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

THE PAPER DUTY, AND PAPER.

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and the forces which had done their work in getting the two "Taxes on Knowledge"—the Advertisement and Stamp Duties—repealed, continued to operate until the end was gained in the freeing of paper from all taxation.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

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

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

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

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

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

> "Whan this was seyd, with paper she sat doun,
> And in this manner made her testament."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Prices of News-Paper During Fifty Years.—It will be readily understood that during that period, with so many vicissitudes in the supply and demand of paper, with the tax on and off, and with the changes in the choice of material for paper-making, the cost of that used for newspapers changed frequently. The price per lb. supplied to the *Herald* in 1845 was 8½d. for good, durable paper; and it gradually came down to

6¾d. in 1855. From that year onward we have been largely supplied by Messrs. Brown, Stewart & Co., Paper-makers, of Glasgow, so that, by favour of Mr. Brown, I am enabled to give further in the following summary the varying prices during the last 40 years. From 6¾d. in 1855, it came down to 6½d. in 1860; and in 1861, when the duty of 1½d. was taken off, it fell to that extent, but with a struggle by the manufacturers to retain some "tailings" of the tax. In 1871 the price was 4d., but owing to the Franco-German War, and its disorganising effect upon the importation of Continental rags, it went back to 4½d. (less 2½ per cent.) in 1873. It then rapidly fell by percentages on the coppers, until in the latter part of 1879 it was 2¾d. nett, and by further percentage discounts it reached 2d. in 1886. At this point it was generally thought that the minimum figure had been reached, but it has continued to go down by similar stages, and has become so "small by degrees and beautifully less" that news-paper can now be bought for 1¼d. per lb.—a farthing less than the old duty!

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

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

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

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

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

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

of our most lovely colours, besides a condensed sweet, while huge mounds of coal *debris* are turned into fuel, and clouds of smoke, smut, and gases into steam power. Then in the hands of intelligent papermakers the outpourings from their mills, which formerly polluted rivers and streams, yield back to them by the recovery process much of the caustic soda which is a costly requisite in the manufacture of paper, so that he saves by the enterprise about 27½ per cent. per annum clear profit upon an outlay amounting to about £3,000 for plant. Can even a third of that be made by papermaking without the recovery process, or earned by many other business men in these years? It is a lesson to almost all trades to let nothing go to waste.

THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

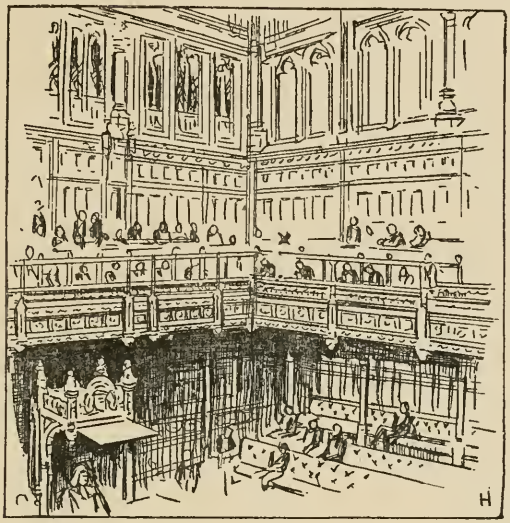
between Edinburgh and Glasgow in 65 minutes, and with the telegraph giving momentary delivery direct into the sub-editor's hands, it is almost impossible for the present generation to believe that Mr. Pagan's single-handed feats are worth recording. And yet such efforts, and his continued interest in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

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

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

distinguished, will find himself immediately prevented taking any notes.

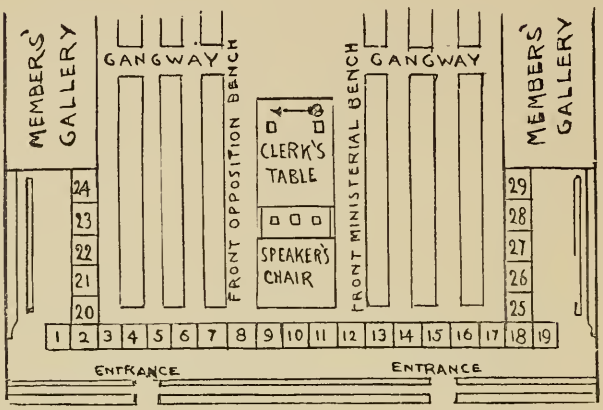
Speaker's Chair and Reporters' Gallery.



The reporters' seats in front number from 1 to 19, and were in possession of the Metropolitan Press before the Members' galleries were so far appropriated as to make room for 10 additional seats (5 on each side) to accommodate reporters from other cities of the United Kingdom, and two for News Agencies. Several of the seats in the front row are so low as to place the occupants at a disadvantage, while the reporters in the centre canno thear the Speaker well because of the canopy over his chair; those on either side facing the Government or Opposition benches can both see and hear better. The *Glasgow Herald* seat is No. 20, at the junction of the side and front galleries below the mark X, where our reporters sit in turn. It is in full view of the Speaker, and faces the Government benches. Four of the side gallery boxes are occupied by the reporters of newspapers which combine to get a report in common.

Plan and Key of the Reporters' Gallery and Part of the Floor of the House.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lasting Value of Reporters' Work.

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

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

Commercial News.—There is a manifest contrast between the very scanty information given in old times and the extent and quality of that given now regarding the commercial affairs of the world,—including under that term the markets for money, shares, iron and other metals, produce, cotton, coal, cattle, dead meat, with shipping, freight, &c., &c. The ordinary amount of commercial news in the *Herald* extends now to an average of about 13 columns daily, while 50 years ago all that was published of such matter reached to only about 2 columns on each of the two days. No doubt much of the commerce which now exists was not then dreamt of, and some departments of it were very small, such as grain and flour in the days of the Corn Laws, and such as shipping. In the case of the latter, it looked, shortly before the steam and iron age of ships, as if the American wooden clippers were about to wrest the carrying trade of the world from us; but, as we know, our iron steamers have so completely won the day, that for 1894-95 the tonnage of all ships owned in the United Kingdom and Colonies amounted to 12,969,951 as compared with 11,599,545 tons for all the other countries of the world, while of that 2,171,459 tons belongs to the United States. That itself means shipping news extending to an average of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ columns per day, as against two-thirds of a column half a century ago. Included in the market news from America, there is a daily average of $2\frac{1}{6}$ columns, while in old days there was none. For some years before 1881—when I visited North America—the chief items from it were those under the headings of Shipments and the Visible Supply, until by special arrangements which I then

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

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

Book Reviewing formerly occupied a small, and only an occcasional, place in newspapers, as much perhaps because of fewer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The longest of all the cablegrams—at least of the commercial news character—which have reached this country, was that of the New American Tariff, which was so anxiously looked for in Europe by manufacturers, merchants, and others, because of the expectation that it would go in the direction of Free Trade, as against the ultra-Protective system which had prevailed in the United States. It appeared in the *Herald* of 16th August, 1894, and occupied there 12⅓ columns,—touching on 3,500 lines. I may here refer to a telegram of unprecedented length (not a cablegram nor such matter as News Agencies supply)

which appeared in the *Chicago Times* of 22nd May, 1881, in the form of the Revised New Testament. I was fortunate enough to have a little association with this big transaction, by being in conversation with the editor in his room at the moment when a messenger came in to say, "The Revised New Testament has arrived at New York, sir. Do you wish any of it telegraphed?" The editor at once said—"Telegraph the whole of it." The four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistle to the Romans were telegraphed that day and evening from New York. That portion of the New Testament, the editor said, contained about 118,000 words, and constituted by many times the largest special despatch ever sent over the wires. The remainder of the work was printed from the copies of the Revised Testament received at night. The whole, which appeared the following morning, occupied 88½ columns. In an interesting article on "Two Memorable Days in Paternoster Row," in the *Leisure Hour* of April, 1891, referring to the issue of the Revised Testament, it is stated that the cost of that telegraphing was said to have been $3000—say £600. As I left Chicago after parting from the editor, I was unable to procure a copy of this rare edition of his paper, much to my regret, but by the kindness of Mr. Henry Frowde of the Oxford University Press Warehouse, London, I have now a copy before me. By permission of Mr. Frowde, I will hand this *Chicago Times* to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, so that it may be seen by any person. It may be here pointed out that the setting during the evening of such an amount of matter as that referred to in these two cases was almost as remarkable a feat as the telegraphing.

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

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

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

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