

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE EVENING TIMES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ATHLETIC RESULTS: THEIR TRANSMISSION, &c.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AN OLD SUGGESTION FOR MOTOR CARS.

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



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

A GLASGOW NEWSPAPER CONSPIRACY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Morton ultimately got possession of a large quantity of newspapers in 45 bags, which he transferred to Messrs. Hutchison & Dixon's stores, where they were examined before witnesses. The weight of the bags containing this waste, as found from the police weighing machines, was not 9 tons, but 6 tons $2\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. It happens that the date of such copies of the *Evening Times* as were found in the bags ran over 16 months, or say 396 days; and it will be at once seen that this reduces the heavy weight of 9 tons, and the big-looking figures of 396,000 copies, to only 1,000 copies a day—a trifle, even if the advertisement had stated the facts, on such a circulation as that of the *Evening Times*. But

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

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

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

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

(Signed) "JOHN HENDERSON.

"JOHN DONELLY, Law Apprentice, Glasgow, witness.

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

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

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

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

addressed to me as from the *Glasgow News*. Mr. M—— took me into a private room, and asked if I would have no objection to go into a lark about some paper connected with the *Herald*. I replied ‘No.’ He seemed to be aware that I was not on good terms with the *Herald*, and he said something about there being a lot of tons of *Times* and *Herald* newspapers to be had. He did not go into particulars, but said that I should hear from him. I got another note from the *Glasgow News* a day or two afterwards, requesting me again to call on Mr. M——. I called immediately, and Mr. M—— showed me a receipt for £5, which had been paid as a deposit on about six tons of waste paper, which had been bought from Mr. John Henderson of Fox Street. The receipt was in the name of Mr. T——, but I knew nothing of any man of that name. When speaking of the purchasers, Mr. M—— used the expression ‘us’ and ‘we,’ which I understood to mean the *News* proprietors. I, of course, understood that the name ‘T——’ had been used as a blind to prevent the transaction being traced to the *Glasgow News*. Mr. M—— gave me from time to time the necessary money to enable me to take delivery of the paper purchased from Mr. Henderson. I took delivery according to Mr. M——’s directions, but I did not expose the paper so prominently as he wished me to do. I found the whole paper to be put up in bales, and I did not open more than two or three of these. It was intended that I should have taken delivery of the whole paper on the 30th September, but some little delay took place in getting the keys and finding a carter. The delay seemed to cause annoyance at the *News* Office, because a messenger came along two or three times in my absence, and expressed himself as disappointed at not finding me. The exact quantity of paper taken delivery of by me was 6 tons 2¾ cwt., and the price paid was £61 7s. 6d.—7s. 6d. being allowed off. In speaking about where the paper was to be exposed to view, Mr. M—— said that he knew fine there were plenty of shops to let about where I was, and that I was to make the

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

be his ordinary office cash-box, and he made me sign jottings which he made of the dates and amounts paid, which I supposed were taken for the satisfaction of his superiors or others, to whom he might have to account. I ordered the advertisement in the *Citizen*, and Mr. M—— took the advertisement for the morning and evening *News* to the counter clerk, whose signature is appended to the receipt produced by me as ‘*pro* F—— W——, R. R——.’ I paid the price of the whole advertisements out of money which had been given to me by Mr. ——.

He asked me on several occasions to take small sums of a sovereign or so. The most of the paper was sold by me to Mr. Morton in one lot. I had previously sold two or three small quantities, the largest of which was $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. I cannot yet say what the contents of the bales consist of, but Mr. M—— told me that they had bargained for the class of paper of the *Evening Times*. At the same time, he said it was very likely there would be *Heralds* along with them. When I saw Mr. M—— on Saturday the 2nd October, he told me the end had been accomplished, and that I might sell off the papers. He had previously told me that it was very likely the *Herald* might themselves wish to buy them, and that I might get a big price.

(Signed) “D—— B——.

“JOHN D——, witness.

“JOHN C——, witness.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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