services of one of the first engravers in the country. It was ultimately agreed to place the Portrait in the hands of Mr. Henry Cook, of London, one of the foremost engravers of the day, and by whom the commission was undertaken on the most liberal terms.

Preparatory to the Presentation of the Portrait, an inscription was appended to the plate, Dedicating it to MRS. BLACKIE, and

* Derived chiefly from a report of the proceedings on the occasion given in the
Scottish Guardian newspaper.

stating in a few unvarnished words the motives by which the contributors were actuated. This being done, it remained only to determine the manner of Presentation, which, it was unanimously agreed, ought to be such as would give proper publicity to a circumstance reflecting equal honour on employer and employed; and which might also give opportunity to Mr. Blackie's private friends to add their testimony to his worth; and, likewise, admit a large number in his employ to unite in the Presentation, on whom the promoters had not deemed it necessary to call for any contributions.

It was finally agreed that Mr. Blackie should be invited to a public Dinner, and that the Presentation should then be made in the view of a large portion of those engaged in his business, and in the presence of so many of his intimate and private friends as might be able to grace the occasion. Arrangements were in consequence made for a Dinner in the Hall of the Black Bull Hotel, in Glasgow, on Tuesday, 29th September, 1840; the tickets for which were eagerly purchased to the number of One Hundred and Four,—as large a company as the apartment could, with comfort and convenience, accommodate.

Convenient and due notice was given to the Agents, in the establishment of Messrs. Blackie & Son, of the approaching festival; and the invitations to the meeting were heartily responded to by all. On the morning of the 29th September, these potent auxiliaries rallied round their chief;—from the Land's End, from John o' Groats (or its immediate vicinity), and from the Green Isle, they came as fast as railway speed, steam sailing, and other suitable conveyance could bring them; and delightful it was to look upon the honest chiefs, their faces betokening the grateful and joyous feelings which bounded in their hearts. Imperative circumstances prevented several of the Agents from attending; but they had previously given *substantial* evidence of the interest they felt in the meeting, whilst in their replies to the invitation they sorely lamented the ill-starred destiny that confined them at home.

The duties of the Chair were by general desire confided to Mr. Hugh Mackay, of Edinburgh; and those of Croupier to Mr. George Maitland, of Aberdeen.

When all had taken their places, grace was said by the Rev. Nathaniel Paterson, D.D., minister of St. Andrew's Parish, and the company then proceeded to discuss as excellent and ample a dinner as could have been provided for the occasion. The friendly interchange which passed between the Chairman and the Croupier's Tables, and those intermediate, was most gratifying to witness: an on-looker would have said at once that the assembly was of one heart and one mind,—enthusiastically devoted to their honoured guest, and actuated by the finest feelings towards each other.

Dinner being concluded, the Rev. James Gibson, A.M. minister of Blackfriars Parish, returned thanks; after which, the usual loyal toasts having been proposed from the chair and loyally responded to, the Chairman rose to propose the toast of the evening, and spoke nearly as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—The Toast which I am about to propose is one in which I am persuaded we all feel deeply interested. It is the health of the Gentleman who has honoured us this evening by becoming our guest—it is the health of JOHN BLACKIE, SENIOR, ESQUIRE.

We are met, Gentlemen, on this occasion, for the purpose of presenting Mr. Blackie with his Engraved Portrait. Our design in doing so is to express the sense we entertain of Mr. Blackie's character in the various relations of life, to acknowledge the especial kindness and urbane feeling he has ever manifested towards those who are in his employment, and to offer a well-deserved honour to that excellent Gentleman and his respected family. While endeavouring to confer honour on Mr. Blackie, however, it cannot—and it need not—be concealed that we are deriving no slight honour to ourselves. This cannot be doubted by anyone who reflects that a permission granted to us to present this small testimony of our esteem is an evidence on the one hand of the confidence placed in us by our employers, and, on the other, of our ability to discern moral worth, and to estimate rightly the benefit arising to ourselves from that sterling principle and unflinching integrity by which our employers are distinguished.

Constant intercourse with our employers affords us an opportunity

to judge of Mr. Blackie's character, which is perhaps enjoyed by none beside, except by the members of his own family; and we certainly should fail in bestowing that tribute of praise upon real worth, to which it is entitled, if we did not bear testimony to that high sense of justice and honour by which Mr. Blackie is invariably guided in all his transactions with ourselves, and with those who hold employment under the various Agencies established throughout the kingdom. And it is perfectly unnecessary for me to add here, that the Son and partner of Mr. Blackie walks in his father's footsteps, and exhibits on all occasions the same uncompromising principle which has procured for his honoured parent the esteem of all whose esteem is worth possession.

I have, Gentlemen, known Mr. Blackie long—I knew him when, by his own personal industry, he was laying the foundation of that eminence as a Publisher which he has now attained, an eminence honourably achieved and well deserved. I knew him when he and I were both comparatively young; and when, in comparison with the status he now occupies in general society, his influence and intimacy were of small extent—if, indeed, lofty example can ever be uninfluential, or worth can ever be obscure. Mr. Blackie's circumstances are much altered, as respects those things which have value in the eyes of the world, but he is in all other points the same man. He is now as accessible as he was in former years—he is now as friendly to every man, in whatever station of life, as he was then; and he is now, as he was then, the man invariably adhering to the principle of doing unto others as he would that others in similar circumstances should do to him.

It is, Gentlemen, saying much to say of any man, that he is a just man—that he never fails to render unto every man his due. But it would be injustice to Mr. Blackie if I did not add that he is also a generous man. I could, were it becoming, state facts which would result in an unhesitating conviction that, not only in his liberality towards those by whom his business is conducted, but towards many others, he far exceeds any of those claims which justice, in its application to transactions between man and man, could make upon him.

Disdaining all subterfuge and evasion, Mr. Blackie has never

descended to that equivocation and shuffle of words which some deem necessary to give them a proper vantage-ground in their various dealings with mankind. His proposals and promises have always been expressed in language designed by himself to be clearly understood by the other contracting party; and hence, in consequence of his occupation, in every transaction, of this true vantage-ground, he is saved from the mortification of being obliged to search after expedients to evade the literal fulfilment of any promise once made; and can, when he discovers any good reason for so doing, have the pleasure of exceeding his promises in the fulfilment.

That parties, for a considerable time in the employment of Mr. Blackie, should feel the strongest attachment to him, and should in some measure identify his prosperity and that of his family with their own, is what might have been calculated upon; but that others, less dependent for employment on Messrs. Blackie & Son, although to a considerable extent employed by them as occasion may require, should have responded so very cordially to the wishes of those exclusively employed by these gentlemen is, I confess, what I did not calculate upon. It was most gratifying to me, however, when I made known in Edinburgh the intention of this meeting, to find that of those who had, at any time, transacted business with Messrs. Blackie & Son, or who enjoyed Mr. Blackie's intimacy, there was not one who did not enter with warmth and enthusiasm into the spirit of this meeting. And the presence of so many of them as could possibly journey hither, adds another testimony to Mr. Blackie's worth, and shows that the influence of his character extends beyond the limits of his own establishment. I may add here, that there are in Edinburgh several gentlemen regretting their inability to attend this festival; and although peculiar circumstances have prevented them from sharing in our present enjoyment, I know that the best wishes of their hearts are with us.

I have endeavoured, Gentlemen, to lay before you some faint outlines of Mr. Blackie's character, to honour whom we are now met; but my observations have referred principally, if not exclusively, to his conduct as a man of business. And when we meet with a person displaying sterling integrity through a long life, notwithstanding the

many temptations to which a man of extensive and increasing business is exposed, and to which thousands have become victims, it is but reasonable that we should endeavour, on an occasion like the present, to account for the existence of such a character—I shall do so in very few words—**MR. BLACKIE FEARS GOD.**

I derive evidence of the truth of this very important statement from my long personal acquaintance with that gentleman; and although on some very important theological points he and I have always differed, and I believe will still continue to differ, yet this I freely admit—that it would have been at this moment a source of pleasing reflection to me if I had as little ground to accuse myself of conduct inconsistent with the uniform feeling of the fear and reverence of God, as I have, from any word or deed of his, any ground to suspect Mr. Blackie of. His morality, manifested in his dealings with his fellow-creatures, is based on the deeply-rooted conviction that he, in common with every one of the human family, “must give an account of himself unto God”. This is supported by evidence altogether independent of my testimony. Not only is Mr. Blackie’s disinterested advice freely given where cases require it, but his money likewise is freely dispensed to relieve the indigent. He does not see his brother in need, and “shut up his bowels of compassion against him”. I speak, Gentlemen, having a perfect knowledge of the truth of what I say; for I have myself been repeatedly his agent in the communication of his bounty to the necessitous, as well as in managing my own allotted department of his business. But there is another point in which the gentleman of whom I speak gives satisfactory evidence that his morality is an effect resulting from his fear of God as its cause, and that point is—the interest manifested on his part for the dissemination of true religion.

“He that converteth a sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.” And surely the greatest of all charity is that which has the salvation of immortal souls for its object. Mr. Blackie, acting on the conviction of the great truth that the only shelter for guilty man from righteous condemnation centres in “Christ and Him Crucified”, gives his support on all occasions to the means which are in use

throughout the Christian world for extending the Redeemer's kingdom. I need not say (for the fact is well known) that the propagation of true religion, according to his view of that important subject, is an object in which, in his own station, he has zealously exerted himself, and towards which he has liberally contributed; and the strong interest felt by him in this important object is manifest from the care with which the books published by him are selected; every work which, according to his judgment, has the most remote tendency to counteract the influence of true religion, is rejected; and works considered by him calculated to generate and strengthen the principle of the fear of God (and especially the Bible) are, through his means, widely disseminated over this and other lands. I verily believe, Gentlemen, that no hope of deriving the most extravagant profit would be sufficient to tempt Mr. Blackie to publish any work, the doctrine contained in which, he had reason to think, would be a stumbling-block in the way of any man's salvation.

And now, Mr. Blackie, it is with the greatest pleasure that, in my own name and in the name of my coadjutors, I present you with this Engraved Portrait. Its intrinsic value does not affect its real worth, and we think it quite in character with the business in which we are employed by you and your Son. It is, I think, well fitted to serve the purpose of a memento of that esteem in which you are held by those who are variously intrusted with your concerns, and who derive a sufficiency of the comforts of life from the employment you afford them. And it will serve that purpose, Sir, when the countenance which it so truly represents shall be no more seen on earth, and when the humble but grateful individual honoured by presiding on this most interesting occasion shall with you, Sir, be numbered among the dead.

May your virtues, Sir, which that token is designed to commemorate, continue to be imitated, as they have obviously hitherto been, by your hopeful Sons! May they be imitated, Sir, by every one now, or who may hereafter be, in your employment! And may you yourself, Sir, live long according to the will of God, increasing in every Christian grace, continuing still more luminously to exhibit every Christian virtue! And may you at last retire in honourable

old age, to rest in the grave until the resurrection of the just; and may you, through Him who hath loved you, be at the final judgment seen in your glorified resurrection body at the right hand of the Judge, and by Him be addressed—"Come, ye blessed of my Father"!

Mr. Blackie, in rising to reply, was hailed with hearty, enthusiastic, and prolonged cheers. Every individual present seemed desirous to express in the warmest manner the deep feelings of respect with which he regarded the kind master and upright citizen who stood before him. It was a moment of lively interest to Mr. Blackie, to his honoured family, and to the friends gathered round him—as he stood, contending with his emotions, and waiting till the grateful acclamations which rose around him had subsided, to give utterance to his feelings. As the writer of this Memorial omitted to take notes during the meeting, he is unable to give the *ipsissima verba* of the speeches, and can only offer the substance of what was said by the speakers. He regrets this more especially in the case of Mr. Blackie's address to the company, since it expressed in the simplest and happiest manner the sentiments which he entertains towards those in any way connected with him, and also evinced much Christian humility and genuine kindness of disposition.

"MR. BLACKIE acknowledged the compliment conveyed in the Presentation" (says the *Scottish Guardian* of September 30) "in a truly paternal strain, as regarded the numerous individuals in his employment, and spoke of the success that had attended him through life with unaffected sentiments of modesty and of gratitude to the Giver of all good. He mentioned incidentally an interesting fact, which we have great pleasure in recording—namely, that as a general and governing principle, it had been his object to *publish nothing of an immoral tendency, but, on the contrary, he had ever desired to bring out works calculated to instruct and elevate the public mind.*" It was delightful to hear the terms in which he spoke of the relation between master and servant, and his truly liberal remarks on the reciprocity of interests which binds them together. The respected gentleman (of whose address we are unable to present even a perfect outline for the reason just given) sat down amidst the heartiest cheers and every possible demonstration of respect.

MR. MAITLAND, the Croupier, in proposing Mrs. Blackie's health, said—"I am at a loss what to say, in order to do justice to the sentiment I have been intrusted with. You, Mr. Chairman, have said much in behalf of our respected and beloved employer, on whose account we have met here this evening, and I cordially agree with every word that you have uttered respecting him; indeed, my opinion is, that if you have not *underrated*, I am sure you have not *overrated* his many good qualities; and you, no doubt, think you have had *the toast of the evening*. Now, Sir, I am to try to show you and this respectable company that you are mistaken in this. We have an adage in the North country—'*No man can thrive unless his wife lets him*'.* Well, Sir, you have truly remarked about Mr. Blackie's success in business, his honour, his honesty in all his transactions, and his kindness and indulgence as an employer; and, while I grant all this, I think I may assume that, but for the kindness, affection, prudence, and good sense of Mrs. Blackie, matters might have been very different; and I hesitate not to say that, if Mr. Blackie were asked the question, he would at once admit that much, very much indeed, of his success and respectability in life is to be attributed to the wise counsels, the maternal love, and the uniform frugality of Mrs. Blackie. This, however, is not all—our respected friend is truly all that you have said of him, but he must eventually be removed from this transitory scene—I trust the time is yet far distant—when his Sons will, in the course of things, succeed him. Now, we might have been looking forward to that period with fear and dread, knowing that were he removed we might either be out of bread, or have to fall into the hands of one with whom we could expect neither comfort nor permanency in our situation. Every one present knows, however, that the reverse is the fact in the present case. I am sure, Sir, you know as well as I do that Mr. John Blackie, Jun., promises in all respects to equal his father in every good quality; and his Brothers, so far as we have seen or known, promise to be nothing behind him. Then it is a known fact, which history bears me out in, and which the learned and reverend Gentlemen on your right and left will acknowledge, that a very great majority of the pious and the good who have shone in the world

have attributed their first and best impressions to the instructions and example of a pious mother. So we are indebted to Mrs. Blackie, under the blessing of God, for the sterling principles and excellent disposition of her Sons. Having said thus much, I think mine should be considered the most important toast of the evening." Mr. Maitland then proposed Mrs. Blackie's good health, and may she long be spared to conduct her household, and give us a cordial hearty welcome when we come to Glasgow! The reception given to this toast justified the worthy Croupier's opinion—that it was "*the most important toast of the evening*".

MR. BLACKIE rose to acknowledge, and unhesitatingly referred all his success in life, under providence, to the prudent counsels of Mrs. Blackie. Before sitting down the worthy gentleman proposed—"The Agents in the employ of Messrs. Blackie & Son"—a toast which was kindly received by the company, and properly responded to by the Chairman.

MR. ROSE acknowledged the preceding toast.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Maitland expressed a wish to discharge a pleasing duty which had been laid upon him. He said—

"Mr. Blackie has not only raised himself to a state of affluence and great respectability, but he has also, by his advice and assistance, enabled some others to do the same thing. There is at least one instance of this in Aberdeen, in the case of a very deserving industrious man, who is a credit to all his friends and connections, but whose name I am not at liberty to mention, who is succeeding very well indeed, and who, but for Mr. Blackie's assistance, never could have got into business. Had it been possible for him to leave home, he would have gladly been present this evening. To show, however, that he feels interested in the present meeting, and as a small mark of his gratitude and esteem, I am requested to present you, Sir (addressing Mr. Blackie), with these splendid Gold Spectacles and Case. I wish you long life to enjoy them, and trust that they will aid you in the perusal of that Volume which points us to a time and a place where we shall need no such assistances, for the eyes shall never grow dim, and where, I trust, we shall meet never again to part."

At this period in the evening an "Occasional Address", written by Mr. Thomas Rose, head of the counting-house department, was read, and, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, met with a generous reception from the company.

IN olden time, around the festive board,
Glad vassals wassailed with their feudal lord;
One day of sunlight, in his year of cloud,
Each baughty chieftain to his thrall allowed;
In this brief interval the feast was spread,
And the full wine-cup sparkled to its head;
Rude mirth prevailed throughout the banner'd halls,
And shouts and laughter shook the massive walls:
All hailed the jubilee—well pleased to see
A serf unfettered and a bondsman free.
The morrow came: the feast had passed away,
And badge and chain resumed their wonted sway;
Twelve moons must wane, ere feast again beguile
The soil-bound vassal of his yearly smile.

These were the iron times: a daring few
O'er the rude multitude their bondage threw,
Led them, in brute obedience, to fulfil
The lawless projects of untutored will;
And as the horde pressed onward in the rear,
They owned no motive but an abject fear;
Unknown were then the sympathies that bind
Peasant and king, alike, to all mankind.

As ages rolled, the dawn of learning chased
The clouds that hovered o'er the moral waste,
On the rude mind it shed a cheering ray,
The twilight prelude of the mental day;
And ever as the new-born splendour broke,
King, chieftain, serf, and vassal, all awoke;
Each felt new impulse throbbing in his veins;
Then milder laws relaxed the bondsman's chains,

With wholesome precepts sanctified our isle,
The weak protected and restrained the vile.
Freedom, a sound unheard, unknown before,
Waked the loud echoes of our sea-girt shore;
Through ev'ry heart the new emotion ran,
The vassal burst his chains and stood erect, a Man.

Blend not with Freedom's name the fearful crimes
That taint the *liberty* of modern times;
True Freedom clasps within its wide embrace
All ranks of people, all the human race;
It prompts no selfish purpose, lends no hand
To scatter ruin o'er a peaceful land,
But brands with ignomy and burning shame
The wretched Patricide's dishonoured name,
He who, with "Freedom" on his lips, can be
The most a bondsman when he most is free.

As knowledge progressed o'er the realm of mind,
The various grades of men became combined;
In social order joined, began to feel
Each had his portion in the common weal.
Then Useful Arts, by Infant Science led,
O'er the broad land their peaceful blessings shed;
Dispersed the brooding darkness that had cast
A shroud-like vail upon the ages past:
The gloomy mass departed like a scroll,
Or gathered mists that from the mountains roll.

Time held his course, and man advanced the while;
Bright prospects opened on our native isle;
Law, Order, Peace, in all its cities reigned,
Just rule was held and righteous sway maintained.
Prudence and Enterprise, link'd hand in hand,
Led Wealth and Plenty through the smiling land;
Trade, like a river branching far and wide,
Rushed on with healthy and impetuous tide;

And Commerce spread her sail and bent the oar
To climes remote and many a sea-bound shore.

Then came the art of Printing, which revealed
The stores of mental treasure, long concealed
In cloistered chambers and with dust o'ergrown,
To all, except a favoured few, unknown.
'Twas then that Learning's faint and twilight ray
Began to glow and brighten into day;
The vast effulgence spread all earth around,
Illuming every clime where Social Man was found.

How Superstition shook upon her throne,
Her sceptre broken and her kingdom gone:
How Imposition quailed, as Learning drew
The vail that hid her features from the view:
How poor Credulity looked up and smiled
To hear her easy faith no more should be beguiled.

Rome—Papal Rome—soon felt an earthquake shock,
And trembling sat upon her fabled rock;
Truth cast its bright and all-revealing ray
Through the black darkness of her impious sway,
Gleamed o'er her ghastly catalogue of shame,
Unveiling guilt which history scarce can name,
Glanced through the scarlet robe, the pompous vest,
And shot consuming fires into her breast;
Writhing, convuls'd, she yell'd in mortal pang;
Responsive shrieks through Hell's vast concave rang,
The Prince of Air, with sympathizing groan,
Poured forth his legion hosts to battle round her throne.

And ages since have rolled: what now appears
To test the energies of former years?
Show us the land our Commerce does not reach!
In every clime, the Truths we've learn'd we teach;

The blessings of our social life we bear
To untamed deserts and the savage lair;
O'er the wide world in sympathy we move,
And hail our brother Man with Christian love!

At home, a genial influence pervades
The living mass and knits its several grades;
Bound by the social and the patriot tie,
Man links with man in gen'rous unity;
And moral interchange, with mild control,
Blends rich and poor in one consistent whole.

Hence, wealth and station, when with worth combined,
Claim willing homage from the grateful mind;
Hence, *we*, this day, with deep respect, proclaim
Our high esteem for BLACKIE'S honoured name!

The muse must speak with caution,—good men fear
To have their praises lavished on the ear;
The flatt'rer's honeyed breath, mere vocal wind,
They cast with an indignant scorn behind;
Content to link bright virtues with their name,
They ask no trumpet to declare their fame.
Still, at an hour like this, the heart must break
If the tongue may not of its fulness speak:
We come not motiveless, by instinct led,
Crouching and serf-like, with submissive dread,
“With bated breath and in a bondsman's key”,
To whisper baseness and to bend the knee:
We come, in open guise, with manly love,
To speak no more than truth may well approve;
Such tribute of the grateful heart to give,
As honest men may yield, and unstained worth receive.

You, Sir, have toiled through many anxious years,
And now in you toil's rich reward appears;
By Merchant Skill and Probity, alone,
Your stores of temporal wealth have largely grown:

No lavish waste, no frivolous display,
Cast its dark shadow on your prosperous way;
With you, increase of substance is but found
Increase of usefulness to all around,
Prompt to assist, in this—in every land,
Whatever cause requires a Christian Patriot's hand.

And we rejoice to look around and see,
Like goodly branches of some noble tree,
Your manly Sons collected at your side,—
Your richest treasure, and your chiefest pride.
'Tis theirs to reap the harvest you have sown,
Your wealth and fame and worth are all their own,
For them, in years to come, their father's name
Shall deep respect and faithful service claim;
And now, their cup to overflowing filled
With every gift a father's love can yield,
A large and lib'ral portion they possess
Of things that make the sum of happiness,
And—crowning stone of all they can desire,—
A CHRISTIAN MOTHER and a CHRISTIAN SIRE!

The first in rank, is he whose guiding hand
Sways at the helm and shares in your command;
With untired zeal, for ever at your side,—
A counsellor in whom you may confide;
Whose comprehensive mind can render aid
In the perplexing labyrinths of trade,
Or turn, with equal skill, and ready thought,
To trace some bold design, which, fairly wrought
In all its parts, may ultimately grow
A mine, whence honourable wealth shall flow.

Inferior only in extent of years,
The gifted ruler of our Press appears,
Whom Learning hath commissioned to restore
The Printer's name to what it was of yore;

When the Typographer's capacious mind,
Of rare and powerful elements combined,
Deeply imbued with Literature, could mount
Beyond the metal fragments of his *fount*,—
Gave Schoolmen law, revised the classic page,
And moulded all the learning of the age.

Our last, not least, acknowledgments are paid
To the dispenser of our *Light and Shade*,
Who overlooks our various designs,
Strengthens the *masses*, and their parts *combines*,
Detaches from our *views* all *objects mean*,
And gives due *tone* and *colour* to each *scene*.
Contending candidates around him wait,
Eager to start and panting for the *Plate*;
He marks the point their various powers can reach,
And with true tact allots the task of each.
May time mature his pencil's easy flow,
And Claude's rich honours mantle on his brow;
Then shall the bright creations rise anew,
"Which savage Rosa dash'd, and learned Poussin drew."

The Muse, for some brief space, would claim your ear
While she unveils the potent sway you bear,
A government, whose vast results shall flow
Into that future you can never know.

Books are the records of progressing mind,
The intellectual garners of mankind.
In times remote, ere Press or Type was known,
Pearl of great price, the Written Volume shone;
Rich was the church, whose coffers could afford
To buy one perfect copy of the Word;
Pilgrims would come and reverently look,
At humble distance, on the Sacred Book,

And he, whose slender stock of clerkly lore
Sufficed to read one text its pages bore,
Though mean in station, and of lowly birth,
Might stand with kings and great ones of the earth.

In after times, when Printing first began
To multiply the Word of God for man,
The infant Art, with difficulties fraught,
By toil severe the several pages wrought :
The book, when finished, was a precious boon
The rich might purchase—but the rich alone.

In course of time, their number largely grown,
These costly books were more diffused and known :
Then frequently this rich bequest was made, —
That, in some place of concourse, should be laid
The Word of Life, secured with lock and chain,
That all might knowledge of the Truth attain.
The aged pilgrim bowed his hoary head,
Some promise learned, or some pure precept read ;
And all, who journeyed near the spot, would stay
To drink the Living Waters on their way.
On Sabbaths, and on holy days, there came
A motley group, in mind of pious frame,
Round the blest Book in reverence to stand,
Or turn its pages with a careful hand.
Some venerable Sire would read aloud
The Word of Truth unto the list'ning crowd ;
This done, each took his staff and separate road,
Prayed as he went, and communed with his God.

Oft have we seen the face of early morn
With clouds disfigured and by tempests torn ;
Through the deep shade that hung upon his throne,
The eastern sun with watery lustre shone ;
Slowly advanced his still-increasing beam,
And Darkness wrestled with the Light Supreme,

Till, at the last, with full meridian ray,
He rent the vapours, and confirmed the day.

So, when the mental day-spring rose to chase
The intellectual darkness of our race,
Deep shadows gathered round the new-born light,
And sought to quench it in perpetual night:
The cloud-veiled orb continued still to rise,
Pierced the thick gloom and reached the midway skies;
Thence, in swift Volumes, poured the living ray,
Rending the darkness of the moral day,
Till, through the mental azure's utmost bound,
No cloud deformed the wide horizon round.

Well had it been if on the Printer's name
No shade had fallen to o'ercloud his fame,
Or, if the Biblioplist's rich store
Had ne'er included ought but useful lore!
Oh, 'twas a crowning blessing for mankind
When Printing gave a permanence to mind,
And bursting forth, unmanacled and free,
Swept round the world a universal sea,
Bearing rich argosies, where'er it ran,
To all the cities and the homes of man:
Alas! that ever, to this wholesome tide,
Corrupting streams with serpent course should guide.

A Nation's Literature! in that one word
What germs of future good or ill are stored:
Whence are derived the good, the just, the sage,
The sunbright beacons of the present age?
Whence comes the scoffing and the reckless band,
Whose baneful venom poisons half the land?—
All these are nourished by the mighty PAST,
Whose lights and shadows on our way are cast.
The future looks to *us*: another race
Of kindred beings soon shall fill our place:

We hew the fountains of forthcoming time,
We base its purity or prompt its crime;
When nought remaineth of us but a fame,
Say—shall the future curse or bless our name?

'Tis your distinction, Sir, that in an age
Of mingled good and ill, no doubtful page,
Stamped with your imprint, ever shall convey
One impure motive to an after day.
Oh! from the wholesome feast your Press hath spread,
May future millions of our race be fed,
Nourished through time by intellectual food,
And taught to relish an eternal good!

In ancient days, whoever saved the life
Of citizen, amidst the battle's strife,
Wore on his brow the honoured civic crown,
And passed to future ages with renown:
What shall posterity on him bestow
Who causes streams of healthfulness to flow
Through every field and city, realm and clime,
For countless myriads in succeeding time?

Through the long vista of the years to come,
In Lowland dwelling, and in Highland home,
How oft shall memory recall your name,
Lustrous and radiant with a Christian's fame!
And, far beyond the limits of your land,
In bright record your zeal and worth shall stand;
Thousands who cannot know you face to face,
Shall hail you, Benefactor of their race;—
As some good genius, lent to bless mankind
With all the priceless treasury of mind;
Or, as ensample of the good that springs
From one right hand, devising liberal things.

It was now not far distant from "the wee short hour ayont the twal", and the company rose by common consent to depart—not, however, without casting "a lingering look behind" on a scene which had exhibited so much interchange of good feeling, and developed so many of the better traits of human character.

*APPENDIX IV., BEING AN EXCERPT
FROM THE "GLASGOW CONSTITU-
TIONAL", OCT. 1, 1842, CONCERNING
PRESENTATION TO JOHN BLACKIE,
JUNIOR.*

The agents and clerks in the employment of Messrs. Blackie and Sons, and other friends of those eminent and enterprising publishers, having resolved on presenting Mr. Blackie, Junior, with some mark of their regard for the kindness and urbanity exhibited by him in the position which he occupies as a partner of the house, invited him to dinner in the Argyle Hotel, on Thursday evening. The chair was very ably filled by Mr. Thomas Rose, a gentleman connected with Messrs. Blackie's establishment, and Mr. Robert Weir, Stationer, officiated as croupier. Upwards of seventy sat down to dinner. After the usual toasts, the Chairman, in a very neat and appropriate speech, proposed—"the health of Mr. Blackie, Jun." He expressed, in terms which did him great credit, the high opinion entertained, by all connected with him, of Mr. Blackie's kindness and good feeling to every one in his employment. He then, in name of the subscribers, presented Mr. Blackie, Junior, with a splendid Silver Inkstand, suitably inscribed, expressing a hope that it would not be judged of merely from its intrinsic value, but from the motives which led to its presentation. The health of their guest having been rapturously responded to by the company, Mr. Blackie, Junior, made a very feeling reply. He acknowledged in terms of gratitude the kind expressions of respect they had shown towards him, and particularly for the gift by which that respect had been evinced. He looked on the present meeting as an illustration of that kindly feeling which ought ever to exist between employers and employed, and he accepted their gift with pleasure, because it would be an incentive for the future to persevere in that line of conduct which

had given rise to such an expression of feeling towards him. The Croupier gave the health of Mr. Blackie, Sen., and shortly alluded to the high esteem in which he was held, not only by those in his employment, but by the whole people of Glasgow. Mr. Blackie made an excellent reply, in which his kindly feeling towards those in his employment was beautifully developed, as well as the paternal gratification at the compliment paid by the meeting to his son.—Mr. John Blackie, Jun., in a short speech, which showed the goodness of his heart as an employer, gave the “Agents, Clerks, and others in the employment of Messrs. Blackie & Son”, to which an excellent reply was given by one of the oldest servants of the house.

The harmony of the company was kept up till a late hour.

—*Glasgow Constitutional*, Saturday, October 1, 1842.

*APPENDIX V., BEING AN ACCOUNT OF
REJOICINGS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE MARRIAGE OF WALTER GRAHAM
BLACKIE, Ph.D., 15TH APRIL, 1846.**

This day had not been arranged to be a holiday, and the works were to go on as usual, it being intended that an entertainment was to be given on the return of the Bride and Bridegroom from their Marriage Tour, but the Employees thought otherwise, and early in the morning Flags were to be seen waving on several of the highest parts of the Buildings, but work went on as usual till Breakfast-time.

When the workers returned at 10 o'clock there was a great desire not to commence work, but the question was, how can we make this a day of rejoicing?

At that time there was a large addition being built, for an extension of the works, at the west end of the buildings, and that part (now the warehouse in connection with the Letterpress Machine-Room) had got the flooring on, and some of the workers and girls from the Binding Department had commenced to dance there, while others whistled the tunes.

It occurred to some one that it would be an improvement if a Fiddler could be got; as soon as this was proposed it was settled, and messengers were sent over to the Blind Asylum to engage Fiddlers.

In a very short time the Musicians arrived, and then the Dancing went on with great spirit, and all work was stopped as there was a Grand Ball going on (not a Dress Ball, for there was no doubt every one was there in their working clothes), the dancing went on till dinner-time.

* Written by Alexander Duncan, subsequently manager of the Copperplate Printing Department.

Previous to the dinner hour, intimation was received that there was to be a Dinner for the workers that evening in the Black Bull Hotel, Virginia Street. It was then arranged that we would all go home, and meet in the work again at six o'clock.

At the time appointed all were assembled within the gate, and were arranged in marching order, three deep, a girl in the centre of each row. When all were ready the gate was thrown open and out they marched, led by Donald M'Gregor playing the bagpipes and another worker carrying a flag.

The procession marched down Taylor Street, along Stirling Road, up Hopetoun Place, down Portland Street, along Richmond Street, till they came to Mr. Blackie's house, when they halted and gave three cheers; they then marched on till they reached the hall, and there spent a happy and most enjoyable evening.

APPENDIX VI., BEING AN EXCERPT
FROM THE "SCOTTISH GUARDIAN",
NOVEMBER 23, 1849, CONCERNING THE
MARRIAGE OF JOHN BLACKIE, JUNIOR.

Villafield-Rejoicings.—The marriage of John Blackie, Junr., Esq., was the occasion of the most lively rejoicings at the extensive Printing and Publishing establishment of the Messrs. Blackie of Villafield, on Wednesday. The morning was ushered in by the firing of cannon, which was continued at intervals during the day. From various parts of the premises flags were displayed. But the chief rejoicings were deferred till the evening, when, with their well-known generosity and consideration for their work-people, the Messrs. Blackie entertained their workmen with their wives and sweethearts at a grand soiree in the works. The company, which assembled at 7 o'clock, amounted to upwards of 300.

After tea, speeches were delivered, interspersed with recitations and songs. There was a profuse supply of fruit and the other concomitants of soirees, and everything that could conduce to the comfort and rational enjoyment of the large assembly. The Hall where the entertainment was given measures seventy feet in length by twenty-six in breadth, and it was profusely decorated with banners, transparencies, &c., and was festooned with evergreens and flowers.

About nine o'clock the company had the satisfaction of receiving a visit from John Blackie, Senr., Esq., Dr. Blackie, and Robert Blackie, Esq., together with some friends of the marriage party, and who could not but have been gratified with the pleasure they were the means of diffusing.

Many cordial wishes were expressed for the welfare of the newly-married pair, and the prosperity of the enterprising firm; and these kind feelings, we are sure, were heartily reciprocated by the Messrs. Blackie. Music being provided, dancing was commenced about 10 o'clock and continued till 3 in the morning.

—*Scottish Guardian, Friday, November 23, 1849.*

APPENDIX VII., BEING AN EXCERPT
FROM THE MINUTES OF THE KIRK
SESSION OF THE KELVINSIDE FREE
CHURCH IN REFERENCE TO THE
DEATH OF JOHN BLACKIE, SENIOR.

At Glasgow, the 24th day of June, 1874, which day the Kirk Session of the Free Church Congregation of Kelvinside met and was constituted. *Sederunt*—

The Rev. Walter Ross Taylor, Moderator, Messrs. Rule, Forbes, Carr, and Mackie, Elders.

Inter alia—

“The Moderator stated that he had convened the Session on the present occasion in consequence of the lamented death, on the evening of the 16th instant, of the venerable father of the Session, Mr. John Blackie, Senior, and he suggested that the Session, while placing the fact on record, should also express their sense of the value of the services Mr. Blackie had rendered to the Congregation and to the Church generally during his long life, and their sorrow at the loss they had sustained by his death. This suggestion called forth a warm response from all the members present, and it was thereupon resolved to record that the Session regard with profound sorrow the removal by death of their esteemed and beloved father, and cherish a deep sense of gratitude for the many and important services which, through Divine grace, he rendered to the Cause of Christ.—They specially desire to record, that the forming of Kelvinside Congregation and the erection of the Church, were, in a large measure, due to his foresight, energy, and liberality, and that from the day he laid the foundation-stone of the Church he never failed to further the interests and efforts of the Congregation with most cordial zeal and ready generosity. The Session further desire to acknowledge the goodness of God in giving them as a fellow-

labourer, and in sparing to them and to the Church for so many years, one whose holy, consistent life made him a bright example, whose ripe experience made him a trusted counsellor, and whose intense devotion to the Cause of Christ was singularly fitted to stimulate others to a similar self-consecration; and now that he has been taken from them, they hear a call addressed to them to dedicate themselves anew to the Service of the Master, and to follow the faith of those who have entered on their rest. Also the Session instruct Mr. Mackie to send a copy of this Minute to Mrs. Blackie, Senior, with the assurance of their deep sympathy with her, and all the other members of the bereaved circle.

Extracted by,

WM. MACKIE, *Session Clerk, pro tem.*

WALTER ROSS TAYLOR, *Moderator.*

*APPENDIX VIII., BEING COPY OF A PAPER
GIVEN BY JOHN BLACKIE, SENIOR, TO HIS
SECOND SON, THEN ABOUT TWELVE
YEARS OF AGE, TO BE TRANSCRIBED
AND PRESERVED; HERE PRINTED FROM
THE TRANSCRIBED COPY.*

*FIVE MINUTES' ADVICE TO
YOUNG TRADESMEN.*

1. Whatever your trade be, never be ashamed of it or above it.
2. Do not disdain to keep company with people of your own class, but rather court their acquaintance. The conversation of men of trade brings trade. Men first talk together, then deal together.
3. Without diligence and application no trade can be successfully or honourably carried on.
4. Never trade beyond your stock, or give or take too large credit. Better let slip a bargain now and then, than buy a greater quantity of goods than you can pay for.
5. Should your affairs go wrong in spite of all care and diligence, break in time. If you pay ten shillings, do not affect to remain whole until you cannot pay ten pence.
6. The cruelty of creditors is always in proportion to the dishonesty of debtors.
7. A well-sorted and well-chosen quantity of goods is preferable to a shop entirely filled with an immense quantity.
8. The retail tradesman, and tradesmen in general, must lay in a very great stock of patience. They must conquer their passions, and endeavour to weather the storm of impertinence.
9. Pleasures and diversions, when frequent, are generally fatal to young tradesmen, especially those diversions which are deemed innocent, such as horses, dogs, races.

10. For the first five or six years of business a tradesman ought to consider himself as worth nothing, or as having no money which can be taken out of business and be spent in the luxuries of life.

11. Profusion in expenses, living like your neighbours, and mimicking the manners of high life, are paths which lead directly to the *Gazette*.

12. In the employment of the holidays be sure that exercise only is your object. He who rides ten miles, and drinks two bottles of wine, will not find health greatly improved.

13. Beware of engaging to be security for any sum which you cannot pay without injuring your business or credit.

14. If you marry, let it be one who is not above being the wife of a tradesman. It may be necessary, therefore, to avoid one who has had a boarding-school education.

15. Trust as little to servants as possible; and this caution may be observed without depriving them of a just and proper degree of confidence.

16. Idle servants are rarely honest ones. If a servant discovers a taste for dress, rather correct and moderate it than prohibit it altogether.

17. Trust nothing to speculation, and avoid all paper-money schemes to deceive the public and uphold false credit.

18. In general, avoid partnerships; at all times avoid them if you are not perfectly well acquainted with the temper, disposition, and character of your partner.

19. If you discover that your partner is a schemer or a gambler in the funds, lottery, or otherwise, dissolve partnership directly.

20. Be firm and determined in your prices; fix a moderate price, but never depart from it.

21. Exposed as you must often be to improper questions, rather positively refuse to answer them than tell such lies as are common on these occasions.

22. Acquire a neatness and despatch in everything you do, yet avoiding that affected bustle, cringing smile, and vulgarity of some tradesmen.

23. When in the shop take care to be sober on all occasions.

24. Talk to your customers like a man of sense and business, and not like a mountebank.

25. Be not very anxious to make a great fortune, nor set your heart upon a country-house and retirement.

26. In a word, be strictly honest, assiduously diligent, and frugal. Never break your word, or shuffle, but teach your brother tradesman and the whole world that you are a person in every possible case to be depended on.





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