The opposition to Mr. Faulkner was by no means quieted by his withdrawal from office, the severance of his connection with the Society enraged his enemies and even annoyed his friends. No one could have expected that the opposition he had himself raised to the establishment of a fifth lodge should suddenly change into a feeling of satisfaction when he proceeded to act in direct violation of the principles he had laid down against another, nor did it; it rather manifested itself in a greater degree, until he was openly charged with being a traitor to the cause, and even of robbing the Society. Whether the men got to know that he had received a present from the Employers' Association is not now known, but that he did, he has himself admitted in one of his letters: “The masters who gave the hour also feeling the ill-usage I sustained made me an unsolicited present of five guineas.” There may have been nothing wrong in thus receiving a present from the employers, but it is certain that many would find in it a confirmation “strong as proof from holy writ” that some shady transaction had occurred. The charge of robbery seems to have been a shameful and malicious one without foundation; Neal, the president of lodge 3, attacked Faulkner in his absence for having “robbed the box,” but when the latter put in an appearance and demanded to be heard, Neal “rapped the desk for silence and called for a song.” At the next meeting, however, Whitfield, the secretary, was present, and the case appears to have been investigated, when Whitfield declared that there had been no robbery, and that the auditors were perfectly satisfied with Faulkner’s accounts.

The new lodge was founded with the assistance of some twenty-five or thirty of Faulkner’s friends and partisans, who, irritated at the injustice being meted out to him, seceded from the lodges at about the same time; but it made little further progress, owing to the opposition of the other lodges and the repeated efforts made to bring the seceders back into the Union. The following is the most important minute upon the subject:—“Friendly Society held at the King’s Arms, St. Martin’s Court, St. Martin’s Lane, September 12th, 1796. The Friendly Sire opened the Lodge in the usual form. F. Shields, Morrison, and Tomlinson, received the sum of one shilling and sixpence for their expenses of one Meeting concerning the fifth Society. Some remarks and propositions were sent from the Fifth Society, without a signature; they were read and this Society, not approving of having a fifth, they were ordered to be burnt. The proceedings of Deputation concerning the Fifth Society were read and approved of which are here copied.”

George, Little Drury Lane, September 4th, 1796.

Gentlemen,—Having met according to deputation to consider the best method of preventing the establishment of a Fifth Society, and the most eligible mode of meeting the Trade so as to act for each other’s good, have resolved,—First, that we are firmly convinced that the establishment of a fifth Society, or more, tends only to lessen the strength of the four original Societies, and disunite the general body of the Trade, and it, secondly, appears to us that if the four Societies are unanimous on the subject of the Working Ticket so as not to admit their members to work with such as cannot produce their Working Ticket from one of the four Lodges, or a note from one of the four Secretaries or Presidents, it would totally prevent the establishment of any Society whatever, and further, that it be recommended for one person to meet at the George from each Society to transact business for their respective Societies, and that no person be admitted from the country unless he pay the fine of one guinea, town apprentices 10s. 6d. and persons from other Societies an admission according to their private articles, and that no person shall be received as a member without clearing his arrears of the Society he leaves. We resolve likewise that it be recommended to the refractory members of the different Societies immediately to join their respective Lodges prior to quarterly night, or that if they exceed that time, a heavy fine will be levied upon them.—Lastly, resolved that it is the wish of the persons whose names are hereunto set (and who are officially appointed) that the Societies’ Lodges II. and III. do appoint persons to meet the Deputies from the other Lodges on the subject, at the George on Sunday next after the next Meeting night.

In behalf of the Friendly Society, Lodge I., Charles Tomlinson, William Morrison, J. Shields.

In behalf of the United Brothers Lodge IV., Joseph Keene, J. Cushing.

The meeting herein suggested was held, when the members of the fifth Society were called upon to rejoin their respective lodges, and as they did not do so by the quarterly night, a fine of five guineas each was imposed, which probably served to strengthen their objections, apart from the fact that their individual liberty of action had been curtailed by signing an agreement sanctioning Faulkner’s proceedings—which was duly stamped at Somerset House—and by means of which they were afterwards called upon to pay something like a guinea each for expenses incurred by him for meetings, etc. This they resented, but upon his threat to sue, they paid something, while he contented himself with what he could extract from them. In consequence of this proceeding the fifth lodge became known as the “Tontine Lodge,” but though the trade generally was much amused at the position in which the Tontine members found themselves, literally between two fires, they made it as hot for the seceders as they could by a social ostracism which at last brought the question to a climax.

About the close of the year 1796 a large written placard was placed over the mantelpiece of the meeting
room in the "George," on which was inscribed "No
Doors, or Members of the Fifth Society, admitted
here." The "George" was not only the meeting
place of Lodge IV. and the amalgamated committee
of the lodges, but also of the "Amicable Society of
Bookbinders"—afterwards known as the "Book-
binders' Friendly Benefit Society"—which was founded
on November 7th, 1792, by Mr. Faulkner, and of which
he was still a member. The bill was aimed, no doubt,
more particularly at Faulkner, and he evidently felt it
to be so, for he took an early opportunity of going to
see it. It was on a Sunday evening when, with a
friend named Dewey, he went to the room. They
were received with marked coldness when they en-
tered, and no notice was taken of their presence, till
Fairbourne rose and holding up a candle before the
placard, asked if Faulkner could read it; some very
offensive remarks then passed between these old an-
tagonists, and the general atmosphere grew decidedly
warm, when one named Main threw a quart pot at
Faulkner, but missed his aim and knocked down an
inoffensive person named Cook, who was not even a
binder. An uproar ensued, in the midst of which
Dewey's chair was pulled from under him and he was
dragged out some thirty feet along a passage by the
heels, and unceremoniously dumped into the gutter.
Triumphantly the party returned to the room to inform
Mr. Faulkner that if he did not quit, they would serve
him the same, when he retired before the excited
crowd. Next morning the two went before the
magistrates in Hatton-garden, and procured warrants
for the arrest of Fairbourne and Nimmo, who were
taken into custody on the afternoon of the same day,
but let out on bail. The case was tried at the New
Sessions House, Clerkenwell-green, when Faulkner
engaged Mr. Knowles for the prosecution, Fair-
bourne and Nimmo being defended by Messrs. Knapp
and Alley, who were engaged by their lodge for legal
assistance. The result was a verdict of guilty and a
sentence of two months' imprisonment.

How bitterly the Societies felt against Faulkner
may be conceived, when, after such vile treatment,
in which a man who had not sinned against them had
been injured, they determined to support and defend
the aggressors. Here is the minute of the meeting:
"Friendly Society held at the 'King's Arms,' St.
Martin's-court, Feb'y, 1. 1797.—The minutes of last
lodges was read & confirmed. Friend Tomlinson, as
secy. to the meeting of officers of the four Lodges
(held at the George little Drury-lane) read the resolu-
tions of the meeting.—The meeting unanimously agreed
to the suport of Mrs. Faecburn & Nimmo against
Mr. Falkner. The question was put up in the Society
and agreed to without a desenting voice." At another
meeting held June 18th, 1797, a letter of thanks was
read from them "for the kindness shown to them in
the late detestable prosecution."

Thus, for a very long time, the Societies were
emboldened with disputes arising out of the action of
a man who had been one of their best friends, but
whose headstrong will and autocratic government
had raised up a host of enemies, yet whom no force
could remove from a certain position of power which
he held, in spite of being outside their ranks. It was
not until better counsels prevailed, that a temporary
truce was secured by the simple expedient of passing
an act of grace to remit the fines of all those who had
been concerned in the establishment of a fifth lodge,
when the members thereof dissolved it, and returned
to their original Societies.

That it was but a temporary truce is evident from
what took place subsequently in the Benefit Society—
further proceedings of Mr. Faulkner being veiled in
obsccurity, as far as the lodges are concerned. A
minute of his expulsion is in existence, said to be in
the handwriting of Mr. J. Thompson, the then secre-
tary.—"Faulkner, Thos. William.—Jany. 18th, 1815
—Erased for being guilty of a breach of trust while
officially holding the office of Pay Steward in the
amount of £7 10. 0.—For particulars of this sum see
the statement of the delegates.—On the above night of
crasm'd Mr. T. W. F.'s list arrears £—11. 10."

It must, however, in fairness be said that some
notes written by a member, Mr. S. Moxtham, in an old
copy of the Benefit Society's rules, puts the matter
in another light.—The Triumph of Malice—January
18th, 1815.—Thomas William Faulkner, the founder
and the ever vigilant guardian of this Society, was
excluded. This triumph was obtained by his enemies
in consequence of his over-drawing a trifling sum
while he was the pay-steward, and he being obliged to
leave London on business, could not attend to sum-
mons; yet without any article by which to punish him
—without being heard in his own defence (although
he wrote from the country to say that the money
should be paid in immediately he was informed of the
sum deficient). This did not satisfy those who, for
years, had been thirsting after power in the Society,
which they could never attain while he stood a phalanx
even in himself, with talents which they envied, yet
were forced to acknowledge, and a superior know-
ledge to which they were compelled to submit. This
exclusion was effected by thirty-four votes (principally
Scottish) to twenty-five. Mr. Duthie (a Scotchman)
president. Messrs. Pratt and Ferguson (both Scotch-
men) examined his accounts."

Whatever may have been his failings, one thing is
quite certain, that as he was the mover of the trade,
so he was its main instrument in securing the reduction
of one hour's labour from the working day in 1794.
It was this fact that led the officers of the Finishers'
Friendly Association to seek out Mr. Faulkner—who
was then in New York—in 1844, and to endeavour
to get up a testimonial for him, which only resulted in
the sum of ten pounds. And in the summer of 1871,
to send over a very tastefully executed tablet with
the following suitable inscription:—"The under-
signed, on behalf of the members of the Finishers'
Friendly Association, present their heartfelt respects
Thomas W. Faulkner, now of New York, who, in
the year 1794, by great exertion and personal
sacrifice, was the principal means of obtaining a
reduction of one hour's labour per day for the book-
binders of London, an advantage which they have
continued to enjoy, and for which succeeding genera-
tions have cause to be grateful."—Plough Tavern,
Museum-street, London, July 28th, 1847."

[To be continued.]
The Bookbinders' Trade Societies.

After the trade had had sufficient time to settle down and began to appreciate the benefit of the reduced working time, business began to pick up, and for some years there were times of piping prosperity, during which the Societies maintained their organisation, only concerning themselves with internal reforms, and gradually increased their numbers until they mustered over 200, the lodges having to divide between them those who were admitted above the numbers prescribed by the rules. Thus everything went along quietly until the year 1806, when the movement for the tea half-hour took place, which resulted in a lock-out.

Before detailing the progress of that struggle, it would be well to look at the position of the trade at the time as it appeared to those interested in the struggle, and for this purpose no better record can be found than the "Recollections" of Mr. James Watson, although written many years after the events recorded had taken place, 1845. He reviews the position of the trade "in order that we may be enabled to judge the conduct of those who suggested that measure, well knowing that it must be productive of much trouble and expense, and from my own observation and experience I may say that they were well warranted in doing so, for bookbinding was then in a highly prosperous condition. Having left Edinburgh soon after the termination of my apprenticeship, I visited Dublin, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Bath, and other places, and in all these I found little or no difficulty in procuring employment, the wages being generally about a pound or a guinea per week, and when I came to London, in July, 1805, I soon found employment, nor during twelve years did I ever want a day's work except through illness or my own pleasure. It was equally the case with others, nor did I ever know of any men hanging about for weeks or months wishing for work and finding none, as is too often the fate of many worthy men at the present day. Idle characters are to be found at all times, but I must repeat that no industrious man had to wait long for employment; and then with regard to wages, I never knew any particular complaint on that score, nor do I think there existed any real cause for it—to give a general idea of the whole, I may be permitted to mention my own particular case. The first wages offered to me in London as a finisher was 25/- per week; when I was discharged on account of the strike they were 28/-; when that was over, I returned to the same employer at 30/-, and it was soon increased to 31/67 on the offer of a similar situation next year I had 35/-, and for the last two years I was employed they were 45/-, and ninepence over-hours. I am sorry to understand that wages have declined since that time, but that may be very easily accounted for by comparing the printed list of prices in 1812 and those of the present day. As I said before, the trade was in a most prosperous condition, and a variety of circumstances combined to render it so, which I am afraid will not occur again.

"The first and greatest advantage was the great abundance of employment and the very limited number of men employed; there were also at that time none of those overgrown establishments with a super-abundance of apprentices, but work was more evenly divided, and men, when dissatisfied with one situation could sooner suit themselves with another. It must also be remembered that the benefit society then flourished in full vigour, affording assistance to its members in illness, and this was zealously supported by nearly all the trade, who took a pride in its usefulness." At this time the vellum binders were united in one body with the letterpress binders, and the account book branch of the trade was exceedingly busy on account of the great European war which was going on with Napoleon. Mr. Watson points out that "above six hundred government ships were afloat and all the dockyards in full activity, and to supply all these with account books, stationery, and printed orders, the quantity of work done for the Admiralty alone was enormous." But besides all this there was an exceedingly large export trade done
with both America and the Continent. At that time there was scarcely any account book work done in Germany. In a great city like Vienna there were no account book binders, everything was imported either from France or England, mostly from the latter country. "Then as to leather binders there existed at that time a great branch of trade of which scarcely a vestige now remains, I allude to the exportation of books to America, which indeed was very great. America, in fact, relied for the whole of her standard literature entirely upon Britain, and Bibles and prayers were exported from Scotland in great quantities, being furnished at a much cheaper rate than elsewhere. In London, I know that the booksellers' orders to a very great extent embraced all the great publications, and were in general done up in an extra manner; in addition to this, a very general practice prevailed of preparing immense numbers in a superficial and shoddy style intended for exportation, and disposed of by auction in the city.

"To meet all this press of business with the small number of hands at that time in London, the system of working overtime was in very common practice, few men quitted work before nine o'clock, a great number not before ten, and I have known instances where for weeks together eleven was no unfrequent hour, and paid for accordingly; in short, when the object of the half-hour was obtained, and for some subsequent years, the great wish of the workmen of the present day was an accomplished fact—a fair day's pay for a fair day's work; indeed, those may be considered as the most palmy days for the journeyman bookbinder, and not likely soon to return.

"Such then was the state of trade at the commencement of the struggle for the half-hour, and such were the prospects of successfully carrying it on, and bringing it to a speedy and happy termination, the necessity for which had been foreseen for some time, and had often been a subject of discussion. It is necessary to notice that owing to the late hours before work was over, the afternoon refreshment was of more consequence than ever now, and accordingly was eagerly sought for by all. In some few favoured shops this was enjoyed without molestation, and with some degree of comfort, while in others, all indulgence of the kind was denied, and the men were but too happy if they could obtain a pint of beer and a crust. In general, however, it was so managed that their kind friends, the ladies, while preparing for their own comfort, neglected not those of their less fortunate companions, but contrived by making their tea to accommodate them as much as possible, and the men, if not immediately under the eye of their employer, would seat themselves on the ends of their presses for ten minutes or so and thus partake of it. It was under these circumstances that the struggle first took place.

"The discontent which had been accumulating for some time, at last found open vent in some of the lodges and soon extended to all; and various discussions and resolutions were the result, all ending in a determination to remove as speedily as possible the evil complained of. Into all these measures the young and more ardent members of the Society entered with great zeal and enthusiasm, but perhaps with far less judgment than their elders; among those hot-heads I confess myself to have been one, and although now retired and almost unknown in the trade, I was at that time a very busy sort of personage, in proof of which I may mention that I was elected and served the office of committee-man, long before I was eligible by time; this was during the contest.

"It was in the spring of 1806 that all these discussions came to an end in the determination of requesting the employers to grant their demands, and in case of refusal to concert measures for their attainment, and for this purpose a committee was specially appointed. It was at this period that the vellum binders declined being participators in the affair, separated from the Society, and have remained a distinct body ever since."

During March the employers were requested to give the half-hour for tea, when two or three of the leading West-end shops readily acceded to the request; a few did so with great reluctance, and some others came to a sort of compromise, allowing their men to have their tea but without giving the actual half-hour; the rest, employing about two-thirds of the men, peremptorily refused. On this it was resolved by the committee to withdraw the men from one shop—Macfarlane's—a few in number, pay them their full wages, and on the request being granted, to restore them, and do the same thing in other shops; accordingly on April 5th three or four men were drawn out. On the following Saturday, April 12th, a few men were drawn out from Mr. Graham's, and this brought matters to a climax. The Employers' Association had been hastily reformed, and daily meetings were being held, for the employers were fully aware of what was going on, and they speedily came to a decision with a view to prevent being dealt with singly. On April 19th, when the men came to be paid in those shops where the employers were opposed to their designs, they were required at once and for ever to abandon their project, and on their declining their resolution not to do so, they were instantly, without any previous warning, absolutely and entirely discharged, and were given to understand that the masters had come to a resolution to oppose them to the utmost, and never in any shape to accede to their demands. The sudden surprise occasioned by this decided conduct was indeed very great, and caused the utmost commotion. I, with my shopmates, being paid at an early hour, hastened to the 'Harlequin,' in Drury-lane, where the committees held their meetings and where the business of the Society was transacted; we there met with some others who had also been discharged, and in a short time more joined us in a similar situation. The truth now became apparent, and we hurried out of doors to ascertain the fact that a general discharge had taken place. A singular scene now presented itself, and which I well remember; parties were seen coming in haste to the house, and as each advanced they were met with shouts and cheers, and in a very short time the whole street was filled, and much confusion prevailed in consequence; all were eager to communicate their individual intelligence and to
consult as to what was to be done. On Sunday and Monday the place continued to be crowded with the workmen, and then it became known that the committee had determined that every man who had been discharged should receive seven shillings a week, and that all those in work should contribute one day’s pay weekly. The announcement of this resolution was received by both parties with much cheerfulness, and although those with families must have suffered much privation, still no particular complaint was ever made; the money paid by those in work was done regularly and willingly, and no default in this respect ever embarrassed the proceedings of the committee.”

On the following Thursday the employers caused an advertisement to be inserted in the Morning Advertiser:—“To Bookbinders. — The trade are hereby informed that a book is opened at Mr. Lacy’s, the Swan and Sugar Loaf, Fetter-lane, Fleet-street, where masters may apply for journeymen, and the men meet with immediate employment.” This was followed by another in the same paper of May 3rd:—“To Journeymen Bookbinders: — Such of the men as are inclined to continue their employ on the usual former regulations, leaving out of the question their late ridiculous and unreasonable demand, are requested to leave their names at the Swan and Sugar Loaf, Fetter-lane, and they will be protected against the innovations of Society men and meet with immediate and constant employ.” To this sarcastic rub the men were not slow to reply, and the following leaflet was printed and circulated:

THE BOOKBINDERS’ PETITION.

Dread Sir,

My trembling hand forgive,
For thus intruding on your time;
My unfeigned sorrows pray receive,
Atoning for my former crime.
Oh! did you know my sad distress,
Your pardon you would not refuse:
I never will again transgress,
Or your most generous care abuse.
Ev’n now I feel the hand of want,
In vain my jaws distend like leather;
And my small portion is so scant.
Scarce keeping skin and bone together.
Indeed ’twas ALSTON, curse his name!
Infamous fiend! Bookbinder’s ruin!
Through him we’re in disgrace and shame.
He was the cause of our undoing.
He, by his cursed wily snares,
Has got us (somehow) in his power;
And now the harden’d villain dares
To make us wish for half-an-hour.
He wants refreshment, and his rest;
To drink his tea, forsooth, and cram him;
Oh, sir! believe me not in jest,
When I say, d — — , and double d — — , him.
I am commission’d by my friends
To beg of you to intercede
In our behalf; we’ll make amends,—
Indeed we will, we will indeed.
Oh! to your easy fostering shops,
But once again let us return;
Ye Trade Supporters, our best props,
The scanty half-hour for our tea
Some few have now agreed to grant;
Oh, shame! to let poor men have ease!—
Soon they’ll not know what next they want.

If you forgive us, oh, how blest!
Like slaves we’ll work to keep us free;
Whilest of your favour we’re possess’d,
E’en slavery’s liberty.
Your favour is the compass-hole
That guides our steps, renews our courage.
The Binder’s cordial for the soul,
Your slave for ever.
FRANCIS FORDEGE.

Obituary.

At Edinburgh, on May 3rd, Robinson Peter Sutherland, aged 74, a well-known second-hand bookseller, died. Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1819, where for many years his father was a bookseller, Peter received an excellent education, which proved advantageous to him in his business. He settled in Edinburgh in 1842, and for fifty years carried on a stall trade in Leith Walk. At one period he had a small shop with a bookstall outside, and many of the old book collectors were accustomed to visit his stall. One well-remembered bibliophile, the late Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, of Hoddam, was a frequent visitor, and felt so much interested in Peter that he left him a bequest of £100. Another of his customers was the late David Laing, the celebrated Scottish antiquary. When Peter succeeded in picking up a rare book, it was his practice to give Mr. Laing the first refusal of it, and many a rarity passed through his hands in that direction. On one occasion Peter got hold of a rare edition of “Don Quixote,” in two vols., quarto; he picked it up at another stall at a small price. He carried it off to Mr. Laing, who requested him to call next day, when he would fix the price. When Peter called he was considerably surprised when he received £10 for it. It may, however, be noted that this same book realised, at the sale of Mr. Laing’s library in London, in 1879, the handsome sum of £192. Another of Peter’s patrons, who holds a high position as a Lord of Session, on one occasion asked him to keep a look out for volumes one and two of the Scotsman newspaper, but he never happened to fall in with them until twenty years thereafter. He, however, trudged off with them to the residence of the gentleman, who at the time was engaged entertaining a party of friends. Great surprise was expressed, and no novel was the situation felt to be, that, on being apprised of the circumstance, the party demanded that Peter should be introduced. This being done, there was great merriment on seeing a bookseller who executed an order which had been given twenty years previously. Many similar illustrations of his experiences as a bookseller were wont to be referred to by Peter when talking over past times. Latterly he had a hard struggle for existence, chiefly because of his stand being frequently shifted on account of city improvements. His health also became very precarious for some time previous to his decease. In many respects he was a remarkable individual, who possessed a vast amount of information in regard to old books, and he was much respected by the trade.—R. C. IN THE BOOKSELLER.
CONTINUING Mr. Watson’s “Recollections” of the strike for the tea half-hour, we find that the employers endeavoured to fill their vacant shops with men from the country; that circulars were despatched to the principal binding towns entreating the journeymen not to come to London, to their brethren’s hurt, during the dispute: and that the request had the desired effect. “At the same time, as it was easy to foresee that the funds of the Society would be totally inadequate for the necessary expenditure, assistance was solicited in the way of loans or donations from those in the large towns, and several sums were remitted in consequence. Afterwards, applications were made to various trades for their friendly support in the same manner, which were partly successful, so that for a considerable time apprehensions were entertained on that account.

“While matters were in this state the masters were by no means remiss in their continued opposition. They had trusted that their grand manoeuvre of instant discharge would totally dismay the journeymen, cripple their support, and thereby bend them to submission; failing in this, they called in to their assistance the Associated Booksellers, who, at their request, agreed to keep back their orders, and by other means discourage the men; they, moreover, held several solemn sittings at the ‘Chapter Coffee House,’ under the guidance of Messrs. Rivington, and from thence sent forth very awful denunciations against the rebellious and presumptuous journeymen, threatening utter destruction to all those who supported them in their wickedness. The men laughed at all this, and were not slow in publishing their counterblasts. In the way of authorship they also had their own poet laureate—Billy Butters by name—whose lyrical compositions, thickly studded with names and allusions, were said or sung with great glee.

“In the meantime, week after week passed away, and still matters remained in the same state; months began to be reckoned with the same uncertainty. The exemplary patience of the men began to be worn out, and what was still worse, the supplies began to fail, so that many expressed their wish for a settlement on any terms, though very few individually gave way. About the end of the third month it was plainly seen that it would be impossible to hold out much longer; the funds were rapidly decreasing, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the committee to replenish them, and the private resources of all were nearly dried up. The eager joyousness with which all were animated at the beginning had given way to indifference, and the desire to be again in employment became the prevailing sentiment, especially as it was well known that the masters, while still retaining their opposition, were most anxious for the termination of the dispute and the return of the men to their usual occupations; the men, therefore, began to consult among themselves as to whom they should apply, and on what conditions they should resume their employment.

“Affairs having arrived at this crisis, nothing more remained to be done; the committee had exerted their abilities to the utmost in endeavouring to procure the necessary supplies, and sustain the resolution of the men in trying to make an impression on particular employers. Their anxious and laborious duties had been duly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged, but it was now found to be all in vain; to maintain the contest any longer was only to entail so much additional endurance upon the men against all hope of obtaining the object of their wishes, and the fact was reluctantly acknowledged by all, that the struggle was at an end, and all combined efforts to obtain the desired privilege must cease. Finally, after fifteen weeks of anxious solicitude and much personal suffering, the committee announced that their labours were brought to a close, and the point in dispute formally yielded up; nothing remained but for the men to return to work, which they were advised to do upon the best terms they could obtain, with the secret resolution never to lose sight of what they had so long contended for, but to take advantage of every favourable circumstance which might occur. With what success this was acted upon will presently appear.

“It must be evident to all those conversant with the effects of strikes, that however successful they may be in the end, yet if prolonged for any length of time they must be productive of much hardship and distress before being brought to a conclusion, and this one of the bookbinders forms no exception. To the married men with families it proved a season of great suffering and privation; their regular support having ceased, domestic comforts were abridged, and a load of debt and other obligations were contracted which required years of labour to redeem. On the younger and less-encumbered members its effects were also severely felt, although not attended with that degree of family distress. I must again refer to myself, if merely to show the case of many others: my own loss, from suspension of wages, private expenditure, and subsequent contributions towards liquidating the debt contracted by the Society, was not less than thirty pounds, and to some others it was even more than that. It would have been well had the evil been confined to the loss of money, but to too many it proved most disastrous by inducing habits of reckless dissipation and idleness, which ended in the utter ruin of some and lasting injury to others. As an instance of the scenes which frequently occurred, I might mention the case of four good workmen, who sat themselves down in the ‘Harlequin’ for a fuddle, on a Saturday evening, continuing it until a late hour; it was repeated on the Sunday and again on the Monday, till their means were all exhausted; then they stripped off their coats, and seizing a decent hat from a brother toper, sent them all to a pawnbroker opposite, and drank the product;—and such things were not uncommon.

“While such were the consequences to the men, it is not to be supposed that the masters escaped without injury. From the bitterness in which they spoke when
the subject was mentioned, and the comparatively short time that intervened before they yielded to the men's wishes, it is well known that the losses sustained through their opposition were very serious; their businesses were stagnated, or flowed into other channels, and to some it proved fatal. The person for whom I had worked—a worthy young man who possessed an excellent business through the patronage of Messrs. Vernor & Hood, one of the principal houses in the American export trade, and who at the commencement of the strike had a very large American order in hand—was exceedingly averse to the doings of the Masters' Society, of which he was a member, both from the dread he entertained of its consequences and the mutual regard subsisting between himself and his workmen; he was very willing, therefore, to grant every reasonable indulgence without coming to precise set terms, and with this we were satisfied, hoping to continue at work without interruption. The Masters' Society, however, becoming acquainted with his intentions, employed their most active agents, Messrs. Crawford, Kitcat, and Lewis, who continually beset him, and ultimately prevailed upon him to enter into their views, they on their part undertaking to get his work done among themselves. In an evil hour he consented, and with a heavy heart parted from us; the work was scattered in all directions, and when finished and returned was found to be completely spoiled, and unfit for the purpose intended; the consequence was the shipping order was stopped, the booksellers would send him no more work, and within a twelvemonth he was a ruined man;—and his was not the only instance.

"On the other hand, those employers who had complied with the men's demands soon reaped the reward of their ready acquiescence; notwithstanding the threats of the booksellers, their businesses prospered and increased in a very rapid manner, and several additional hands were taken on, when the best interests of both parties were duly considered and unerringly promoted, and great goodwill and cordiality consequently subsisted between them. The booksellers becoming very anxious to have their orders executed by any who would undertake them, many of the employers greatly benefited by the occasion; among these I may mention Mr. Charles Reily, who then carried on business in the Old Bailey; he became overstocked with work, and was therefore enabled to employ several who had been thrown out.

"The strike having terminated and the men having returned to work, everyone was fully employed and affairs began to take their accustomed course; business, which had been so long in a state of stagnation, increased in a remarkable manner; there was a great demand for hands—far more than could be supplied—and there was always a numerous list of vacancies on the book. From these circumstances arose advantages wholly unlooked for, on that account the more welcome, and which, to the men, proved a full compensation for all they had undergone, viz., the almost universal rise in wages, and the gradual accomplishment of their main desire, the tea half-hour.

"I have already said that when I returned to work I had two shillings more than before, which was soon increased to three and sixpence; my dear friend, Mr. Honney, obtained a similar rise in much the same space of time, and everyone had the opportunity of embracing the same advantages. Work still continued to accumulate, men were wanted, and as there were none to be had, it formed a very amusing scene at the 'Harlequin,' at evening time when work was done, and a set of merry fellows formed themselves into a self-constituted committee to gradually scan over the merits of those employers whose names were on the book, to see whom they might honour with their patronage. When a suitable man was found, the claims of that friend who had best supported the Society was always the first to be considered, and afterwards those of the one next most favourable. An additional rise was fully expected on these occasions, and generally complied with; and in this manner it was estimated that each man obtained a rise of not less than half-a-crown, and the half-hour was not forgotten. Gradually concessions were made, which, if not what was desired in name, came very near to it in substance, while in some cases a bold demand was made where it was known that the wants of the employers were most pressing, and often they were compelled through necessity to agree. An instance of this nature occurred in which I happened to be personally concerned, and which was much noticed at the time.

"At the beginning of March, 1807, when I had the intention of leaving my situation, there were not less than forty vacancies on the book; and having made known my intention, a solemn consultation was held, and it was decided that an attempt should be made upon a most obstinate opponent, McNair, of Queen-street, Golden-square. It was thought best that he should be accompanied by three or four friends known to him, in order that everything might be urged to accomplish their views. Having engaged me on my own terms, the half-hour was then adverted to, but to this he refused any assent; on being further urged he put himself into a passion, declaring how much he had suffered on that account and would never be compelled to grant it. Knowing, however, that being in want of a man for over a month, his business had been injured thereby, he listened to further remonstrances, came to a sort of compromise, dammed the half-hour, and said I might come in and do as I liked. This was considered quite enough. I accordingly accepted the situation, and at tea time when I prepared to sit down, I expected to be supported by the men of the shop, who were well aware of my intentions but not one of them would move. I was thus placed in an awkward position, and could only turn to my good friends the ladies to countenance my proceedings who kindly invited me to their tea table. In a short time the men assumed more courage, and the employer conveniently absenting himself allowed them sufficient time, so by and by one and another joined me, and in about a month the point was gained.

"I have been thus minute in detailing this affair, because it shows exactly how the object was attained after so much opposition, gradually and imperceptibly. From this time no material opposition was encountered, and in the space of two years, the privilege of the tea half-hour was finally established."
Mr. Watson's "Recollections of the Tea Half-hour Movement" are wonderfully descriptive of the exciting time through which he passed, considering, as he wrote that "they are but the fading remembrances of one now advanced in years, of times and circumstances long since gone by." Where they have been faulty, we have been able partly to remedy the defects from other sources, especially in determining the actual dates of the various stages of the movement, which have hitherto not been known. Even in 1847, when a song was composed and sung in commemoration of the event, the date was not known, as may be seen by the following verse taken from The Finishers' Friendly Circular:

Since Binders owe a heavy debt
Of gratitude to those who met
And planned the Strike, by which they get
The half-hour now to Tea.
So let them never forget the year
(Although the month is not so clear)
When first their fathers scorned fear,
Demanded time for Tea.

What we must deplore, however, is the total absence of any names of the leaders of the movement. It is not even certain to which committee Mr. Watson refers when he writes of his own election to the "office of committee-man," the strike committee, or the ordinary executive of his lodge. From the "Bookbinders' Petition," written at the time, we learn that some one named Alston was the prime mover of the affair:

Indeed 'twas Alston, curse his name!

and the song quoted above begins:

Although so many years have gone
Since Alston led our fathers on,
A jingle I'll attempt upon
The Strike for time to Tea.

but further than this, who Alston was, or what was his Christian name, we are at a loss to discover. The name does not occur in the list of Society members appended to the 1794 articles, nor in the list of members' names first published with the audits in 1825, nor is it to be found in any other papers relating to affairs between those dates.

The lock-out cost £451 13s. 9d., the whole of which, except £3 1s. 0d. donations, was defrayed by the Society; of this, the sum of £139 7s. 6d. was borrowed, but owing to the substantial advances gained by the men after resuming work, the Society was able to repay it in 1807. It is rather singular that neither Craig nor Armstrong—two of the men who had been imprisoned in 1787—both of whom had gone into business, would give the tea half-hour. Craig resisted it till his death, in 1814, although he generally allowed his men to take some refreshment during the afternoon, personally disappearing from the shop about five o'clock to have his own tea. Armstrong was no less an opponent, and from that time he declined dining with the men on the occasion of "the anniversary," to which he had always been invited, and he even got up a dinner for employing binders in 1807 at the publichouse then owned by Mr. Trueman, "The Friendly Barber."

For the three years following these efforts at reform the trade was remarkably busy, and the scarcity of men led to a great increase of the number of apprentices; but not only of apprentices; porters, who had become handy about the shops, were pushed on to do parts of the work; and when trade slackened, as it did towards the middle of the year 1810, journeymen were sent off for want of work while these porters were kept employed, the men felt that this trade was being taken out of their hands by persons having no right to it, and an agitation was at once commenced for the remedy of the grievance.

Either at the close of the year 1810, or very early in 1811, a secret committee was appointed "for the purpose of adopting such legal measures as they may find necessary in the defence of the privileges of a seven years' servitude," and according to their first report, dated April 1st, 1811, they proceeded to ascertain the number of persons exercising the trade of bookbinding illegally, and to procure such evidence as might essentially serve their cause in a British Court of Jurisprudence. A long list of persons illegally employed was soon obtained, but considerable difficulty was found in procuring such evidence as would be required for a prosecution under the Statute 5 Eliz. c. 4, as was intended, and an appeal was made to the members of the lodges to assist the committee by secretly sending in all the information available respecting such persons. In the second report—May 6th—the committee complained of the lack of assistance rendered them, and deprecated the apathy and unapproachable indolence of some who might have helped; but, from a few, sufficient evidence was collected to enable them to state a case for counsel's opinion before commencing a prosecution, and the following was prepared:

Case.

"By Stat. 5 Eliz. c. 4, sect. 31, it is enacted—that after the first of May next, it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons, other than such as now lawfully do use and exercise any Art, Mystery, or Manual Occupation, to set up, occupy, use or exercise any Craft, Mystery, or Occupation, now used or occupied within the Realm of England or Wales, except he shall have been brought up therein, seven years, at the least, as an Apprentice, in the manner and form aforesaid; nor to set any Person or Persons on work in such Mystery, Art, or Occupation, being not a Workman at this Day, except he shall have been an Apprentice as aforesaid, or else having served as an Apprentice as is aforesaid, shall or will become a Journeymen, or being hired by the year, upon pain that every Person willingly offering or doing the contrary, shall forfeit and lose, for every Default Forty Shillings for every Month.

40 THE BRITISH BOOKMAKER.
Various Trades are enumerated in this Statute—but amongst them the Trade or Occupation of a Bookbinder is not to be found.

It has been held necessary for the Plaintiff, therefore, in any Prosecution upon this Statute, to prove that the Trade on which any Infringement has been committed, was a Trade in use at the time of passing the Statute.

The Bookbinders in London and Westminster are some of them in the habit of employing illegal Workmen; and others of setting up the Business, as Masters, without being qualified by Law so to do.

By Statute 25 Henry VIII, cap. 15, in the Preamble it is stated as follows:—"And furthermore, where there be a great number of the King's Subjects within this Realm which live by the Craft and Mystery of binding of Books, and that there be a great multitude well expert in the same, yet all this notwithstanding, there are divers Persons that bring from beyond the sea a great plenty of printed Books, not only in the Latin Tongue, but also in our maternal English Tongue, some bound in Boards, some in Leather, and some in Parchment, and them sell by retail, &c."

This Act it seems has since been repealed; but it is presumed that being a public Act, it must be taken notice of by the Court—and it is presumed will be sufficient evidence to show that a Bookbinder was a Craft in use at the time of the passing of the Act, and therefore a Business entitled to the Benefit thereof.

They were also incorporated by Charter, 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, with the Stationers' Company.

Your opinion is however desired on behalf of the Journeymen—whether the production of this Act will be sufficient evidence of this Business being one used in this Realm at the time of passing the Act."

The counsel's reply was:—"I think that the production of the Act alluded to, will be sufficient evidence of the Business of a Bookbinder being a Trade used in this Realm at the time of passing the Stat. 5 Eliz. V. Lawes, Inner Temple, April 23rd, 1681."

Thus encouraged, the committee immediately put the details of a case into the hands of Mr. Chippenhall, a solicitor, who took it up, but enjoined the most strict secrecy, for, said he: "If your Society is once identified with any Action you bring, that Action is inevitably lost." In order to carry out the prosecution, the secret committee (whose names are unknown with one exception only) asked for and obtained very extensive powers from the Society, and selected one of their number, Mr. R. Pratt, jun., as prosecutor. It is most probable that Mr. Pratt had been acting as secretary to the committee, as the reports are in his handwriting, but are signed "Your Secret Committee of Enquiry."

The action was taken against Messrs. Fraser Pratt and Fraser), and was argued and determined in the Court of King's Bench, Westminster, on Thursday, June 6th, 1811, before the Right Honourable Lord Ellenborough, C.J., Messrs. W. Garrow and V. Lawes appearing for the plaintiff, and Messrs. J. A. Park and Dampier for the defendants. The issue was very simple, whether or no Messrs. Fraser had illegally employed two persons, Thomas Clark and James Stone, at the business of bookbinding, without having been previously apprenticed. It was argued by Mr. Garrow that Messrs. Fraser were eminent bookbinders, "and the more eminent and respectable masters are, in their particular business, so much the more proportionately do the journeymen feel the ill effects of their employing persons who are incompetent to the business, especially where the employing of persons inexpert deprives a regularly initiated journeyman from reaping the benefits of exercising his trade." That Messrs. Fraser had done what was alleged was fully proven by three of their journeymen and by the evidence given by both Clark and Stone, which shewed that they had been put on to the work at the time of the lock-out in 1806, and that they were now accustomed to do almost everything but gilding and lettering. The defence of Mr. Park was that the trade was totally different to that of the time of Queen Elizabeth, when books were bound in oaken boards. The judge, however, took upon himself the task of correcting the counsel, by observing that "books were then also bound in leather, for he had then in his possession several that were bound at that period, and he was sorry to say that the binding of the present day was not half so firm, nor did the covers stick half so tight." The counsel then reverted to the plea that if the two men concerned had worked at something which came within the idea of a trade when the law was made, yet that their main business was that of being porters, and they were merely put to other things that they should not sit with their hands before them, wasting their time and doing nothing; that the increases of salary proved, did not come about by reason of their improvement in the work of bookbinding, but in consequence of their "masters' goodness"; that they were not hirers as bookbinders, but, he asked, "does it follow that they shall not stick a few leaves together when they would otherwise be idle?" etc., etc. These pleas were, however, of no avail. The learned judge in his charge to the jury said: "You have to consider whether this is the bookbinding wrought in the time of Queen Elizabeth, which no doubt it is: the Statute says that persons shall not be set on work. I cannot think, therefore, that it is necessary to do every part of this work to obtain the title of being set on work, but the actual performance of any substantive part; therefore the case must be within the comprehension of the Statute. The two persons have been employed, and they have not served seven years. . . . I have no particular zeal for carrying into effect this Act; but my zeal and my anxiety is to do my duty, and to enforce what appears to me to be the true sense of the Act: which Act, in reference to the business in hand, enforces a penalty of forty shillings per month for each man so illegally employed." Addressing Mr. Garrow, his lordship asked: "I suppose there is nothing vindictive in this prosecution; you merely wish to establish the case, and do not sue for the whole penalty?" Mr. Garrow replied: "I leave that to the liberality of your lordship." The jury then, under the direction of the learned judge, found a verdict for the plaintiff of forty shillings in each case.

Thus ended a somewhat remarkable trial, in which Messrs. Fraser were on a different side to that in
THE BRITISH BOOKMAKER.

which they had last appeared at the Court of King's Bench, but the result of that trial caused the repeal of the Act under which the cause was brought. Soon afterwards, Lord Ellenborough framed a bill for the repeal of this Act of Elizabeth, when he said that he had been induced to do so by having had to preside at a trial some time previously in which its penalties had been enforced; he thought the penalties wrong, and he had brought in a bill to repeal the Act which enforced them. That bill became law.

[To be continued.]

The Horn Book:
IN LITERATURE AND ELSEWHERE.

By Frederick Rogers.

According to the modern definition of the word, a horn book was not a book at all. It possessed but a single page, and for its binding the carpenter and the horner, or worker in horn, were sufficient. Dr. Johnson in his famous dictionary says, "The horn book is a first book of children, covered with horn to keep it unsoiled." There is a contemptuous brevity in the great lexicographer's

description, as if the subject were but of trifling importance, and to those who had never seen a horn book it would convey no idea at all. And yet it was a common enough object in his day, being found in every nursery or schoolroom, and hanging at every child's girdle. It was usually made of wood, and shaped somewhat like an ordinary hand mirror, the handle being pierced for the purpose of tying it at
Shortly after the trial Pratt v. Fraser, the annual feast took place (June 28), at which Mr. Pratt was highly complimented on the successful part he had played in the prosecution, and he immediately became an acknowledged leader in all trade affairs. The trial was printed, and a circular letter was sent to all the employers calling their attention to the illegality of employing persons who had not been apprenticed, and conveying an unmistakable hint that the Society was prepared to continue the prosecution of offenders. At the July meeting a statement of the expenses was made and agreed to, and the secret committee was reappointed to continue the work. It was not long, however, before the committee found to their chagrin that a new danger lay before them: the employers generally appeared desirous of conforming to the regulations that the men were trying to impose, backed up by the law, and were discharging those who were not duly qualified workmen, but the latter, forced out of their situations and unable to obtain employment elsewhere, being tolerated by neither side, started in business for themselves and under-worked both, to the great delight of the booksellers, who were willing to assist them with money, plant, and work. This sudden change in the position of affairs necessitated a change of policy on the part of the committee, and they speedily resolved to prosecute one of the interlopers under the same Act of Elizabeth for setting up and exercising the art of binding, as soon as sufficient evidence could be secured, deferring the commencement of proceedings until the Michaelmas term, but another untoward event frustrated their design. A very serious depression of trade set in, and an unusual number of men were thrown out of employment, so that a feeling began to be manifested that it would be better to use the Society’s funds for the relief of distress amongst the members than spend it in legal proceedings.

At a meeting on November 4th it was unexpectedly proposed by Mr. George Glasier, of Lodge 2, and carried by a large majority, that 10/6 per week should be paid to men out of work for ten weeks, if needed, and that the expenses should be met by deducting 4/- per member from the funds, which meant the feast money. This resolution, however, being contrary to the articles, the committee could not act upon it, and very shortly they received memorials showing that besides the method of providing for the additional expense being irregular, it was insufficient to meet the demands likely to arise. This was forcibly shewn by Mr. Pratt, of Lodge 1, who suggested that the expense should be met by a levy of 6/- upon each member, and that the committee should have full powers to investigate each claim for relief and to reject such cases where distress had been brought about by the applicant’s own indiscretion. Mr. Younger, of Lodge 4, also suggested a plan against that of Mr. George Glasier, but besides these, there were a number of others who were totally opposed to such relief being granted, on the plea that it was an encouragement to idleness and imposition, and that the number of claimants would immediately increase threefold, with the most disastrous effects to the Society.

Under these circumstances a meeting of the officers of the Lodges was called at the “Crown and Cushion” on November 15th, at which Messrs. Glasier, Pratt, and Younger explained their several plans and the whole question was thrashed out. The following is the minute of the meeting:—“At a meeting of the officers of the four Lodges, called by the committee for the purpose of ascertaining the decision of the Society on the measures proposed for the relief of members out of employment, it appeared from the returns of the secretaries that a large majority of the Society had decided that the men should be relieved, but that each Lodge had agreed to a different measure for raising the sum necessary for that purpose; the meeting, actuated by a desire for relieving, and at the same time to conciliate as far as possible the differences that had arisen in Society, came to the following

“Resolution: That it appears from the calculations made that the sum of 6/- will be required from every member of Society for the above purpose, and as the Lodges differ in their plans for raising the aforesaid sum, the meeting have come to the resolution to recommend to each Lodge to raise the money in whatever manner may seem most convenient to themselves, provided that no part of that money shall be taken from the general fund; and in the meantime they empower the committee to pay the men until this resolution can be laid before the Society. By approbation of the meeting, signed, Daniel Dobell, John Callahan, William Horne, Geo. Rowley, committee; Thos. Duthie, secretary.”

This proposition of the executive committee was agreed to by the trade, and the payments to out-of-work members continued up till January 11th, 1812, when they ceased, and it was found that the amount then raised, being in the proportion of 4/- per member, was more than sufficient to meet the expense incurred, and that a balance of about £10 was left in hand in favour of the general fund.

This difficulty having been surmounted, and the trade being in a more satisfactory condition, the secret committee recommenced active operations, but soon discovered their want of something, which they laid before the trade in the following letter:—

“March 1st, 1812.

“Gentlemen,—You have elected a secret committee to transact certain affairs connected with the welfare of the trade. I am now directed to report to you that they have proceeded to such points as they conceive most congenial to your wishes; the measures
they adopted were, however, sufficient to convince
them at a very early period what they had to deplore.
Yes, gentlemen, there was evidently a great omission
on the part of the mover of the question which led to
their appointment (namely, a vote of supply). The
duties imposed upon them by virtue of their office,
naturally difficult, were rendered insurmountable
without money. This is a fact which they conceive
requires no elucidation to stimulate the trade to a
grant, and the only thing they presume to suggest is
the propriety of placing in the hands of your secre-
taries a sum of fifteen pounds each, to be paid to such
person and at such time as the secret committee shall
require. With the highest respect, in behalf and for
the secret committee, I am, gents, your very humble
servant,
"JACK FROST."

This letter is curious as shewing how absolutely
secret were all the proceedings of this body even in
the Society which had to find the funds for their
work. The very handwriting of the letter is disguised,
though towards the close of it less so than at the
beginning, and the hand is evidently that of Mr. R.
Pratt. From this time forward "Jack Frost" was the
vou de plume adopted in all the correspondence
which was issued by the committee, although the
handwriting is not always the same. Men were
summoned to meet the committee for evidence by the
mysterious Jack Frost in these terms:—April 20th,
1812. Sir,—You are requested to meet me at Mr.
Jones', Villiers-street, on Wednesday next, at eight
o'clock in the evening, where I expect you will meet
Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, Mr. Treasurer, and
Mr. Master of Armes. Yours, JACK FROST."

Other letters requesting information about Mr. So-and-
So contain the postscript, "The utmost secrecy is en-
joined in this correspondence; please address to
J. Frost, care of 'Hole in the Wall,' Chancery-lane."
Under these conditions the work went on, until the
committee found that to successfully grapple with
the difficulties before them it was necessary to try to
revive the relationship which existed for a brief period
between the employers and the men in Mr. Faulkner's
time, 1794, and a letter was addressed to Mr. C. W.
Banister, secretary of the Master Bookbinders' Society,
on August 18th, 1812:—

"Sir,—In addressing you I feel a confidence that
you will forward the sentiments herein expressed to
the Society of Master Bookbinders in such a manner as
in your opinion will be most conducive to the interests
and welfare of the trade in general. Long, sir, has
the art of bookbinding boasted a proud pre-eminen-
cence in the rank of trades, nor had the various revolu-
tions of states or politics affected the respectability which
we had acquired. Our rising prosperity amidst the
rapid decay of surrounding manufactures naturally
procured us a considerable share of envy, and conse-
quently numerous were the means by which persons
who, forsaking their former occupations, obtained a
footing amongst us. For a series of years the in-
crease of business bore a fair proportion with the
increase of persons, and no material injury having
been sustained, the journeymen forbore to complain.
About that period, however, when the intercourse
with America became obstructed, we experienced an
influx which has progressively increased to an extent
that further forbearance would not only subject us
to the merited contempt and ridicule of our fellow
citizens, but would entail on us the odium of ame-
sicating a vast proportion of legal men to waste
and penury.

"With these sentiments the journeymen bookbinders
of London and Westminster appointed persons to
investigate the nature and extent of the evil and
consequently to act on the information they had
obtained, the first efforts of which was announced
by the masters by circular letter. They had hoped
that, having established a case, few persons would
have had the weakness to continue such malpractices,
or suppose they would cease to eradicate by every legal
means in their power the just causes of their com-
plain, and here their enquiries led them to proofs that
it was not among themselves only, but the masters
also, who were aggrieved; for persons to a consid-
erable number, having been rejected by the regulation
of the men, have commenced business, and thereby
by underworking the fair tradesman, become a mortal
annoyance to master and man. The zeal of the latter
for the general good induced them to commence a
prosecution against a person of this description, but
from an untoward circumstance, postponed the event
until Michaelmas term. They, however, very early
discovered that to follow up the illegal masters with
effect, required a more extended plan of operations
than they had the means of executing, and this, with
other causes, has induced them to make the present
communication. They are in possession of a mass
of evidence which only awaits the concurrence of the
masters to their measures, and a more particular
detail shall be laid before them. Hoping that the
magnitude of the case may induce the master book-
binders to interest themselves and make common
cause, either on the basis of the former union or any
other plan as may hereafter be agreed upon for the
mutual honour and benefit of all, is the fervent wish
of those who have authorised me to make this their
first step towards a negotiation, without which they
feel they must reluctantly limit their proceedings to
their means, and thereby leave the business half
completed.

"I am, sir, with the highest respect, in the name
and on behalf of the journeymen bookbinders of
London and Westminster,
"JNO. FROST."

"P.S.—As much importance is attached to an early
answer, it is hoped that however the masters may
feel disposed in this event, they will indulge us with a
communication directed to Jno. Frost, 'Hole in the
Wall,' Chancery-lane."

On receipt of this letter the committee of the
Masters' Society immediately took steps to call a
general meeting, and a circular was issued inviting
master binders, whether members of the Masters'
Society or not, to attend at the "Crown and Anchor"
in the Strand, on Monday, September 7th.

A letter was then addressed to one of the em-
ployers who, it was understood, was friendly disposed
thanking him and the others for the promititude of
their measures, but complaining of the invitation being
too general, for the secret committee had information
that it was the intention of some of the illegal employers against whom the men were proceeding to attend the meeting, and anticipating that their votes would operate against the establishment of a mutual understanding, advising a strict scrutiny of the 
bona fides of those admitted, and in order to assist therein, a correct list of employers was drawn up for the service of the scrutineers. This recommendation was accepted and carried out, and the meeting, which was well attended, promptly decided to meet the secret committee. On September 8th, the following letter was sent to Jack Frost:

"Sir,—I am directed by the committee of the trade to inform you that they will be ready to receive a deputation (of not more than five persons) from the journeymen, on Thursday evening, September 10th, at eight o'clock, at the ‘Three Tuns,’ Fetter-lane, in order to receive the communications mentioned in your note of August 10th. Yours respectfully,

"C. W. Banister."

"P.S.—You will have the goodness to send me a line to certify whether that time and opportunity will do, as early this day as possible."

This letter did not arrive until night and could not be answered before the next day, but the committee were summoned to meet early in the morning.

[To be continued.]

**Exhibition Notes.**

The Paper, Printing, Stationery, Publishing, and Fancy Goods International Exhibition and Market, which opened on the 20th inst. at the Agricultural Hall, London, under the management of Messrs. Dale and Reynolds, is somewhat disappointing, as the first glance at the official catalogue would lead one to expect. “Although the present Exhibition and Market is less in numbers, it is undoubtedly more representative”; the decline in the representative character of the exhibits, however, appears to us to be quite as decided as in the numbers, the prejudice notwithstanding, and but for one show, bookbinding would stand no chance of a notice. The absence of many exhibits connected with the paper trade which considerably swelled last year’s numbers, the absence of some of the typesetting and bar-casting machines, and other interesting features, have deadened the never too lively interest evoked by a trade exhibition, and made it positively dreary.

Machinery is plentiful, and foremost here as almost everywhere else are Kampe & Co., the English agents for Karl Krause of Leipzig, with a large variety of steam and other appliances for bookbinding, including a new machine for turning the backs of account books.

RICHMOND & Co.’s fine exhibit in the centre of the hall is very varied, and fortunately not spoiled in appearance by the unsightly wash applied to it last year. We do not wish to take any undue credit to ourselves, but it seemed as if our friendly criticism had been heeded and a more pleasant hue and finish had been imparted to it that should materially assist in tempting purchasers. Their improved steam Gough

inking press, with a cradle attachment for the rollers, was being worked by one of Messrs. Nevett’s men, and some nice blending was being turned out. Another was engaged upon a powerful self-clamp guillotine, an excellent machine for true cutting.

W. C. HORNE exhibited the “Elliott” thread-stitching and “Smyth” thread-sewing machines, too well known and widely used to need any description.

AVG. BREHMER: Sewing and stitching machines and his paring machine.

R. CUNDALL: The “Swift” and “Victoria” folding machines.

F. WESSELHOEFT: Blocking and finishing presses, and all the latest designs in types, borders, and corner ornaments for printing, many of which would suit admirably for bindings.

SMITH, SON & DOWNES had a case of pocket-book and portfolio work, very fair; and specimens of their self-registering notebooks.

W. C. EDDINGTON & CADBURY: A few bound books and specimens of illustrated bookwork.

RAITHBY, LAWRENCE & Co.: Some good specimens of bound books that would have held a fair position in a larger collection as samples of commercial work, besides a few in more elaborate style. “The Venetian Printing Press” was in green crushed levant, with interlaced design inlaid with red and orange, and azure tooling of the Aldus character. “The Iliad of Homer,” in half calf, had a very pleasing design on the back, of an inlaid straight stem down the centre with winding sprays around it. On many of the books there was the evidence of freshness in the design, and an effort to get away from the more formal styles that characterise ordinary commercial bindings. Some volumes of “Goethe’s Works” and “Early English History” were noticeable on that account, and the work generally did credit to a young bindery.

**Book Worms.**—Two fine specimens of the genuine book worm were discovered recently by Mr. Benjamin New, New York, embedded in a precious copy of "Seneca," dated London, 1675, and belonging to John Carey in 1782. One small, white worm had entered at the lower right-hand corner, the conical cocoon from which it had emerged still adhering to the leaves of the book without. With its fellow, which was working towards it from the back of the book, no cocoon was found. The former, three-eighths of an inch long and one-eighth of an inch in diameter, was unwittingly killed by the disturbance of its shell, but the remaining member of the family is still alive and healthy. This book-destroyer is now exceedingly rare; so much so that when Mr. Bernard Quaritch found one five years ago, in one of his treasured volumes, he celebrated the discovery by giving a dinner to a large party of his principal clients.

Spare the advertisements and spoil the business.

He is a wise man who takes a large space and puts little matter in it.

A good advertisement is like the merchant’s ships; it bringeth abundance from afar.—Fame.
At seven o'clock next morning the committee met to consider the employers' proposal, and they were somewhat surprised that so early a date had been named for the interview, thinking that possibly a trap was being laid for the members of the deputation. There was no time to call a meeting of the trade to guarantee them against whatever might be the consequences of what the law would inevitably have determined a conspiracy, and they had to proceed with caution. The following reply was, therefore, sent to Mr. Banister:—"Hole in the Wall, September 9th, 9 o'clock. Sir,—It is the wish of the journeymen that you will convey these sentiments to the persons who are deputed to receive their communications—that situated as has been expressed, they are compelled (by so early a date being named) to request a pledge from those gentlemen that they will keep the names of the persons who wait on them secret till a general meeting can be called, when they will (if required) resign their private, and act in a public capacity. The promptitude of the masters has far exceeded their most sanguine expectations; they had not expected that an interview would have been required in so early a stage of the business, or they would have removed every obstacle. I wait with impatience your answer, to communicate to them if the masters agree to the above request, then will the men in confidence be prepared to meet them on Friday evening, 8 o'clock. The only alternative must be the men's propositions conveyed by letter at that time, or a further postponement of a meeting till Thursday week. I am, dear sir, with the greatest respect, J. Frost."

This note was dispatched by hand, and on the same day the desired answer was received by the men's committee:—"September 9th. Sir,—As there appears by your note of this day to be no other obstacle to a meeting than a formal pledge to be given by the Committee of Master Bookbinders of absolute secrecy with respect to the names of the journeymen who are to meet them, the required pledge is hereby given, and that pledge is intended to be by them as binding as an oath. If this is deemed satisfactory, the committee will receive the deputation, mentioned in my former letter, on Friday evening, September 11th, at eight o'clock, at the 'Three Tuns,' Fetter-lane. Yours respectfully, C. W. Banister." Enclosed was the following declaration:—"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, being a Committee of Master Bookbinders appointed by a general meeting of the whole trade to meet a deputation from the journeymen bookbinders, do hereby most solemnly promise and pledge to each other and them, on no account whatever to divulge either directly or indirectly the name of any one of that deputation of journeymen bookbinders." The record, of which this is a copy, does not contain the names of those who signed, but is merely marked, "Signed by five persons."

The men's committee immediately selected five persons to form the deputation, and being encouraged by the tone of the communications received from the employers set to work to embody in writing the principal grievances that existed, asking for a full and complete remedy of the same, with the aforesaid that they might be able to soften some of their demands in order to press the stronger for the more important points. When the two deputations met, the following paper was handed in by the secret committee:—

"Gentlemen,—The committee appointed to transact certain affairs for the journeymen bookbinders of London and Westminster having received a note from the masters, stating that a committee of five persons had been deputed to receive such proposals as they had to make, in conformity with their communication of August 10th, the following are therefore submitted to them for their consideration:—

"First.—The journeymen see with deep regret the daily innovations made on their rights and properties by suffering illegal persons to follow with impunity the occupation of bookbinding, and as there can be no doubt of our interests (on this head) being mutual, we request your assent and assistance to the exclusion of such persons by every means in the power of either.

"Secondly.—That it appearing of material injury to the journeymen that men employed in shops upon piece-work, by a close application to business and protracted hours, etc., do keep many persons out of employ in times of scarcity, we request those employers, whose work requires that it should be done by the piece, should limit the earnings of their men to a specific sum which may hereafter be agreed upon, from July to February, unless by a report from the men it appears there are no members of their body out of employ.

"Thirdly.—That after the experience of six years it appears to the journeymen that no material abuse has been complained of, and that during that period many employers have granted the half-hour for refreshment in the afternoon, and having duly considered that, in the event of its being abused, they have the means of preventing a frequent recurrence, we request on behalf of those persons who do not enjoy it that it may be granted generally.

"Fourthly.—That from a recent enquiry into the state of the trade it appears that the proportion of apprentices is far above the ratio of journeymen, and considering the great facility for many of the same becoming masters—thus bearing upon each party proportionately—we request that you will take into consideration the propriety of limiting their numbers after a given period.

"Fifthly.—Many complaints having been made that the vast influx of country turn-over apprentices is a serious evil to the journeymen, and can only be accounted for by the great encouragement they meet with in towns, their wages being in many instances
little inferior to the experienced journeymen, thus inviting them to leave their masters (too often clandestinely) and by being nominally apprenticed for the remainder of their time, depriving perhaps a man of large family, of subsistence for them, we, therefore, request you to reduce the wages usually given after a limited period.

"Gentlemen, the above statement comprises the amount of grievances desirable to be removed. We have candidly stated the whole, not wishing to introduce after subjects, unless by way of explanation. We are fully aware that you have innumerable complaints; these we wish you to make known, at least what you desire as an equivalent for the above. We lament the innovations on your property by an unprincipled set of men (the booksellers). It is now high time you should look to yourselves, and by a union repel their impositions. In every effort of this kind—while on fair grounds—the journeymen are willing to assist.

This formidable list of propositions, like irrelevant to the purpose for which the meeting had been called, and propounded in an injudicious manner, was objected to by the employers' committee, who immediately declared that they had no powers to deal with the questions included in the statement; that they had come to hear such evidence as the men declared they possessed in reference to the exercise of the trade by others than bookbinders, and what was proposed to effect a remedy. After considerable discussion to little purpose, the men were advised to prepare a fresh statement based upon their letter of August 10th, and this being agreed to, the meeting was adjourned till September 15th, when a fresh paper was placed in the employers' hands:

"Gentlemen,—The journeymen bookbinders, warned by their zeal in the cause in which they have embarked, confess, that unacquainted as they were with the extent of your powers, they were somewhat premature in their communication of Friday, the 11th inst. They now understand that being deputed for the express purpose of meeting them to receive such proposals as they had to make in conformity to their communication of August 10th, that you are limited to report on that particular subject only. They therefore beg leave to withdraw their first propositions (for the present) and submit the following:

"First.—Precisely the same as before.

"Second.—That should the masters accede to the above, they will appoint a committee of not exceeding . . . . persons, who shall be vested with full powers to act in conjunction with the journeymen's committee; and we wish it to be understood that the better to prevent any misunderstanding, that no prosecution which may hereafter be thought necessary shall be entered into without the mutual consent of each party.

"Gentlemen, it may be necessary to show in some degree the interests the masters have in the above propositions, and this, as a preliminary, we conceive will be satisfactorily done by presenting you with the accompanying list of names, requesting that they may not be published, but in the aggregate you will perceive the necessity of this in a general meeting. It has been stated already that our researches were, at the commencement of our efforts, limited exclusively to the journeymen, consequently many illegal characters have been discovered among them, but having been led by circumstances to a larger sphere of action, it appears they are so blended with each other that nothing short of an union can be effectual. The committee of journeymen conceive they have in this early stage of the business advanced sufficient to show the extent of the evil complained of. The evidence they have in their possession against a number of these persons they conceive will not be necessary to produce until the employers have empowered their committee to act in union with the committee of journeymen for the benefit of the whole. These, gentlemen, are our sentiments; and that opinion must be speculative in the extreme, that can suppose an union can be binding or permanent unless each party has a mutual interest in keeping it so. We beg leave to reiterate that we have ample powers to enquire into, and (if possible) remove such grievances as may be found to bear on the trade. We have stated our complaints with respect to illegal persons, but we have also others which must be a subject for future consideration, more particularly relating to the vast influx of apprentices. 'Tis true, the journeymen are at present mostly injured, but no doubt, we think, can exist of their ultimately affecting the masters equally, if not in a superior degree, by leaving the present journeymen one only alternative—that of becoming masters."

At the meeting it appeared to the secret committee that their propositions were favourably received by the employers, and the meeting broke up with the understanding that the question should be laid before the Employers' Association; but some weeks passed by, and there was no sign of this having been done. Rumours were plentiful, actual information scarce, but it was generally believed that an informal communication of the men's wishes had been made to some of the employers at their meeting for benevolent purposes, called "The Widow's Meeting," that it had not been favourably received. In reality the Employers' Association was busy with a revised scale of prices for their work, and though willing to appear forced to concede something to the men, while such appearance would help them to obtain an advance from the booksellers, they quietly deprecated any conjoint action for the purpose desired. A long and anxious wait ensued, but no answer came, nor any sign of compliance on the employers' part. The meeting of the Society in November was rapidly approaching, and on October 28th a letter was dispatched from the secret committee, expressing surprise at the long silence of the employers, and asking for an answer by the 30th, in order to lay it before the meeting on Monday, November 2nd. Unfortunately, however, the letter contained besides, many allusions to the feelings of some employers upon the subject, to the rumours of what some had said—"liberal expressions" they may have been—and to the vindictiveness of others, all of which was very unsafe ground for the secret committee, and possibly little of it could have been corroborated. The result was a letter which strengthened a very justifiable suspicion.
The collapse of the negotiations between the employers' and workmen's associations resulted in the resignation of the secret committee, and the abandonment of the attempt to force unapprenticed persons out of the trade by legal process. The employers continued their movement for an advance of prices, while the men bent themselves to the steady work of organisation, feeling that for the future they would “have to rely upon their own resources and firmness for the accomplishment of any measures which might ultimately be deemed necessary.” For some years nothing particular occurred to interrupt the quiet progress of the societies, which continued to increase in numbers until, in 1829, their full master was 477, when the advisability of establishing a fifth lodge forced itself upon their attention, and it was founded. The houses in which the lodges then met, were: Lodge I., “The Mitre,” St. Martin’s-lane; Lodge II., “The Three Tuns,” West Smithfield; Lodge III., “The Swan and Sugar Loaf,” Fetter-lane; Lodge IV., “The Savoy Palace,” Strand; Lodge V., “The Horse Shoe,” Blackfriars.

In 1822 the annual accounts for the year June, 1821, to May, 1822, as audited, were printed and circulated amongst the members, which had not previously been done except on one occasion, for the year 1794-5, the idea not being pleasing to Lodge I., on account of their suspicions as to Mr. Faulkner’s integrity.

In 1823 the vellum binders—who had seceded from the friendly societies in 1806—established a Society for themselves; but as almost all the papers concerning the formation and early doings of the Society have been destroyed, no reliable information about their movements can be obtained.

In 1825 we find the first annual report of the audit committee for the previous twelve months, to which is added the names of the members of each lodge, the sums paid by each, and the arrears (if any) appended to each name. The members then on the books, not including those paying on committee, were 550, and it is interesting to note that only 97 out of the whole number were in arrears. In this report we also have the first printed list of the committee for the year, consisting of—Lodge I., J. Shaw; II., J. Norman; III., W. Cars; IV., W. Gould; and V., J. Morrison.

An item in the accounts, a gift of £25 to the Edinburgh Society, at the latter part of the year 1825, from the general fund, and others of £20 from Lodge IV., and £88 10s. 9d. from Lodge V., direct our attention to the position of bookbinders in other parts of the country, a part of our subject with which it has been difficult to deal before without interfering with the thread of the narrative.

From the dawn of the nineteenth century the news of the various struggles which the bookbinders of London had undergone, and of the improvements they had made in their position, filtered slowly through the narrow channels of communication to different centres of the industry in widely separated parts of the country, and filled the minds of their fellow-craftsmen with similar ideas of organisation, and gradually there sprang up in such centres separate and independent associations for the same object—the amelioration of social conditions. Badly as the Londoners had fared, the fate of their provincial brethren was undoubtedly worse; and the picture of Edinburgh may be taken as a sample of what existed in other towns and cities, the authority for which is drawn from “A Statement of the Causes which led to the present Difference between the Master and Journeymen Bookbinders of Edinburgh,” published in 1825.

For many years, indeed beyond all remembrance of those living at the time, they laboured under hardships of the most severe and oppressive kind, working for wages barely sufficient to afford the most scanty subsistence, in confined and unwholesome workshops in the most unhealthy and crowded parts of the town, and when the day’s toil commenced they were ignorant when it should terminate. It must be obvious what must have been the effects of this system on the health and morals of those employed under it. Weak and effeminate in constitution, without means or opportunity of intellectual improvement, the journeyman bookbinder dragged out a short, miserable, and degraded existence, and generally sunk into an early grave, a victim to the profession it had been his misfortune to adopt. It was no uncommon thing for the men to have to work sixteen hours per day for weeks at a stretch, a large part of which time, in the busy winter season, was spent in the dim and ifful glimmer of candles, sparsely stood about in tin candlesticks loaded with sand to prevent them toppling over, and amid the fumes from the charcoal finishing stoves.

The unfortunate circumstances of the men excited no sympathy in their employers, but rather severer and increased demands for additional labour, until they had arrived at that degree of oppression which was intolerable.

In 1811 the journeymen came to the resolution of laying their grievances before the Court of Session, which, after a minute and careful inquiry into all the circumstances, restricted their labour to ten hours per day. This was a severe shock to the employers, who immediately took steps to reduce the already miserable wages of the journeymen; reduction successfully followed reduction, until starvation threatened to finish what oppressive labour had not accomplished. For some years this state of things continued, until their latter position was somewhat worse than the former, when a Society was formed, in 1823, “for the purpose of promoting a good understanding, harmony, and unanimity among the journeymen bookbinders of Edinburgh, and to prevent any of their rights and privileges being encroached on.” Strange to say, the employers gave their sanction to the formation of this
Society, which "can only be accounted for by keeping in view the contempt with which masters were accustomed to regard journeymen, and was probably regarded as an indulgence which might be granted at no expense."

The difficulties to be encountered in the formation of this Society were numerous and perplexing, but the first effort made was to prevent the influx of hands from the country who had served short apprenticeships, and in this the employers concurred. The first article of the Society was:—"That no person can become a member of this Society, unless he has served a legal seven years' apprenticeship. By a legal apprenticeship is meant, that everyone who becomes a member, must have served seven years, and that none shall be admitted after the commencement of this Society unless they have served the term above specified. If any person make application to become a member who has not served the above period, he cannot be admitted, and if he wishes to continue in town, he must engage with a master to complete the term of seven years, at the same rate of wages that is given to an apprentice who has been the same number of years at the trade." The latter part of this article was probably the part which gained the concurrence of the employers, and no attempt was made to infringe it at the time.

The next effort made was to raise wages to what was deemed a fair rate, and sixteen shillings was fixed as a standard, for at this period no small proportion of the men were working for twelve shillings, and the principal employer in the city was "in the habit of boasting that ere long ten shillings should be the standard rate in his shop." In this endeavour the men were fairly successful, but owing to the refusal of one man to apply for the necessary advance to bring his wages up to the minimum rate, a collision occurred. The man was expelled the Society, and his shopmates intimates to the employer that not being a member of the Society they declined to work with him. The employer refused to interfere, the men left work, and remained out for some days, during which time efforts were made by the employer to induce men to come from Glasgow and other places to his assistance. Finally, recourse was had to the Solicitor-General for advice, and his opinion was laid before a meeting of employers, who, finding nothing could be accomplished by an appeal to the law, at last agreed to a conference with the committee of the Society, and the difficulty was settled, the refractory individual being received back into the Society.

The attempt to procure men from Glasgow pointed out to the men the necessity for a union between the trade in both places, and a deputation was sent there, who were able to arrange an alliance for mutual assistance and support.

From this time up till April, 1825, the relations between employers and employed were fairly satisfactory, though the amount of overtime worked had attracted the attention of the Society, and at last the serious evil to the journeymen began apparent, when steps were taken to abolish it. A circular addressed to the employers, dated 14th April, 1825, was then issued from the house of call:—"Gentlemen,—

In consequence of the pernicious and tedious practice of working over-hours (the ill effects of which we daily see) the journeymen have formed a resolution in future to annihilate the same.

"The masters are informed that they will labour under no undue influence from one shop working, and another not, as it will be a regular system throughout the trade.

"We trust that master bookbinders will not take offence at this conduct, as it is as much to their interests as ours; it being a clear case, in a trade like bookbinding, that no man can regularly work more than ten hours a day, to do his employer justice.

"We are fully aware that instances will occur that will render it necessary to dispense with this resolution (such as periodical publications, etc.), and in all such cases we would consider ourselves entitled to an additional remuneration for our labour, more than has hitherto been given; in consequence thereof we submit the following rates": a graduated scale ranging from 2d. to 3½d. extra per hour for overtime.

At this time there were 88 members of the Society, and the wages ranged from 12/- to 34/-; 33 men worked for 16/-; or below, 25 between 16/- and 20/-; 17 between 20/- and 24/-, and 15 above 24/- and up to 34/-.

In consequence of this demand a society of employers was immediately formed, who answered the journeymen's demand in a note from "John's Coffee House," April 25th, 1825, containing this paragraph:—

"The masters in answer think, that as the journeymen have pretty generally obtained a considerable rise of wages, the present demand for an extra price for over-hours is quite uncalled for, particularly when the journeymen are aware that we receive no extra remuneration for extra exertions, . . . . they would advise them to reconsider the subject, and not press such an absurd demand." Signed by Abn. Thomson and twenty-seven of the employers.

On May 7th the men replied:—"that we are determined to stand by what we before stated; and did we want an additional stimulus, we consider the demand for an extra price for over-hours is quite uncalled for, particularly when the journeymen are aware that we receive no extra remuneration for our extra exertions . . . . they would advise them to reconsider the subject, and not press such an absurd demand." Signed, John Proctor.

For two weeks the men were in a state of suspense as to the result of their missive, when in nearly all the shops of Edinburgh the men received the following note:—

"Edinburgh, Saturday, May 21st, 1825.

"The master bookbinders of Edinburgh, finding it impossible to carry on their business with any advantage to themselves, under the existing combination and exorbitant demands now made by the journeymen, have come to a general agreement to suspend, for a time, carrying on their profession, consequently to discharge the whole of the workmen in their employment. A fortnight's notice of dismissal, from this date, is hereby given to . . . . In resorting to this unpleasant necessity, the masters, however, wish it to be thoroughly understood that any of their workmen, respectively, who is willing to relinquish the Society altogether, and continue at his work on the old and customary system, shall have their full support and assistance; but they are also
determined not to employ any man who is at present, or may hereafter become, a member of any Society, the foundation of whose principles are an unjust interference with the internal management and mode of carrying on their business."

War being thus declared, the employers lost no time in addressing the booksellers, and asking for their support in the following circular:

"The master bookbinders of Edinburgh beg to inform you that in consequence of an existing combination among their journeymen, their exorbitant demands, and their improper interference with the internal management of their masters’ business (to which they have been compelled to submit for too long a period), they regret being obliged at last to resort to such a disagreeable measure as parting with their men, until such time as the journeymen shall see the impropriety of their conduct and the unreasonableness of their demands.

"In pursuing this course, the masters have the interest of the public solely in view, and should any of the journeymen take an undue advantage of the dilemma into which their conduct has thrown their employers, and apply to you for work, they trust you will see the propriety of withholding your support from them, as it would only tend to prolong an adjustment of the existing differences. Edinburgh, 26th May, 1825."

This is one of the most beautifully simple documents ever put forth by the good-of-the-public-loving employers in the whole history of our trade. Their benevolent arrangements were made as perfect as they could make them, and as they had been at some pains in training their men in the past to work on a slender diet, they determined that idle, the men should have as little opportunity as possible of getting food.

[To be continued.]

A recent British report on trade echoes a complaint which has been heard frequently of late. "Foreign traders," says the writer, "are positively inundated with circulars and price lists, while parcels of similar things are loaded upon the consuls." Most of these, we are told, go straight into the waste paper basket without being looked at. "Trade papers, on the other hand, are read with avidity, and such advertisements as they contain receive a certain amount of attention." Now if we were to say these things ourselves, it would appear that we were simply touting for advertisements, but the opinions of our consuls have frequently been given upon the same subject, and almost always to the same purport, and, being usually good business men, the opinion is valuable.

Mr. James Clegg, Aldine Press, Rochdale, has in preparation the fourth edition of the "International Directory of Second-hand Booksellers and Bibliophile's Manual," including lists of British and foreign public libraries, publishers, learned and scientific societies, theological colleges, Burns' clubs, etc. This directory has a wide circulation in all English-speaking countries, and is eminently adapted for the use of all booksellers and bibliophiles.
war being declared, while the employers were busy addressing the publishers and asking for their support in a circular, and by advertisement in the Edinburgh Star of May 24th, setting forth the unreasonable demand of a dictatorial Association for "nearly double wages for over hours," the men were no less active. Within a few days of receiving the fortnight's notice, a general meeting was called, when it was decided that instead of working out the two weeks which the employers had so considerably given as notice, in order to be able to finish off the most pressing orders, if they would not come to terms by the following Saturday the men would give up their situations at once.

They felt the strength of their own position as being more nearly equal with that of their employers than ever before. In the last difficulty the employers had counted on easily getting men from Glasgow, where no union existed, but the attempt had proved the necessity of a union there, which had since been established, as we find by advertisements in The Scotsman, January 1st, 1825, and The Glasgow Herald, January 3rd, 1825, the latter of which runs thus:—

"To Bookbinders.

"A Society denominated 'The Journeymen Bookbinders Union Society of Edinburgh' was founded in 1822, to which the sanction of the masters was previously obtained.

"A Society on the same principles was founded in Glasgow in August, 1824, to which, also, the masters gave their sanction.

"It is hereby notified that a union of these Societies has now taken place, and that no man will in future be employed in either of these towns who cannot produce a regular seven years' indenture, or a card from either branch of the Society.

JAS. C. RANKEN, Sec.
WILLIAM WALKER, Preses."

The intended lock-out thus developed into a strike, and on May 24th, 1825, eighty men came out, the whole of the shops in Edinburgh being closed with the exception of two: Mr. Taylor's, "at the head of the Mound," and Mr. Forbes', of Horse Wynd, neither of whom had signed the employers' answer to the men's demand, dated April 25th. Although a firm stand had thus been taken by the men, they appear to have lost no opportunity of endeavouring to conciliate their opponents, and to prove the genuineness of their desire for an equalisation of working hours rather than the advanced pay which they had demanded in the sense of a prohibitive rate. The following letter was sent to those employers who refused to act with the Masters' Society:—

"June 21st, 1825.

"Sir,—I am desired to inform you that owing to the generous spirit which you have evinced towards journeymen, and under a thorough conviction of your not wishing your men to work over-hours, unless in a case of absolute necessity:—That as money was by no means what we wanted, but merely to get rid of so injurious a system, we, in the future, request the men in your employ to receive only One Penny per hour additional for those under 20/- per week, and Three Half-pence for those at 20/- and above it, over and above their regular wages.

"Signed on behalf of the trade,
JOHN PROCTER, Preses."

Unfortunately, in the minutes of the Edinburgh Society there is a big gap just at the most important and interesting part of its proceedings, from March 17th down to August 12th, that part having been either lost or destroyed. To fill in this gap, Mr. Andrew Slater, one of the "Glorious Seventy-seven" who fought out the question, wrote a short account of the affair in 1845, which account is still preserved, and from that, with the original correspondence, our account must now be drawn. We linger rather fondly over this struggle, because something of more vital importance than wages or hours was concerned, the question of the right to combine was attacked with brutal animus by a few of the employers of the trade, the chief of whom was Mr. Abram Thomson, a man with whom the young Society had already had several difficulties. The Society had attacked a system that was flourishing in his shop, a system so disgraceful that we can only wonder how it could ever have been tolerated, even under the worst form of individualism. The climax was reached when in February, 1825, Charles Lyall brought his case before a select committee of the Society, and charged Abram Thomson with habitually keeping men under an agreement, purely verbal, for a very low wage, 12/- or 14/-, upon the understanding that so much per week should be added on at the end of the year. During the year, on the slightest pretext the men were discharged, and the balance of wages agreed upon withheld. Charles Lyall's case was that after twelve months' work, early in January, 1825, Mr. Thomson called him into the office to renew the verbal twelve month's engagement, when Mr. Lyall declined, stating that he wished to go to London, then Mr. Thomson declined to admit his debt of unpaid wages amounting to £16 10s. A quarrel ensued, when Mr. Thomson defied Lyall, and said he would not pay a farthing. The Society took the case up and ordered a prosecution, a bill of costs for which has been bound up in the Society's correspondence book, but the binder has cut off part of the margin containing the amount. Up till 1825, however, the Society was continually fighting this pernicious and dastardly practice of Mr. Thomson's, and to that we attribute much of the rancorous hostility of this employer.

No sooner had the fight begun than efforts were made to win over the men by individual letters. Mr. John Dewar, another of the more hostile employers,
wrote the Society that one of his men, Alexander Stevens, "has now a share in the profits of my business, and cannot be accounted any more a journeyman." Mr. John Gray wrote one of his men, John Hume, pointing out that "A married man with a family, as you have, is certainly not doing justice either to his family or himself by adhering to any system that diminishes his income, and that merely to please a few inconsiderate individuals who have erroneously claimed what neither reason nor the nature of the trade will admit," etc. Unfortunately, John Hume was a man of small mind and large family, and he gave way under the double affliction almost as soon as the strike had started. William MacGowan "ratted" within a fortnight under similar attentions from John Manson, and with only one more, Henry McLeod, the list of dishonourable Society men ends, and the other seventy-seven stuck together in an noble a manner as any that has left on the prosy pages of trade unionism the glint and colour of illumination.

Within a few hours of the sending of the letter dated June 21st, there were found to be some employers who had acted with their brethren and locked out their men, but who were anxious to have a speedy settlement of the trouble, having had a taste of two weeks' absolute cessation from work, and fearing that it might drift into other channels, and the news of the men's concession of so large a share of their demand to those who had refused to act with the association, caused them to drop a few hints to certain of the men with whom they were more friendly disposed as to the possibility of an amicable settlement being arranged. These hints, brought to headquarters, moved the Journeyman's Society to approach the Society of Masters, with a view to compromising the difficulty, and the following letter was sent as a felt:

"Edinburgh, June 23rd, 1825.

"Gentlemen,—We are personally informed that several of your Society have expressed a wish to come to a compromise with the journeymen on the existing difference with regard to over-hours, without insisting upon the men relinquishing their Society, as expressed in their discharge to them.

"We would wish officially to know if such is correct, as the journeymen are anxious, upon any fair and honourable conduct of their employers, to show their willingness for an amicable understanding.

"Signed on behalf of the journeymen,
House of Call. JOHN PROCTER, Preses."

The answer was soon made:

"Ferguson's Tavern, 24th June, 1825.

"Gentlemen,—The Master Bookbinders of Edinburgh have received your communication, and after mature consideration, cannot see any reason for altering their first opinion, viz., that the Society, from its interference with the Employers, is generally injurious, and that no masters had official authority for intimating anything to the contrary.

"The Masters are as willing as the men to have matters settled, and it lies entirely with them (knowing their employers' minds) to have it brought to a speedy conclusion.

"Signed on the part of the Master Bookbinders,
ABM. THOMSON."

The letter sent on behalf of the men was never laid before the full body of the employers until some time after this, but merely submitted to a small number of those who had been most determined to suppress the men's Society, and who, having been chief spokesmen at the earlier meetings, had been elected as a committee for the management of the affair. These were hastily summoned and this decision arrived at, a decision which several of the employers subsequently considered most unfortunate. After such an expression of determination to break up the men's Society, no course was open to the men but to fight the question out, and efforts were immediately made not only to place the facts before the public with a view to draw from sympathetic trades funds for the struggle, but also with a view to the consolidation of the whole of the trades in Edinburgh in one grand scheme of federation. One of the members of the Journeyman's Society undertook the task, and drew up a statement of the causes which had led to the lock-out, which contained the following proposals for the formation of a local federation:

(1) "That a local association of the whole trades be effected for the mutual assistance and advantage of each other.

(2) "That the office bearers be elected without regard to trade, but from their known abilities to fill the offices to which they may be appointed.

(3) "That each trade send a certain number as committee members, who shall represent the trade to which they belong at general committee meetings.

(4) "That no trade interfere in the internal management of the other, unless in cases where such interference may be considered necessary by a majority of the whole.

(5) "Previous to any step of importance by any of the united trades, involving the interests of the whole Society, it shall be submitted to the general committee, and acted upon according to their decision."

It is extremely interesting to find, so early, this outline draft of a scheme of federation emanating from a journeyman bookbinder; it is equally regrettable that it was never carried into effect. But the influence of the paper containing this proposal made itself apparent in another direction, which must have been as gratifying to the Society as to the writer, for funds were rapidly raised for the continuance of the struggle, £125 being sent from London binders alone.

[To be continued.]

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The writer of these articles would be pleased to receive any printed or other documents relative to the formation of any other Society, or to the formation of the Bookbinders' Consolidated Relief Fund, or to the formation of the Consolidated Union, all of which would be religiously preserved and safely returned with thanks. Please address any parcel to

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