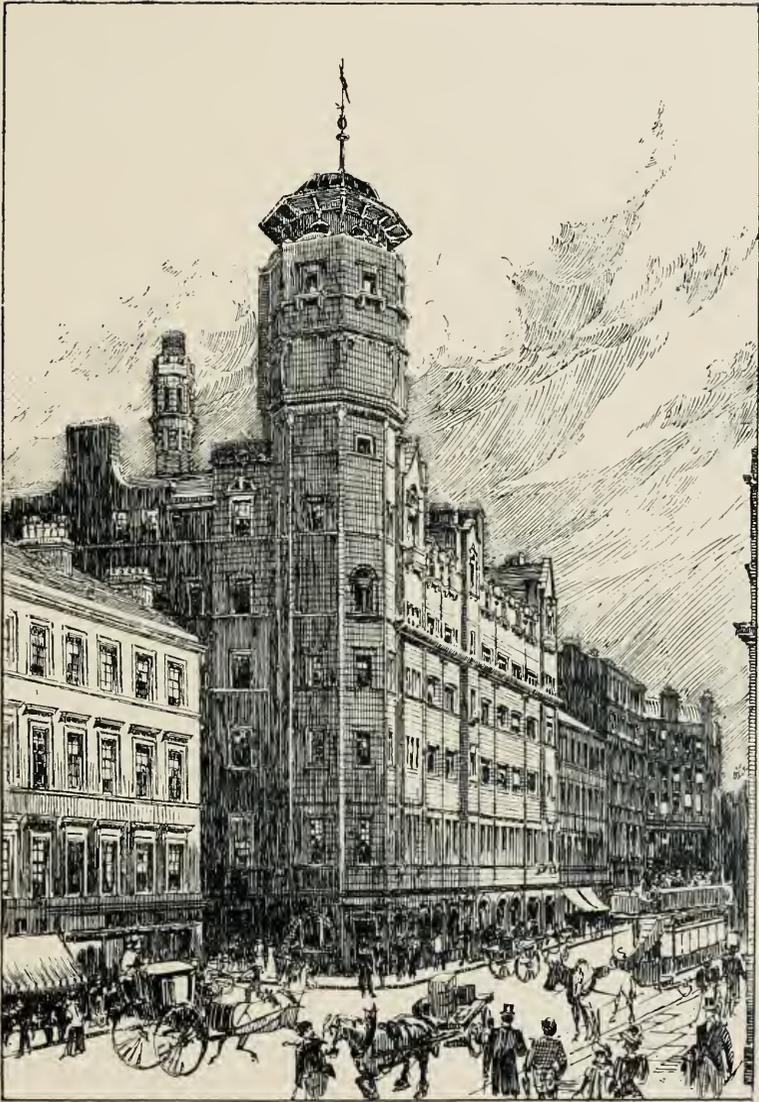


OUR PREMISES, FIRES, &c.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREATEST ADVERTISING NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A *HERALD* OF 'FORTY-SIX.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consols "have been done as high as 96 $\frac{3}{8}$," and Pig Iron 63s. to 64s. for No. 3. Lord Lincoln is returned by eleven votes for Falkirk Burghs, "a free and independent representative of a free and independent constituency (Hisses)." His opponent's name was Wilson. Amongst the wonders of the time are the electric pendulum, by which Edinburgh, Falkirk, and Glasgow could be synchronised, and a new gun-lock from Paris, practically our present mechanism for keeping the hammers at half-cock. The Iron Duke is congratulated upon his 77th birthday, and the next column chronicles an "unheard-of undertaking," namely, a wager to walk 1500 miles in 1000 successive hours. Foulards and bareges, with open fancy straws, were the only wear in Sauchiehall Street *anno* 1846. Literature is represented by a twenty-line

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

BOY WANTED.

WANTED

FOR AN OFFICE IN TOWN

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

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

Glasgow, 22nd August.

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

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

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

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

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

A *HERALD* OF 1796.

The title of this article is slightly inaccurate in two respects. First, there was no such name as the *Glasgow Herald* at that period, but its ancestor in the direct line was the *Glasgow Advertiser*, started in 1782, in an office whose yearly rent was £5. At the age of twenty the *Advertiser* became the *Herald and Advertiser*, and shortly after the latter word was dropped. From the origin in 1782 the numbers of the papers were continued in consecutive order, and showed the unity of the whole. Secondly, the *Advertiser* of 1796 is not in existence. But, for the purpose of contrast with the *Herald* to-day and "A *Herald* of 'Forty-six," referred to in this column last Wednesday, the paper as it was issued in 1794 serves equally well. In its general appearance the *Advertiser* differs greatly from the unwieldy sheet of fifty years ago. The issues of nine months make up a volume resembling externally a Family Bible. The page is nearly square, and taking the number published this day one hundred and two years ago, it is found to consist of eight pages of three columns each. The paper was published on Monday and Friday, by J. Mennons, Tontine Close, Trongate, who added to his duties as publisher and editor the sale of such articles advertised in his paper as the Parisian Vegetable Syrup, which, "with the Divine Blessing on five bottles," was a certain remover of "fever and colliquative sweat." The price of the paper was 4d., or 3s. per annum, delivered in town. Perhaps the most striking contrast between 1846 and 1794 is in respect of the foreign news supplied. In the issue of the *Herald* referred to last week, that department of the paper consisted of one line—"The foreign news is wholly unimportant." The issue of September 22nd, 1794, is more than half made up of intelligence from abroad. The reason is obvious when

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

STOCKS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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