The Bookbinders' Trade Societies.

The dissatisfaction felt by some of the employers with the uncompromising attitude assumed by their own committee towards the men's overtures, soon led to a revolt in their own association, the first to break away being Mr. James Winchworth, their secretary. A letter was sent, addressed to the secretary of the Journeymen Bookbinders, Hepburn's Tavern, Morrison's-close, High-street:

"Edin., 9th July, 1825.

"To the committee of the Journeymen Bookbinders.

"Gentlemen,—I beg you will allow the journeymen that left Mr. Winchworth's shop to return to their employment on the principles of your last circular for over hours, viz., all under 20/- p. week one penny additional p. hour, and all above, 1½ d., without any interference with your Society on condition you conduct it on the London principle.

"In the absence of Mr. Winchworth,

John Anderson."

It will be remembered that the cause of the strike was the attempt to break down systematic overtime by the insistence on a prohibitive rate for all extra hours, following closely upon the successful attempt to establish a minimum rate of wages, 16/. At the commencement of the strike, it had transpired that the enforcement of a standard minimum wage was not carried out in London, and letters of advice from the London Society condemned the principle as being contrary to justice. Under another law of the Edinburgh Society, apprentices who had learned their trade in a "dung"—i.e., non-society—shop were not admitted in the Society; this the London Society also condemned, and upon that advice it was decided to act, by accepting Mr. Winchworth's conditions.

Three days afterwards another letter, in exactly the same terms, was sent to the men by Mr. A. Sinclair, of the firm of A. & D. Sinclair, and within another day or two, one of the more hostile employers, Mr. J. Dewar, followed suit. The news soon spread through the employers' camp, and they were forced to recognise that the fight was practically over, at least so far as breaking down the Union was concerned, and that the only thing remaining was to make the best terms they could. Here Mr. Thomson endeavoured to rally them, and—with the assistance of John Manson, and John Gray of Oliver & Boyd, both of which firms were deeply pledged to men whom they had induced to "rat" from the Society, and who had brought a few hands from the country—a meeting was called, and the only alternative to direct surrender was decided upon, when the following letter was sent to the Society:

"Edinburgh, 15th July, 1825.

"Sir,—The master bookbinders being anxious that the differences between them and the journeymen should be adjusted in a fair and equitable manner for all parties, have deputed me to address you on that subject, and to suggest the propriety of bringing matters to an amicable arrangement through the medium of arbiters to be mutually chosen.

"With this view, I have spoken to two gentlemen of known respectability, whose names I have only to mention to ensure their acceptance by the journeymen, provided that mode of arrangement be suitable to their views. I mean Lesandro Horner, Esquire, merchant, and John Archibald Murray, Esquire, advocate, both of whom may be termed the mechanics' friends; or the master bookbinders have no objection to name those two individuals, or either of them, as arbiters or arbiter on their part, and leave it to yourselves to name one or two respectable individuals on your part; but I have little doubt that, were either of these gentlemen mutually nominated, that the differences present existing betwixt us might be speedily and satisfactorily brought to a conclusion.

"May I request you to lay this proposal before the meeting of the journeymen to be held this evening, and inform me of the result.

"I am, your obedient servant, ABM. THOMSON."

This wily letter from their "obedient servant" was received by the meeting with loud derision, for it was well known that of those holding together, several were ready to give way upon any terms, while some had openly declared that "if they were once out of this business they would never be so fools as to enter into such another." Great bitterness now prevailed, especially against Mr. Manson, who had industriously circulated false rumours concerning the strike in order to get men, and to discourage others from giving anything towards the support of the Edinburgh Society. To counteract these misstatements, the presses, Mr. John Proctor, had been sent to London, from whence he wrote that, "out of pure friendship," he should advise, "if Manson or his son came into contact with the binders here, that they will disguise their names." No efforts had been spared by Manson and the more virulent members of the employers' association to secure the breakdown of the strike for want of funds by reporting it as all over, and even the editor of the Caledonian Mercury plainly stated in his own defence, when challenged as to the truth of a paragraph in that paper, that the information complained of was given him direct by two of the parties concerned. All this failed, however, and John Proctor was able to secure £100 in London for the Edinburgh struggle.

It was in the absence of the presses that the letter of July 15th was laid before the general meeting of that date, and the offer of arbitration was speedily negatived. The main obstacle to a settlement was felt to lie in the cases of Henry McLeod, John Hume, and William Macgowan, and the Society tried to solve the problem by the following offer to the employers:
"The Society is willing to act with all lenity towards those who, we suppose, are the principal obstacle to an arrangement, and has agreed to admit them on the following conditions:—That the engagements contracted during the present difference be cancelled; that the Society be satisfied that they are really and bona fide cancelled; that those who have left the Society be readmitted on paying a guinea as entry, with twenty-five per cent. on the wages they have received during the present difficulty, being the same sum paid by those who have been in work.

"If these terms meet with your approbation, we will return to our employment."

The employers met next day, July 16th, and refused to accept these terms, still pressing for arbitration, but again a few of the employers opened their shops, breaking away from their association. Then there came a deadlock, in spite of two long interviews between a deputation from the Society and the employers' committee, when the men complained that "the more we were inclined to concede, the higher the masters' demands rose."

The main points in dispute between the two were summed up by the employers in an ultimatum dated August 2nd, offering to take the men back upon the conditions that "we shall not be restricted from engaging men hereafter who are not members of your Society, and entering into written engagements if we so incline." To this offer "we will expect your reply by mid-day to-morrow, and after that time we shall not hold this as binding on us." This letter was sent in the hands of Mr. John Hewell of the Edinburgh Academy, a gentleman who seems to have interested himself to bring about a reconciliation, and he accomplished his purpose, for by next day a letter was sent to the employers stating; "we have no objection to again return to our work, and request you will forthwith send to our house of call for the men you may be in need of." At this time, out of the seventy-seven who came out on strike, thirty-three were still idle.

Thus ended a fight which had been carried on with great unanimity, pluck, and enthusiasm, at a cost of nearly £400, and both sides were somewhat worse off for it all.

The employers had failed to break up the men's association, but had rendered it almost powerless for some years to come; they had been defeated an overtime rate, but they had prevented the "annihilation of overhours"; they had secured the abolition of a minimum wage, but they had lost a large quantity of work, which had drifted away from the town.

The men had won the right to combine, but made the expense of combination so great that for years afterwards they could not pay it; they had won an extra penny per hour for overtime by saddling themselves with debts almost unbearable, but lost so much work that further overtime was for years unknown, and the minimum wage they had established was soon reduced by their own competition for the scanty employment to be obtained. For years afterwards, letters from Edinburgh confirm the disastrous state of the trade. One from Edinburgh to London, in 1831, describes the Society since the struggle as "never averaging more than sixty and often not twenty members."

Yet, the real victory was with the men. The fight was forced upon them with a view to crush the combination, but it only succeeded in bringing into existence a closer bond of union between towns where combinations already existed and raising fresh societies all around the district.

Almost immediately on the commencement of the struggle, letters were dispatched to Dundee by the employers seeking men, and by the Society, seeking to dissuade men from accepting employment in Edinburgh. The journeymen of the town, fired with enthusiasm, convened a meeting, collected subscriptions for the struggle, and founded a Society in the July of 1825, but owing to the small numbers of men engaged in the trade there, it was resolved to make it a centre for the surrounding district if the Edinburgh Society should approve, and the good folks of Dundee were particularly anxious for the goodwill and cooperation of their Edinburgh fellow-craftsmen. The Union became established as The Northern Branch Union Society of Journeymen Bookbinders, and its organisation was spread over Perth, Aberdeen, Forfar, and Arbroath. Mr. David Anderson was the first secretary. The same difficulty which had presented itself to the Edinburgh Society was felt here, that of short-time indentures, and steps were immediately taken to check the system. As a measure of defence, and with the view to further and more complete organisation, relief to tramps without a Society card was altogether stopped. Already, by means of individual effort, the wages of the town had been tending upwards, and the efforts of the Edinburgh employers to draw off workmen had helped them to ask a little more for their work, but as soon as the Union had become established, without a rule as to a minimum standard, the Society was able to report to Edinburgh at the close of the year that wages had "risen from 13/- to 16/-."

Thus the year 1825 closed the struggle not only of that particular year, but of a series of years, during which the bookbinders of the north were working out for themselves the right which had just been given them by statute (1824) but which was being reconsidered; for so freely had workmen all over the country taken advantage of the new powers granted by the repeal of the Combination Laws, that the Legislature was terrified at what seemed to be the consequence of their own act, and in 1825 it again took the question into consideration. But legislation of a repressive form had become more difficult than ever, and while those who wished to re-enact the old Combination Laws were discussing the most drastic form of application, fortunately the panic subsided, and the liberal policy of the preceding year survived the trial, so that all parties were contented with a reproduction of the statute of the previous year, with only such alterations as should aid in discourteous violence or intimidation, which could be dealt with under the common law.

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

While Edinburgh had been engaged in the struggle just described, London had been enjoying a period of great prosperity. Trade was good, work plentiful, and the Societies increased in numbers rapidly, a large number of men being constantly enrolled who had come from the country in search of employment and who were absorbed in the metropolis. Only one little cloud obscured the brightness of the outlook as the year 1825 came to a close. Ugly suspicions against the integrity of the secretary of Lodge III. had been whispered about, and a close watch upon that officer had been kept by a few, who instituted some secret inquiries, with the result that on October 29th Mr. Carss gave notice that at the following meeting he would "submit evidence in writing of false returns and duplications of the accounts of Lodge III. at the two previous audits, 1824 and 1825." These charges were duly preferred, and sufficient evidence was given to justify the appointment of a committee of investigation on January 17th, 1826, consisting of:—Lodge I., J. Fairfowl, C. Stephenson, and R. Mount; Lodge II., R. Saunders and D. Tessier; Lodge III., W. Watts and B. Eedy; Lodge IV., B. St. Ledger and O. Dullea; Lodge V., J. Oxlade and T. J. Dunning. The result of their investigations was that Joseph Wortham, secretary of the Lodge, was found guilty of making false returns, of defrauding the Lodge and the trade fund, and of keeping two or more books; and that the auditors were remiss and negligent in their duty, having suppressed the first audit list and thus prevented an earlier exposure of the fraud perpetrated on the Societies. Joseph Wortham was fined and erased; what became of him the records do not show, nor whether any of the money was recovered; we only find that Lodge III. had to appeal to the Society not to be compelled to make good the deficiency in its cash box of £28 15s., and that the loss was borne by the united lodges.

In spite of the suspected deficiency, however, the prosperity of the Societies induced Mr. J. Calvert, in October, 1825, to give notice of an alteration in the rules concerning the relief to out-of-work members, and raising the weekly grant to 10/- instead of 7/-, which was subsequently adopted. In the following month John Oxlade moved for the formation of another lodge "owing to the great increase of members"; this was rejected, a feeling already having set in in favour of amalgamation rather than of the multiplication of Societies.

At the close of the year 1825 we find there were 650 members on the books, a gain of nearly 100 on the previous year; but now commenced an exceedingly serious depression of trade, which by the end of the financial year, in May, threatened the extinction of the funds, at the advanced scale of out-of-work relief. In consequence of this alarming outlook a notice of motion was handed in to Lodge III. by some more wise-headed member, whose name does not transpire, to this effect:—"That the anniversary dinner (for this year only) be suspended; the monies received by the suspension to be paid into the committee fund immediately after the annual audit, thus to render it efficient for the exigencies of the trade during the depression of business we now experience, and in all probability may have to encounter for many months." This recommendation was backed by Lodge I., and was to come before the general meeting in June.

The desire to abolish the anniversary dinner—for there is little doubt that was the intention of the mover, although avowedly for that year only—was by no means a new idea; it has, however, a special significance at this juncture. From the commencement of the century it had been felt that the sum annually spent on the dinner was a grievous waste of money, and several attempts had been made to put an end to the custom, honourable enough in its origin, but tending rather to the prejudice of the Societies than their advancement. The most important of these was made in 1819, when by petition to the Lodges, signed by A. Bosquet, W. Grainger, and W. Kalthoehber, the anniversary dinner was declared to be "founded on principles not only unjust and unnecessary, but degrading," and the proposition was made "that in future the anniversary dinner shall be optional; that is to say, that every member may be at full liberty to subscribe to it or not, as may best please him or suit his convenience"; and that any one subscribing should have full liberty to withdraw his money if he so desired. Unfortunately this reasonable proposition was accompanied by threats aimed at the solidity of the Society itself, for the petitioners went on to affirm: "(5) That in future we will not subscribe to the anniversary dinner. (6) That should the undersigned, in consequence of the foregoing resolution, have their names scratched from the books of their respective Lodges, that they will form themselves into a separate body or lodge." By the three following resolutions it would appear that the petitioners had no intention of acting in conflict with the principles of trade unionism, but that they merely desired to be rid of the adjunct of an enforced dinner, which was repellant to their notions of discretion and justice. But the propositions were defeated; whether the three protesters had the courage of their convictions we cannot say. In the earliest list of names printed, 1825, Grainger's appears as a full member, but both Bosquet and Kalthoehber are marked as having rejoined in 1824.

The motion of 1826 was more temperate, but although no one could have seriously contended that the declared purpose of the temporary suspension was anything else but a wise forethought, it was rejected on the June meeting night, though it was even then known that the seeds of trouble were being sown.
Owing to the serious depression of trade, and the competition of employers for work, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge sought to reduce the prices paid for the binding of their Bible and devotional work, and a reduction of piece-work prices had been made by the employers who worked for the Society; this had been accepted, though only after some hesitation and much dissatisfaction was felt and expressed. Within a few weeks after the dinner, which took place on Wednesday, June 28th, the effort was made to obtain a further reduction of prices, and the funds of the Societies had suffered for that dinner at a moderate estimate about £225. No record can be found of the actual cost, but an indication of the cost per head is found in the audit of the previous year, where the dinner money of one member was refunded, viz., 8/-. The rule was that 3½d. per fortnight should be set aside for the dinner, and assuming that the 7/7 for the year was used, and only 600 members were free to go, the cost would be upwards of £225. As an example of the cost incurred by one lodge only, we have an old receipt by the landlord of the “Montpelier Arms” for £78 18s., and multiplying that amount by five, the number of Lodges, the cost would be nearly £450, but others than members were wont to take tickets, the cost of which was usually 10/6, though sometimes it ran as high as 14/-.

We do not think the cost of the dinner this year can be reasonably assessed as lower than £225. The pudding was eaten, and the Society was that much poorer.

On July 15th a deputation of four members of Lodge I. waited upon the committee of that Lodge, and stated for themselves and others, finishers in the employ of Alexander Russell, that he had insisted upon a second reduction of prices, that they had objected, left their employment, and now claimed the protection of the trade. The committee, after some deliberation, “unanimously agreed to allow them £7 10s. from the trade fund, and 10/- from the sinking fund.” What followed, it is impossible to clearly trace, owing to the scanty fragments of minutes which exist, only those of Lodge I. and Lodge V. being in existence, and the whole question having been transferred to a special or strike committee; but so far as we can, by other evidence and the few remaining minutes, the general aspect of the strike shall be told.

On July 29th the forwards in Mr. Russell’s shop waited on the committee with a similar complaint and were informed “that a general meeting of officers would take place in the week, when their claims should be laid before them,” with which assurance they were satisfied. Before the expiration of the week, however, notices of reductions amounting to twenty per cent. on the prices of 1825 had been given in four out of five of the shops engaged on this class of work, viz., Messrs. Remnant’s, Curtis’s, and Smith’s, in addition to Mr. Russell’s, and by August 5th the strike had extended to those shops. In the Morning Chronicle, August 5th, we find the following advertisement:—“To BOOKBINDERS. Forty journeymen wanted for Bibles and lighter work. Those that need instruction will be particularly attended to and enabled to earn a competent livelihood. Apply to Alexander Russell, Bridgewater-square.” Other advertisements followed, but the kind offer that “those that need instruction will be particularly attended to” especially evoked the indignation of the Societies, and an address was drawn up for circulation as follows:—

“SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.”

“Address of the journeymen bookbinders employed on the works of the above establishment, to the noblemen, gentlemen, and clergy composing the committee and the subscribers in general.

“May it please your lordships and gentlemen,

“Under the heavy pressure of the times, when trade is almost extinct, and distress is making heavy strides among the working classes of society, four out of five master bookbinders of your establishment have taken the opportunity of lowering the wages of their journeymen full twenty per cent., notwithstanding that, with the greatest economy, they could scarcely support their families at the previous prices; and should this reduction be persevered in, it will have the effect of plunging an indigent class of men, together with those dependent on them for support, into the deepest distress, as, by the utmost exertions, they will be incapable of procuring the common necessities of life. Our employers assert that their prices have been so reduced by the society that they are compelled to act towards us in the manner above stated, and have actually, in furtherance of their intention, advertised in four of the daily newspapers for no less than 100 journeymen to succeed us in our situations, although there are at present but forty employed in the work, but who, from their experience, are fully competent to its execution in a workmanlike manner; and as a proof of the mode in which the society may in future expect its work to be executed, they state in their own advertisements, that ‘those that need instruction will be particularly attended to!’” (Vide Morning Chronicle, Morning Herald, and Morning Advertiser of Saturday, the 5th instant; and The Times of the 7th.) But we cannot suppose for a moment that a society composed of the most illustrious characters in Church and State, and formed for the express purpose of disseminating the holy Scriptures, not only among the poorer classes of society in our own country, but of extending the knowledge of divine revelation to all quarters of the known world, would sanction any measure which had the effect of reducing an industrious class of men to a state of pauperism. They therefore respectfully solicit an investigation, on the part of the society, into the conduct of the four employers above alluded to, and they confidently anticipate that the result will be a restoration to their former prices, and a consequent return to their avocations, which they will cheerfully resume, and endeavours as heretofore to execute the work with honour to their employers and credit to themselves. August 10th, 1825.”

Need we say that the sanguine expectations of the authors of this appeal were foredoomed to disappointment, and that the only person benefiting by it was the printer. The “illustrious characters” forming this society neither knew nor cared how their Bibles were produced; at least they made no sign, they only
wanted them cheap. It was not the fashion then for "illustrious characters," especially of the Church, to consider the working classes except as recipients of doles, and the workers had little power of making their demands felt; only their outcries were heard and these were deemed troublesome, nothing more.

This strike was but the beginning of the story of the cheap Bible, a story full of shame to the religious bodies concerned, who repeatedly, in the face of the fullest opportunities for investigation, either refused to inquire into the grievances of the workers, or refused to remove from their own shoulders the ignominy of the swearer, till Douglas Jerrold exposed the infamy in the pages of Punch.

[To be continued.]

The Ex-Libris Society.

The second annual meeting of the Ex-Libris Society was held recently in St. Martin's Town Hall, Trafalgar-square, the chairman of the council, Mr. J. Roberts Brown, F.R.G.S., presiding. There was a large attendance of members and friends, including a number of ladies. The chairman gave an interesting account of the vicissitudes through which the bookplate has passed in all ages, and somewhat startled the meeting with the announcement that Adam bore arms, quoting from an old writer, Sylvanus Morgan (1661), in support of his theory. According to this writer, Adam bore a shield gules, with the arms of his wife (a shield argent) as an escutcheon of pretence, she being an heiress. Abel, he also tells us, quartered the arms of his father and mother, "ensign of a cross to show he was a shepherd." Another old authority tells us that Alexander the Great rejoiced in the possession of a bookplate. The hon. secretary (Mr. W. H. K. Wright) submitted a report of the work done during the present year, pointing out as a most pleasant fact the increase in the number of lady members. The society has members in nearly every part of the world, with the singular exceptions of Italy and Spain. The number of members now on the books was 320. Mr. Wright also touched on various points in connection with the journal of the society. The hon. treasurer (Mr. Walter Hamilton) read his report, which showed that the income during 1892 was £215 18s. 6d., and the balance in hand in December, 1892, £20 16s. The names of several distinguished foreigners were added to the list of vice-presidents, including that of M. Octave Uzanne. A vote of thanks to the hon. secretary was proposed by Mr. H. B. Wheatley and unanimously carried, and other officers were re-elected. A fine exhibition of bookplates in collections, in special groups, and in single examples, was inspected by the visitors after the meeting, the exhibitors including such well-known collectors as Messrs. Shoppee, Vicars, J. Roberts Brown, H. B. Wheatley, John Leighton, Golden, and W. H. K. Wright, Mr. Leighton sending a charming set of "ladies' bookplates."

The subscription to the Ex-Libris Society is 10/6 per annum, and the secretary is Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Public Library, Plymouth.

The memorial volume of the recent Loan Exhibition at the Guildhall, London, which has been prepared with the sanction of the Library Committee of the Corporation by permission of the owners of the pictures, is now ready for issue to the subscribers. It is a handsome volume of the size known as royal quarto, bound in vellum and sumptuously printed by Messrs. Blades, East & Co. on thick drawing paper, and comprises reproductions by the colotype process of about fifty of the rarest and most important pictures in the collection. About thirty of these are from pictures by early masters, the remainder being from modern works, a large proportion of which have never been reproduced before in any form. Each picture is mounted on an India tint and accompanied by a descriptive note. Besides the ordinary issue 120 large paper copies have been printed on Whatman's thick imperial drawing paper, each of which is numbered and signed in the order of application.

The Bibliomaniac's Prayer.

Keep me, I pray, in wisdom's way,
That I may truths eternal seek;
I need protecting care to-day;
My purse is light, my flesh is weak.
So banish from my erring heart
All baleful appetites and hints
Of Satan's fascinating art—

Of first editions and of prints,
Direct me in some godly walk
Which leads away from bookish strife,
That I with pious deed and talk
May extra illustrate my life.

But if, O Lord, it pleaseth Thee
To keep me in temptation's way,
I humbly ask that I may be
Most notably beset to-day.
Let my temptation be a book
Which I shall purchase, hold and keep,
Whereon when other men shall look,
They'll wait to know I got it cheap.
Oh, let it such a volume be
As in rare copperplates abounds!
Large paper, clean, and fair to see,
Uncut, unique—unknown to Lowdies.

EUGENE FIELD.

A SPECIMEN BOOK of imitation calf leather paper and "Skytogen," as manufactured by the Coloured Paper and Glue Manufacturing Company, Aschaffenburg, Bavaria, contains samples of these materials in various colours and qualities for bookbinding and the covering of cases, boxes, and fancy articles. We noticed "Skytogen" in our columns some time ago as a new material intended to take the place of cloth for bookbinding purposes, and for which it is well suited, being strong and durable and having a good appearance. The London agents are Messrs. Julius Frank & Ohlmann, 18 St. Thomas-street, S.E.

The Keeper of the Prints at the British Museum has just obtained for the national collection a rare acquisition, in the shape of a portfolio containing very choice German and Flemish drawings, eight of them being genuine examples of Lucas van Leyden. These drawings were enclosed in a volume apparently once the possession of the celebrated Earl of Arundell, the binding bearing the date of 1637.
The position of the men engaged in the Bible trade at the time of the dispute in 1826 does not appear to have compared favourably with that of other binders at that time. The work was all done under the piece work system, with its concomitant evils of irregular employment, idleness, or rush, and uncertain wages, and the prices none too high, as the few which have been preserved show:

- Minion 24mo Bible .................................................. 18/- per 104.
- Ruby ................................................................. 17/-
- Pearl ................................................................. 15/-
- Minion 24mo Prayer .................................................. 13/-

These were for full-bound, gilt-edged work, done in boards, and what those prices averaged in wages may be judged by the following paragraph in a letter addressed by the London Society to the Edinburgh Society, informing the latter body of the strike:

"The Bible men are well known to be the hardest used set of workmen at our trade in London, and by far the worst paid, while their employers are often the worst, for we can safely state on an average they have not earned more than 25/- per week for some time back, and on this sum it has been proposed to take off twenty per cent., which rascally proposition has been rejected and they have consequently lost their places."

No sooner, however, had the address to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge been published in the papers than the five employers met and decided to select some of the best wages earned by the men as proof of the prices paid being good, or at least this was the news conveyed to the men's committee, who forthwith prepared another address, which was published next day:

"SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

"Second address of the journeymen bookbinders employed on the works of the above establishment, to the noblemen, gentlemen, and clergy composing the committee and the subscribers in general.

"May it please your lordships and gentlemen,

"Conceiving it highly probable that our employers, in justification of the measure which they have adopted, may resort to the alternative of selecting, and laying before you, a statement of the highest wages received by their most competent and assiduous workmen, we beg leave respectfully to apprise you that such a statement cannot enable you to form a just criterion of our earnings, as, from the very nature of the work on which we are employed we are justified, from the long-established usage of our profession, in charging our week's work every Saturday, if it has arrived at a certain stage, at the same price as if finished, although the completion of it will require a continuation of our labour and application generally until Wednesday, and sometimes even until Friday in the following week. These receipts, also, are those of men working from six in the morning till eleven at night, who, if their labours were limited to the regular hours of employment, could scarcely average, even before the present attempted reduction of our wages, a sufficient competency to maintain themselves and families. We, therefore, respectfully request that your honourable society, previous to forming your judgment as to the amount of wages which can be earned by journeymen employed in the execution of your work, will examine the books of our employers and ascertain the average of our weekly earnings for the last twelve months, which we feel confident will justify you in taking into consideration the respectful appeal made to your honourable society in the Courrier and Times of yesterday. August 11th, 1826."

Unlike most of the movements in our trade, this strike was entered upon without the consent of the trade committee, upon whom it was practically forced by a few of the more rash and hot-headed piece workers, who threw themselves out of employment before any diplomacy could be brought to bear upon the question. A previous reduction had been accepted with some demur by themselves without consulting the trade committee, but it had rankled in their minds, and when the second reduction was proposed they revolted, left their work, and then claimed the support of the Society. True, the defence of the men against a reduction of wages was the obvious duty of the Society, but no effort should have been spared to have prevented the final recourse to war; war having been declared, however, the committee had no choice but to give their members such pecuniary support as their limited funds allowed, which had been well nigh drained by the annual dinner, and the severe strain already put upon them by out-of-work claimants. Under these circumstances only the ordinary out-of-work pay was allowed, viz., 10/- for altogether, with those on strike and those out of work there were about 200 on the funds of the Society, or nearly one-third of its membership.

Taking these facts into consideration, the committee advised the men to endeavour to obtain a conference with their employers with a view to obtain some modification of the reduction demanded, if reduction there must be. This was secured after some unwillingness at first expressed by the masters of the situation, and the five employers working upon the Society's work with five of the men met and discussed the whole question, but with no other result than that of drawing from the employers the most emphatic expression of their determination to insist upon the reduction already decided upon.

The result of this conference was laid before the trade committee, and it was ultimately resolved:

"That the delegates from the men that struck on the Bible work shall submit to their employers a price list between the prices of 1825 and the last reduction, and that in case the list of prices which shall be submitted
to the employers be rejected by them, the journeymen shall be supported by the Trade Society."

It is, however, a fact significant of the weakness of the case, that at the same meeting, August 26th, it was further resolved:—"That owing to the exhausted state of the funds the claimants be reduced from ten shillings to seven shillings, that all may get an equal share."

The suggested price list was drawn up, submitted to, and rejected by, the employers, and with little hope before them, disheartened by every surrounding circumstance, clinging together with dogged persistence, the men stuck to their guns and carried on the fight until, in September, they were compelled to yield to the inevitable and accept the reduction offered, for the funds had become so low that another week's pay even at the small rate of seven shillings was deemed impossible. At this emergency, the Vellum Binders came to the Society's assistance with a loan of £20, but it was of no use to stave off the disaster, and the men returned to work. The total cost of this strike was about £100, and at the end of the year 1826-7 the exigencies of trade had brought the Society so low that the trade committee had only £7 10s. 6d. in hand; of the five Lodges three owed money, one was just square, and the best off could boast of a fund amounting to four shillings.

This was a time to try the courage of men and test the firmness of their principles, and viewing the state of trade with the length of time many had been out of employment, we are not surprised to find that the December of 1826 and the January of 1827 were marked by a large number of erasures, and a larger but more honourable number of admissions of indebtedness, which meant deferred payment. Fortunately the spring of 1827 brought a revival of trade, so that at the close of the financial year 1827-28 only £149 had been paid to out-of-work claimants against the £824 18s. 10d. of the previous year; nevertheless, the experience gained caused the dinner, as an annual celebration out of the funds of the Society, to be discontinued.

In 1829, the foundation of our trade charities was laid by the appointment of a committee, which in 1830 established the Pension Society, out of which, in 1837, the Asylum Society was formed; these two amalgamated in 1865.

In 1828 trade began again to decline, and the introduction of the rolling machine displaced a large number of men who had been accustomed to work as beaters. This fact must not be looked at alone; our fellow craftsmen in those days were subject to an environment similar in all respects to our own, a public opinion, limited perhaps more than ours, but a public opinion none the less because it was the opinion of those with whom they were more immediately brought into contact. Ours may be a wider environment, but it has its limits; theirs, of whom we have to deal, was more limited than ours, but the effect in both instances must be the same. They saw, and they heard of, the displacement of labour by machinery, and doubtless heard of far more than they saw, fearing proportionately. It was new to them, they feared its consequences, they could not see its advantages except to those who had been their antagonists in many a hotly-contested fight, and with a declining trade it became a question too serious to leave alone. They therefore drew up a memorial—good, simple folk as they were—and approached their employers with an epitaph for want of more powerful means of expression. We do not write this jestingly, but the opposition to machinery which has caused so many fierce fights amongst less informed trades, in our own is only worthy of notice as containing an instance of how it affected us at the time; it resulted in nothing more than the expression of opinion. The memorial to employers, dated 14th December, 1830,

"Humbly sheweth, that your memorialists, since the introduction of machinery to supersede the beating of books, as performed by manual labour, have been suffering under many grievous privations, and that the rapid progress such machinery is now generally making in our trade, must inevitably tend, not only to reduce a considerable number of our body to actual want, but by a continuation of its use, prevent your memorialists from using their exertions in endeavouring to earn an honest subsistence for themselves and families.

"In confirmation of this, we respectfully solicit your attention to the following facts:

"That our Trade Society, founded especially for the support of its members out of employment, has been enabled for a period of forty years to possess ample funds to meet all demands which the depression of trade at any time might call upon it to provide for.

"Your memorialists, in laying before you an extract from the printed audit of last year (ending May, 1830), beg leave to state that the sum of £488 18s. was paid to men out of employ; and if in addition to that sum be added the voluntary contributions to their sick members, amounting to £150 at the lowest calculation, making a total of £638 18s. paid to their suffering brethren from May, 1829 to May, 1830.

"That during the months of May, June, and July of the present year we paid to men out of employ nearly £220, clearly demonstrating the rapid effects of machinery in destroying manual labour; reducing many of your memorialists to subsist on casual bounty; and finally reducing them to the greatest distress.

"Do not, we beseech you, let ill will or discontent arise between us; let us still think our best exertions you have a right to claim, and that you in return feel that interest for our welfare; that the comparative small profits the use of machinery brings to each employer (using it separately), and which acting collectively, your memorialists so severely feel, rendering our distress permanent. We therefore sincerely hope you will not allow its destructive effects to operate any longer against us," etc., etc.

This memorial was signed by 498 Society members.

[To be continued.]"
Following the memorial to employers on the introduction of machinery, another was drawn up and addressed "To the noblemen, gentlemen, and clergy composing the committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," signed by William Farquhar, John Ibbot, William Tonge, Richard Chipperfield, and David Edwards, which, after recapitulating some of the statements made in the previous memorial, further states that "Nearly fifty men are thrown out of employ by the use of the rolling machine, one-half of that number having been formerly employed by the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, who are now barely subsisting upon the funds raised for their support. . . . That your petitioners beg leave humbly, but earnestly, to submit the following facts to your notice, and rest all claims to your kindness and favour upon the truth of what they here lay before you: The rolling machine does not execute the work better than the process of manual labour—your petitioners pledge themselves, if they are allowed a trial, to produce work equally as good without it. It is no benefit to your Society, as the books, your petitioners are informed, are not bound cheaper; nor is the Society enabled by the use of the machine to circulate one copy more of any work they may distribute;—add to this, it is the source of very severe injury to the journeymen. We, therefore, indulge the hope that you will spare a small portion of your valuable time to enquire into the merit or demerit of our case. If any one should suppose we have exaggerated our distress, or invidiously magnified the cause, we humbly solicit them to refer to the number of the various sorts of Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books, &c., bound for your Society during the last year, and affix to each the price once paid for heating, and the total, we think, would be £800 in one year in the five shops working for your Society alone."

These memorials, so far as effecting the purpose for which they were designed, were absolutely useless; but they are interesting as showing a light upon the condition of trade, which the other scanty fragments of trade documents of the time do not give. Unfortunately, the death of work which drew forth these plaintive protests against labour-saving machinery continued, and the Societies had to have recourse to a benefit performance at the Surrey Theatre in the following year—October 25th, 1831—which was looked forward to for a considerable relief to the unemployed, but by the balance sheet still existing, it appears that although the balance of receipts over expenditure was £37 18s. 9d. on paper, yet, owing to a large number of defaulters who had sold tickets but could not pay for them, the only sum which reached the hands of the trade committee for the benefit of the funds was £4 18s. 5d.

At the June meeting, 1832, Benjamin Teasdale, a member of Lodge II. and a man with a very vigorous and fertile brain, submitted a plan for the establishment of a co-operative society and store, which was laid before the committees of the various Lodges in July, but was rejected. In itself, this plan was a good and practicable one, but the long continued depression of trade had tried the men's resources to the uttermost, and there was existing a feeling of dissatisfaction at almost everything, which prevented any party desirous of moving for any reform obtaining a sufficient majority to secure its being carried into effect. Erasures were plentiful, funds were low, and no money could be spared for anything but the immediate relief of those out of work, however commendable the object. The Bible hands, nearly all piece-workers, were just now especially restive; they were particularly displeased with the result of the late strike, and felt, whether justly or unjustly, that they had not been properly supported by the rest of the trade in their endeavour to maintain their prices, while on the other hand, owing to the frequency of disputes engendered under the piece-work system, the time workers complained that the whole of their funds were being absorbed in the task of maintaining piece-work rates and for the benefit of piece workers alone.

It was under these circumstances that in the early part of the year 1832 a meeting was called at the "White Horse," Fann-street, Aldersgate-street, "to take into consideration the propriety of forming a branch Society for the protection of those employed upon piece-work," when the following propositions were submitted to the meeting by Mr. Jas. Robertson of Lodge V., supported by Mr. William Smith of the same Lodge:

"That a Society be formed for the protection of piece workers, to be called 'The Bookbinders' Equitable Society,' and in order for the good maintenance of that faith and unity so conducive to our mutual interests, the following resolutions be agreed to, and be laid before the parent Society for their consideration:—

1. That all members in arrears to the parent Society do pay the same upon receiving from them such amount as the present existing funds of the Society, upon being divided, will allow equitably to each member. All members receiving such dividend be allowed to take honourable leave and to be no longer liable to receive from the funds of the parent Society.

2. Should the parent Society deem it more advisable to allow members to transfer their arrears to the Equitable Society in order to raise an immediate fund for the support of their members out of employ, such members to be considered as taking honourable leave, the Equitable Society are willing to acquiesce in the same.

3. That for the good understanding of the two Societies, delegates be mutually received on any question that may affect our general interests."
4. That petitions granted by either Society, on
communication being made to the committee, shall
receive their signature and receive the benefit of the
two Societies.

5. That all disbursements made to members
claiming relief on a country card, and pensioners,
be paid by the parent Society; they receiving once a
quarter a reimbursement from the Equitable Society
proportionate to the number of members in each.

With the coolest impudence these resolutions were
submitted in writing to the presidents and members
of the Lodges, and, of course, rejected; indeed, it is
rather surprising to find any number of men, however
small, seriously contemplating that the first proposi-
tion could ever be agreed to, involving, as it would,
the voluntary division of its funds by a Society, in
order that a minority of its members might secede
from it. But this repulse did not stop the movement,
though it checked it; another meeting was called and
after further debate it was resolved:

1. That we, the journeymen employed in the
Bible binders' shops in London, finding that when
we most want support from the trade funds there is
no provision made for that purpose, have resolved
to form a Society among ourselves, and that each
member do put his name down upon a sheet of paper
this evening. And that we do elect a committee to
draw up articles for the government of the said
Society.

2. The Society to meet the first Monday in the
month. Each member to pay two shillings per month
for the following purposes, viz., sixpence to defray
the expenses of the meeting, sixpence as a sinking
fund, and one shilling towards a fund for the general
purposes of the Society. And all members being in
arrears in the old Society shall pay the same into
the new one, in order to enrich the funds as soon
as possible.

3. Any member belonging to the new Society
coming out of work and being entitled to sign the
book for the seven shillings, shall receive the same
under the same restrictions.

It is impossible to avoid a very broad smile over
the last sentence in clause 2, in spite of the fact that
it betrayed the desire to profit by what was justly due
to the parent Society. The first clause was as in-
defensible, for it contained a flagrant violation of the
truth of the situation, but it was upon these unstable
bases that the Society misnamed "The Equitable"
was formed, as if in imitation of David's ragged
band, when "everyone that was in distress, and
everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was
discontented, gathered themselves unto him." The
split was serious enough, however, although it only
drew off about one-eleventh or one-twelfth of the
Society's membership, mostly from Lodges III. and
V., the city Lodges; others who were honest
enough not to join the new body nevertheless
sympathised in the movement, for on July 28th we
find Mr. James Clyde, of Lodge IV., giving notice of
motion for the October night: "That all those
that take leave or are otherwise erased from the
London Journeymen Bookbinders' Society in order to
join the Fann-street Association of Piece-workers,
shall be forgiven their arrears and be made honorary
members for ever of the Trade Society."

This was rejected, for the Society was furious at
the split, and for some time there was a great deal of
bad blood between the two bodies; but as those who
had joined the new Society were nearly all working
together in a few shops, they were able to hold out
against the general body in a much more effective
manner than had they been dispersed about the
trade. The committee tried their best to conciliate
the seceders and to win them back by persuasion,
but the general body of the members were averse to
recognising them in any manner; and in February,
1833, upon the motion of Mr. S. Hogg, it was resolved:"That any member of this Society who
enters the Equitable Society, his name shall be erased
from the parent Society immediately upon entering
the above." This resolution had little effect upon the
new Society, under the secretaryship of Mr. W. Gadd,
for though it did not increase very rapidly in numbers
by secession from the parent Society after that date,
it made a few new members among the apprentices
coming out of their time in Bible shops, and seemed
to be in a fair way of establishing itself as a perma-
nent institution; but other forces were at work that
eventually brought about the unification desired.

It had been felt for some time past that the system
of lodge government was inadequate to the wants of
so large a body as the Society had grown to be, but
no definite steps had been taken until a notice of
motion was given by Mr. J. Clyde, in Lodge IV.. It
seems at first sight a little strange that Mr Clyde,
who appears first as a champion of disintegration, or
at least of decentralisation, should be the first to lead
in an opposite direction, but so it was. The December
night was taken up with the discussion of Mr. Clyde's
proposition: "That the five Lodges be reduced to
three," and Lodge IV. agreed thereto, when it was
sent on for consideration by the other Lodges. These
also agreed, with the exception of Lodge I., and a
general meeting of the trade was convened at the
Mechanics' Institute on Thursday, June 6th, 1833,
for the further consideration of the question, when the
chair was taken by Mr. T. J. Dunning. At this
meeting it was resolved:—

1. That for the more efficiency of purpose, and
the better protection of our labour, we do agree to
consolidate the Society into one body.

2. That a committee consisting of the following
persons, W. C. Boteler, C. Clarke, T. J. Dunning,
G. Fowler, W. Gale, T. Mullen, and B. Teasdale,
be appointed to lay before the trade a general outline
of the principles by which the Society in its con-
solidated form is to be governed, and which, for
the information of the Society, shall be printed and
distributed to its members.

[To be continued.]

Mr. F. Edward Hulme's "The Birth and Develop-
ment of Ornament," is published by Messrs. Swan
Sonnenschein & Co. In a handsome volume. Mr.
Hulme has gone for his illustrations to all countries
and all periods, not even the earliest being devoid
of ornament.
The Bookbinders' Trade Societies.

At the time referred to in our last chapter, when steps were first taken to secure a consolidation of the London Lodges, while there was a distinct opposition to any change of government on the part of a large and influential minority of the members, there was on the other hand a substantial majoriy who were extremely dissatisfied with existing conditions. At the same time a similar discontent began to prevail in the provinces, and a process of self-questioning arising out of the reverses of fortune experienced through depression of trade led men to ask themselves: Why should we not federate in one body? Wages had generally declined, or had only been maintained with the utmost difficulty after great sacrifices, and pressure in one direction had only led to a squeezing out in another, so that even where the men had maintained their rate of wages other evils had grown up which threatened to deprive them of work. The consequence of this was, that while Mr. Clyde's proposition was being debated by the London Lodges, a proposal reached London from the Manchester Society suggesting a general union of the whole bookbinding trade:

"Gentlemen,—It having been resolved unanimously by the Manchester Society of Bookbinders to endeavour to create a general union of the trade throughout the kingdom for the better protection of the whole of our just rights, to prevent a further reduction of wages, and to reduce the advancing number of apprentices, consequently, I am directed to write to you in particular, having reason to believe it will meet with your approbation. The necessity of it will appear more obvious when you have read the enclosed bill, with which we have placarded the walls of this town, as well as advertising the same in several influential and widely circulating newspapers. Besides doing this, we have struck against a shop where three men were employed at the low wages of 18/- per week, and have succeeded in raising the wages to 24/- at that shop as well as at others that were lower than 24/-, which sum we have declared to be the lowest wages of a journeyman bookbinder to receive. The necessity of this proceeding will be still more apparent when I relate the fact, that at the time we made the resolution there were no less than eight men in employ working under that sum per week, viz., 24/-. In fact, at some shops it began to be considered excellent wages, and the wages were receding so fast, much below that sum, that we were compelled to adopt these vigorous measures to stop a general reduction. Another mode of reducing wages has been much in practice, viz.: an employer takes in his employ a man deficient in his trade at extremely low wages and teaches him his business, raises him perhaps 2/- or 3/- per week, and consequently tends to reduce the wages of the men up to the standard. The above restrictions will stop such proceedings as these. But the practice to which we more particularly wish to draw your attention, as affecting the interest of the whole trade, more so than any other, and which caused us to placard the walls with the afore mentioned bills, is the detestable practice of stocking the shops with apprentices to the extraordinary extent of six apprentices to three men and less in one shop, and the regular number at present, and for some years past, has been of four apprentices to the average number of four men and upwards. At one period the apprentices exceeded that number, and also in some places there are two apprentices to one man, and at one place for some time there has been two apprentices and no man at all. Such is the state of the trade, and such, we fear, it will continue to be (if not worse, on account of our late proceedings), unless you and other Societies come forward to support us to counteract these odious encroachments, which injure you if not more at least equally as much as ourselves, for if the trade is slack here then tramping begins, whereas in London they are supported while they are out of work.

"We are willing to strike a bargain with you to support you as well as other Societies for a just object provided you support us, and we should feel extremely obliged to you if you will at any time favour us with your advice with regard to the measures we are to adopt in such cases as may arise. And believe me, proud will the bookbinders of this town feel, if any exertion of theirs will benefit the trade at large, and forward that most desirable object, viz.: a general union of the trade.

"An assent to the above will be gratefully received, and any views of yours I am sure will be adopted from the known wisdom and prudence of your excellent Society. We are, believe me, your well wishers.
John Dickinson, secretary, Falstaff, Market-place, Manchester, February 9th, 1833."

This letter was accompanied by a series of resolutions agreed to by a committee of the Manchester Society, the first of which, whether practical or not, was certainly flattering to their London brethren:

"Resolved that a Society be formed, to be called the Consolidated Relief Fund. (1) The government of this Society to consist of president, secretary, treasurer, and committee, to be elected quarterly from the London Lodges."

This sop in the draft pan had, no doubt, its desired effect, for it secured the passing of a resolution by the London Society affirming the desirability of a general union of the trade, which so greatly pleased the Manchester committee that they wrote:—

"March 27th, 1833. It is impossible to describe to you adequately the sensation which your kind letter of the 18th inst. produced. We were overjoyed at finding our expectations realised beyond our most sanguine hopes, and if any feeling was predominant it was pride. Proud were we, I assure you, at having regained the respect of your Society and our good
name, which will never again be forfeited unless there are very few of the present members remaining, from the feeling that has been displayed for the general interest of the trade by them."

There ended, however, for a time, London interest in a general union. Even the mild proposal of Mr. Clyde was in like danger of being shelved, and would probably have come to naught, but for a circular entitled "An Address to the Bookbinders of London and Westminster," written and circulated by Mr. Benjamin Teasdale, dated May, 1833, which, besides being a powerful appeal in favour of unification, foreshadowed many of the most important reforms carried into effect in after years. As we only know of one copy of this existing, we may be pardoned for quoting it at some length:—

"I cannot imagine by what creating power, our friend (a member of Lodge IV. *) has been induced to persist in bringing forward the motion which has been carried in our Society . . . . neither can I picture to myself what the anticipations are of those who voted for the change; it appears to me that merely the change was all their object, for the trifling gain that is to be effected by it is altogether unworthy of consideration. I would ask what advantage shall we gain by meeting in three divisions instead of five? My firm opinion is that we shall never gain any advantage by being divided at all. Depend upon it, gentlemen, we shall never be able to improve the condition of our Society until we are united in one body, and that we never can with effect so long as we meet in public-houses. . . . . In order to raise our Society from the poor and imbecile condition in which I consider it now is, we must increase the income and reduce the expenditure, which we can do without inconvenience or difficulty, we could do it without increasing the income; but I will explain, we must not continue to pay £104 per year, as by the last audit account we did, for drinking, consequent upon our meeting in public-houses; neither must we continue to pay the enormous sums which we have hitherto done for men out of work—by the above stated account the amount during the year was £445—we must instead of doing so, provide them with employment, and that I think can with judgment be accomplished, more especially if the Printers' Society could be prevailed upon to establish a printing office and act in concert with us. Our Manchester friends have written to us requesting that arrangements may be made to form a union of the whole trade, but how can it be done unless we adopt some plan to unite ourselves in London first of all, where all the business of the Society can be transacted, and where workshops can be formed for the employment of our members, and one secretary will be quite sufficient to keep the accounts of the Society; we could have a coffee room with a library and plenty of news and information to entertain all who thought proper to avail themselves of it."

Among the suggestions made is, perhaps the first, that a Society should be formed of women; and ten propositions follow, containing suggestions for the taking of suitable premises, apart from public-houses, where the Society could meet and documents be stored, and weekly subscriptions be paid; for general meetings every three or six months, and the election of officers by ballot; for a recasting of the committee; for a weekly or monthly circular with reports of the affairs of the Society; and for the employment of a permanent secretary.

Largely owing to this address, at the general meeting on June 6th, 1833, it was resolved to "consolidate the Society into one body," as shewn in the last chapter; but no sooner had the committee appointed to draw up an outline of the form of government got to work than a disagreement arose. The committee, therefore, sent up the following resolution to the Lodges:—"The committee appointed by the trade at the general meeting on the 6th of June, having received from Lodges I. and IV. the following members to add to their number, viz., Mr. W. Manderson, Mr. J. Scott, Mr. C. Geddes, and Mr. R. Chipperfield, for the purpose of immediately carrying into effect rules and regulations especially for the protection of labour and the future government of the trade, beg to state the following resolution has been unanimously agreed to, while upon the provision for carrying into effect these laws by consolidation, or in three Lodges, there remains a difference of opinion, and the majority of your committee respectfully recommend the trade, that in order that every member may have a full opportunity to express his sentiments on so important an occasion a general meeting be called for that purpose, in order to pass the resolutions now submitted for your consideration, and to elect officers for immediately carrying the same into effect."

At the general meeting so called, it was resolved:—"That the trade do meet the first Monday in the month in three Lodges, agreeable to Mr. Clyde's motion." It was further settled that all nominations for committee should be posted in a conspicuous place in the Lodges a month prior to the election, and that a permanent secretary to the general committee should be appointed.

The actual date of the contraction is not to be found in the records, nor is there any account of how the contraction was effected. The thirteenth annual audit for May, 1833, to May, 1834, is for three Lodges only, and the members seem to have settled down in their new companies from a very early date; but the most noticeable feature of the account is that the great bulk of the members of the "Equitable Society" returned to their former allegiance in the February of 1834, and thus healed the unhappy division that had taken place in 1832.

Working girls who compose the Bindery Girls' Protective Union gave a musical and literary entertainment recently in Chicago. Three hundred persons attended it and heard an excellent rendering of an extended programme. It was the first entertainment of its kind the bindery girls have given.

The first woman in Norway to serve an apprenticeship as a bookbinder, and to enter upon that trade, has recently celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of her business career. She is now manageress of a large bookbinding establishment in Christiania.

* Mr. Clyde.
The main principle of the proposal from Manchester for the formation of a general union of the trade throughout the country having been affirmed by the London Society, the draft plan intended to carry it into effect was quietly shelved, mainly owing to the opposition of Mr. James Carss, one of the committeemen of Lodge II., who dissented upon some point in almost every line of the two foolscap pages containing the proposals. But it was not only London that dissented: several important towns and cities objected to many of the proposals, though agreeing to the main principle, and all looked to London for a declaration, so that letters were continually passing between members of the provincial societies and the London leaders, which tended to retard a settlement. By August, 1833, Manchester became somewhat nettled at not having received some direct answer, and wrote sharply to London for the reason, when a reply was sent that the London committee desired the question to be laid aside for the present, as "the state of affairs would not guarantee the consideration it demands"; and a further letter was sent in October to the effect that those in London were about "to enforce the principle of taking a less number of apprentices, and keeping up a respectable scale of prices," and that until they had set their own house in order they were not prepared to go further with the question.

These reasons were sufficient for the postponement, though it is questionable if they were the active reasons; trouble was, however, pending. An unquiet feeling existed amongst the members of the Society themselves; small cliques and factions of the various lodges were more arrayed against each other than with any set purpose for the common weal; the piece-workers were in continual trouble, and were continually demanding the support of the Societies; the time-workers, especially the finishers, were anxious for reforms, which the everlasting squabble about piece-work prices prevented; and, overshadowing all, the employers were flooding the trade with apprentices and cheap labour. Messrs. Remnant & Edmonds were always creating some fresh broil; every new job that came in was made the lever for a reduction of price, until in the summer of 1833 a determined stand was taken to force prices up a little. The report containing the suggested advances includes this strong paragraph, shewing the tension which existed: "These prices receiving the perfect concurrence of the committee will be submitted to Messrs. Remnant & Edmonds, and in the event of their refusing to meet such scale of prices, which we are determined to adhere to, we must of necessity throw ourselves upon the protection of the trade. The committee, feeling in common with the trade the continued innovations made by Remnant & Edmonds upon the prices, call upon their fellow tradesmen to support the struggle that is about to take place." The dispute ran very high, and very nearly into a strike, even so far as obtaining the signatures of the men in the shop as to their willingness to come out if called upon. But trade was busy, and by prohibiting men from calling at the shop for employment, and stopping all overtime, the firm were at last reluctantly compelled to give the advances asked.

The finishers were, perhaps, under the greatest disadvantage at that time; being a minority of the trade, and divided up into small companies in five different lodges, there was little chance of unity amongst them, and their special interests were easily lost sight of. Under these circumstances a meeting was called in the autumn of 1833 by J. Calvert and E. Russell, and it was determined to form a finishers' society, to meet at the "One Ton," Chandos-street, Strand. This gave offence, and they were called upon to explain themselves, when they signed a written declaration, dated October 1st, that "thoroughly we found it necessary to form a Society of Finishers, we beg to state most unequivocally and emphatically that we intend to maintain and uphold the interests of the trade." This was considered satisfactory, and this inner circle of the Societies lasted for five years, until in 1838 the Society was disbanded upon the promise that on the trade committee of six members there should always be two who were finishers.

The apprentice question was the most serious and difficult, and the first effort made to amend the disastrous position into which the trade had drifted was an appeal to the employers. The result was simply to make the position even worse, and a limitation was then agreed upon, as the following letter addressed to all the employers, will show:—

"Sir,—The committee, by order of the Trade Society of Bookbinders, addressed a letter to the masters generally, earnestly requesting them to correct an evil so ruinous both to masters and journeymen; but we are sorry to learn that some shops, instead of correcting the grievance, continue to add to the already enormously disproportionate number of apprentices. We, therefore, trust that the justice of the following resolutions is so apparent that we at once submit them to your consideration:—

1. When an employer is enabled to employ six men, he shall have at his direction two apprentices, and no more.

2. When an employer is enabled to employ twelve men, three apprentices, and no more.

3. When an employer is enabled to employ eighteen men, or upwards, he may have four apprentices, and no more."
"4. Any employer having a son at the business (if the eldest) shall be considered a journeyman at the age of twenty-one, whether he be bound by indenture or not; but if more than one, that all others must be regularly bound by indenture for the usual period of seven years.

"Such are our resolutions, and we are resolved to withstand any innovation.

"By order of the Committee,

Committee Room, (Signed) J. V. DAVISON,
November 22nd, 1833. Sec. pro. tem."

We cannot attach too much importance to this document, because it was undoubtedly this declaration that was the main cause of the great strike of 1839.

We must note with pleasure that the first effort the men made was by way of appeal, but unfortunately the great majority of employers have ever been deaf to appeals. It is not surprising, therefore, that the one of 1833 was useless, but the reversion to a demand made in language which was not only unwise, but offensive, was a sad mistake, and a mistake made at too early a date, for there is no evidence of any effort to obtain what was fair and just by mutual consent. Threats are always impolitic, and sharp words are condemned by every proverb which has epigrammatized the wisdom of man. The solution of the problem before the Societies was to be found only in a limitation which was fair and equitable not only to the state of trade, but to humanity at large, and the second clause seems to have been as fair from both points of view as we can at this date determine, for the trade at large, and we have no means of knowing whether the third clause would bear unfairly on large employers or not.

The resolution was made, however, but it was quite another thing to enforce, and the enforcement was almost immediately checked and hampered by a dispute, which began about the middle of November, respecting the piecework prices for work executed for the British and Foreign Bible Society by the five principal employers who bound for the Society: Mr. Burn, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden; Mr. Collier, Hatton-garden; Mr. Cross, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn; Mr. Hickson, King-street, Cheapside; and Miss Watkins, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell. Owing to the desire to cheapen the cost of the Scriptures, an alteration in the style of the book was announced, and with it a reduction of the piecework prices, which, no doubt, exceeded that which might have been allowed for the less work put into the job, and against this the men protested. The prices offered by the employers were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Testaments</td>
<td>7/- per 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevier</td>
<td>8/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonpareil Bibles</td>
<td>14/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prices submitted by the men were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Testaments</td>
<td>8/6 per 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevier</td>
<td>9/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonpareil Bibles</td>
<td>14/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No satisfactory middle course being found, the men determined to enforce their prices, and the five shops were struck in December. Immediately Mr. Haggis, the foreman to Mr. Collier, was dispatched into the country to procure men or turners, while on the other hand the men sent notices all over the kingdom warning their fellow-craftsmen of the dispute, and appealing to them not to accept work in London. By February, 1834, both parties were sick of the struggle, and it was in a fair way of settlement by compromise but for the unexpected interference of Mr. Cockle, the depositary of the Bible Society, who, determined to outdo the other Societies concerned in the cheap circulation of the Scriptures, urged the employers to refuse any compromise with the men under any circumstances, and plainly threatened them that if any such compromise was made they might expect no more work from the Bible Society. This complicated the question so seriously that strong protests were made to the committee of the Bible Society, who replied that it was a question "on which the committee could not interfere," upon which the men's committee reported to the trade: "Your committee have transmitted several important communications to the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, principally relative to the vexatious and arbitrary conduct of Mr. Cockle, their depositary. Your committee have to observe that that committee are not in the least interested in the cause of the journeymen. It appears, however fervent their faith may be, they do not regard the Holy Scriptures, which they disseminate, as a rule of action." The caustic comment is not surprising when in a letter dated "Bible Society, Jan. 2, 1834," and signed "A. Brandram, sec.," after objecting to any interference on the part of the committee to obtain a settlement, the secretary says: "Allow me to express my best wishes that an arrangement mutually satisfactory may speedily be made."

The employers continued to resist the men's offers, and went on with the best help they could obtain: old soldiers, policemen, copperplate printers, and others, of all sorts and conditions, who could be induced to come up from the country and accept a job. The men levied themselves one shilling per week for the support of their fellows who were out, and the Societies spent a large sum in sending back to their homes some of the binders who had been induced to come to London, but it was all of no avail. The strike lasted till May 27th, when strike payment ceased, and neither party had won. The methods of doing the work had meanwhile undergone a change; trade being good, most of the men had obtained employment elsewhere, especially as the loss of trade to the Bible Society had stimulated the trade of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and the booksellers, both of whom pressed their own Bibles rapidly into the market. The men were satisfied at obtaining their prices in other shops, and at seeing the inferior quality of the work turned out for the Bible Society, and thus the cause of the dispute ceased, though it had cost the Societies upwards of £300.

[To be continued.]

M. J. P. BERJEAU was the first writer in this country who attempted to popularise bibliography by publishing a periodical devoted solely to that subject, *The Bibliophile*, a complete set of which is now a great rarity.
So dissatisfied were the time workers at the repeated disputes and strikes arising out of the piece-work system, that during the time of the strike against the binders for the British and Foreign Bible Society, when the assistance of every man in the trade was urgently needed, the old feeling of an antagonism of interests between the two sections broke out afresh, this time amongst the time workers. A meeting of all employed on day work was called for April 3rd, 1834, at the "Hope," Blackmore-street, when proposals were made and adopted for the formation of the Friendly Society of Journeymen Day Working Bookbinders, and in consequence, a number of members seceded from the parent society. The number, however, was but small, for though many were very strong in their objections to the course the Societies were taking, they still felt that a split in the main body would be more disastrous than even the sectional differences which existed, with all the party feeling and personal discords that embittered the long feud, and that this was not the most suitable time for such a movement. But this loyalty of little avail against others less scrupulous, who were actuated not merely by their zeal for a time work system, but also by a desire to escape the levy of a shilling per week for the support of those on strike, and which had become a great burden. It was by these mainly that the Society was started, and a code of laws framed, which was agreed to at a meeting held on July 9th, but owing to the conciliatory attitude of the general committee of the lodges—who sent invitations not only to the day workers as a body, to rejoin, but plied individual members and succeeded in persuading a few to come back—the Society did not prosper, and after a brief existence, on March 10th, 1835, it was agreed that the Day Working Society should return to the fold upon the following conditions:

"1. That by bringing with them the whole of their books, funds, and arrears they shall be placed on the books of Lodge I. precisely in the same degree of benefit as they are now in their own Society.

"2. All those that were in work at the time of the shilling levy for the strike in 1834 shall be compelled to pay up to twenty shillings, and those that have paid above that sum shall have it placed to their credit."

On the April night the first Day Working Society ceased to exist, before it had completed its first year. During these little troubles in London, Mr. John Dickinson, and the Society at Manchester, were still pushing forward their plan for the formation of a general union throughout the country, and in 1835 two large delegate meetings were held, the one in Manchester on the 19th and 20th October, and the other in Birmingham on the 26th and 27th of the same month, where the rules of the Bookbinders' Consolidated Relief Fund were finally passed, and the union established, to commence its operations on January 1st, 1836. To Manchester was accorded the honour of the first seat of government; Mr. James Winckworth, the founder, was appointed secretary, and Mr. John Dickinson treasurer to the fund. This was, as the circular apprising the various Societies of the fact informs us, "in consequence of the supineness of the Parent Society in London," though the Finishers' Society was among those enrolled on its books, and consequently became a station.

Under the laws of the Union, societies joining were charged a registration fee of one shilling per member, and upon payment of that at any date before 1st January, 1836, any member being out of work was eligible to receive a "document" of parchment, entitling him to "travelling allowance" of one penny per mile, and a bed at whatever station he chose to stay for the night, with one shilling and sixpence and a bed if he rested on the Sabbath day; the amount received was entered on the back of the document, and signed by the secretary of the station. This was the only benefit granted; the subscription was one shilling per month.

The first quarterly report for the period, January 1st to March 20th, gives a list of thirty-two stations, with the income and expenditure for each, also a list of eighty-four bookbinders of various towns "who are deficient of humanity, and consequently are not members of Society." In this list not only is London absent—so far as the Parent Society is concerned—but Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Newcastle, and Cambridge, besides other towns and cities of less importance, but during the first year Glasgow, Newcastle, Hull, and Durham were added, and the list then included thirty-nine stations.

The Union had, however, already sustained a severe shock, for during the second quarter the central committee were compelled to dismiss Mr. Winckworth for having "forfeited their confidence and disowned him." He had been entrusted with money to pay for printing, but said he had lost it; the committee, however, thought otherwise, and, having dismissed him, they appointed Mr. John Dickinson in his place.

Towards the close of 1836 it was known in London that it was contemplated to put a heavy fine on all who had not joined, and Mr. Robert Leslie, the secretary of the Finisher's Society, besieged himself to prevent such a course being taken as it would effectually have prevented any further union with the metropolis. On November 3rd a meeting was held to take into consideration the position of the non-subscribers in London, when it was resolved: "That the non-subscribers in London be admitted members of the Society without the payment of any fine." This was agreed to by the Union, but in December it was determined "That on and after January 1st, 1837, any journeyman bookbinder applying to be admitted
a member of our Society—who was a journeyman previous to 1st January, 1836—shall be required to pay one guinea (entrance) and one shilling per month since 1st January, 1836." As this seemed so contradictory to the previous conciliatory understanding, Mr. Leslie wrote for an explanation, when Mr. Dickinson replied: "The terms of admission will be as follows, viz., if the whole body wish to join, they may do it by paying one shilling each for registration and one shilling per month since the institution of the fund, i.e., since Jan. 1st, 1836. What we mean by the whole body is the majority of the Three Lodges. But if any individual member wishes to join he can only do so according to rule." This, it was hoped, would bring London into line, but it failed to do so. Piece-work troubles and the apprentice question were daily becoming more serious; during the latter half of the year there were little strikes at Bone's, Westley's, and Wilton's, and more serious ones at Remnant and Edmunds and Smith's of Dorset Street, and these blighted the hopes of Manchester and of the London men who really wished for the inclusion of London in the Union.

The second year of the Union was one full of difficulty. The reasons why London stood aloof were not apparent to the provincial societies, but the fact that it did not join helped to emphasise the growing want of confidence that Winckworth's misconduct had inspired. In a circular issued from Birmingham dated Nov. 16th, 1837, "neglect and evident deficiency of abilities" are charged to head-quarters of the Union. "We, therefore, consider that as the talent which formed and conducted this Institution does not now exist in Manchester,—that we have a bounden duty to look out to some other town or city to furnish it, and it is, therefore, resolved: That each Society shall request 'The London Finishers' Society' to undertake the management, and endeavour to bring the Parent Society to join us, on such terms as may seem best to their judgment, and to commence their management on the 1st of January, 1838." By this time, however, a dissatisfaction had spread amongst the members of the Finishers' Society, so that in the Eighth Report dated January 27th, 1838, it was stated that "the last report from London contains only the names of five who are really members of the fund."

This may be accounted for by the fact that strong endeavours were being made to induce the Finishers' Society to return to the Parent Society, from which they had broken away shortly after the establishment. In 1835 a letter signed by W. C. Blessed, president, offered them re-admission on the same conditions under which they left by only paying their arrears, and this offer was several times repeated, until on the meeting night of September, 1838, it was resolved to return to Lodge I. on the next meeting night, Oct. 1st, and the members were requested to meet on that night at the "Sherry" at 9 o'clock to go over in a body. This resolution was hotly contested by some of the non-contentos, who called a special meeting on September 15th, to endeavour to enforce one of the articles of the Society, which provided "That no alteration shall be made in these articles unless two months previous notice in writing be given, and at least two-thirds of the members of the Society vote on the question." It was urged that the latter part of this regulation was not enforced as there was a very thin attendance. The special meeting however endorsed the previous decision; then the opponents insisted that that vote was also illegal, and 16 members with the Secretary issued a protest, authorised the landlord of the "Savoy Palace" to hold all moneys, papers, books, and boxes belonging to the Society for their use, and called upon the members to pay up their arrears on pain of being erased. This action had little effect, for the great bulk of the members rejoined Lodge I. on the October night, and the Society was dissolved, the few who remained very shortly afterwards falling into the same ranks.

But, though joined once again to the main body, this did not end the strife nor satisfy the clique who were ever striving to obtain the reins of authority. Having failed in maintaining a separate body, fresh steps were immediately taken for founding an auxiliary Society. On November 8th, 1838, a meeting was called, with Mr. Calvert in the chair, and the Bookbinders' Protection Auxiliary Society was formed, the plans for which were ostensibly drawn by Charles Clarke, but most probably at the instigation of John Jaffray. The main object of the Finishers' Society had been "by prohibiting a finisher from taking less in any shop than that which had been previously given, and by supporting him in all fair and reasonable grounds of complaint" to raise the wages of finishers, but no minimum wage had been fixed. It was this new Auxiliary Society which first laid down a definition of the work, and then a minimum wage for it, thus:—"That assistant finishers, or those who are designated assistant finishers, shall piece, paste down, burnish, roll insides and edges with gold, and that the scale of their wages be not less than 2½ per week.

"That the scale of wages of all workmen who shall be employed in ornamenting the outsides of books shall be not less than 3½ per week."

Every person desiring to join the Association was compelled first to join the Parent Society, and whatever benefit was granted was in addition to that given by the Parent Society. On the motion of Mr. T. Munnings, seconded by Mr. J. Sharp, it was resolved that the resolutions defining the duties of an assistant finisher, and the scale of wages for assistant finishing and finishing should be laid before the trade committee for their approval. Messrs. W. Blessed, J. Jaffray, W. H. King, H. Bielby, J. Calvert, and T. Munnings were appointed as the committee of the Society.

What happened to this Society, how it fared, or whether it ever accomplished any good we cannot tell; most probably it was swallowed up in the great maelstrom of the memorable strike of 1839, with which we must next deal, for we can find no further word on the question.

[To be continued.]

A decoction of cinnamon is not only a good anti-septic drink where typhoid and cholera exist, but can be used to replace carbolic acid in paste, with the best hygienic results.
It is no easy matter, with the enormous mass of material at hand concerning the strike, as it is commonly called, but more properly the lock-out of 1839, to bring out clearly and distinctly the various points which created the feeling of exasperation that led to the great struggle involving the question of the existence of the men's Society, a struggle as famous in the history of trade unionism as that of the year 1786.

The trouble may be said to have commenced with the effort made by the Societies in 1833 to impose a limitation of apprentices, accompanied as it was by the very injudicious language used by Mr. J. V. Davison in his circular letter to the employers. The Societies soon found that the limitation sought to be imposed was too stringent and incapable of enforcement; it was alleged that Mr. Davison had produced the document in question without the knowledge or consent of the trade committee, and he was severely reprehended by the Society. The strike of Bible binders in 1834, however, drew off attention from this subject, until, later on, several minor efforts were made by small shops to enforce these questionable regulations, which created a very sore feeling. It was not till March 3rd, 1836, that the trade was again able to take up the question, when a general meeting amended the plan of limitation by a slightly more liberal proportion:

Six men, two apprentices.

Ten . . . . . . . . . and one binder's son.

Fifteen . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Twenty . . . . . . . . . . .

Thirty . . . . . . . . .

Forty . . . . . . . . .

Fifty . . . . . . . . .

Six men, two apprentices, and one binder's son.

The close of the year 1836 also brought about a crop of difficulties over piece-work prices which the hot competition between the two great firms, Messrs. Westley, Son, and Jarvis, and Messrs. Remnant and Edmonds naturally intensified. Westleys usually paid good wages, and their list was regarded as a standard, but owing to Remnant's competition they were ever threatening to cut down their prices unless the men could compel Remnant and others to pay more. Just as both firms were busy with the annuals, the men brought forward a new price list, and under the pressure of business both firms had to accede to the men's demands.

Immediately a few of the employers were sounded as to the re-formation of an employers' society, and a meeting was got together by Mr. Adlard. It was held on February 1st, 1837, at 16 Cecil-street, Strand, the offices of Mr. T. H. Johnston, solicitor, who was appointed hon. sec. pro. tem., and Messrs. John Smith, John Adlard, Frederick Remnant, James Hayday, Francis Westley, and Josiah Westley were appointed by themselves a provisional committee. These invited Mr. Archibald Leighton and Mr. Harris to join them. Mr. Leighton consented, but Mr. Harris refused. A full meeting of the trade was convened for Monday, February 13th, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, and there the Society was definitely formed and laws passed for its government, one of which, Rule 5, laying down the duties of members, had an important bearing on the following troubles:

"In case of strikes, to be guided by the directions of the committee—to give information to the committee of any violation of those directions, or of the rules—to communicate promptly to the secretary the name of any individual who has left his employment without having given and completed the warning required by the usage of the trade, or who has acted dishonestly; to pledge themselves not to employ, for one month from the date of the secretary's notice, any such individual."

The first report of "The Master Bookbinders' Association," issued February, 1831, shows that it consisted of fifty-seven members employing upwards of 300 journeymen, a very powerful combination representing more than half the total strength of the trade. The report states that "The time of your committee has been much engaged during the past year in preparing a list of piece-work prices to be paid the journeymen for cloth work, which has since been agreed to by a general meeting held on the 22nd of August last. . . . . . Your committee were prompted to this subject in consequence of an attempt made by some workmen employed by one or two large houses to introduce a new list of prices on a higher scale. . . . . . A deputation from the journeymen's society was invited to meet your committee, they attended, and a copy of the price list was tendered by your committee to the deputation; to this list they objected . . . . and retired. . . . No other alternative was left to your committee but to abide by the list, or in the event of a refusal by the journeymen, to pay them time work. The workmen after a short resistance complied, and were satisfied to be paid by the list. . . . . . Now the first blow has been struck against intimidation and exorbitant demands by the workmen."

This episode is rather baldly stated, and needs a few details to fill it in from the other side. When the deputation of two from each of the three largest shops and three members of the trade committee waited on the employers, they were informed that the proposed prices were the same as Mr. Westley had long been paying, and they were asked to accept them. The men replied that that was the very thing they wanted, but they desired to see the list. When they obtained a copy they found in some cases a reduction of as much as
fifteen per cent. had been made, and they protested against it, afterwards presenting an alternative list framed on prices midway between their previous list and the one proposed by the employers. This the employers refused, and in consequence of the deadlock that ensued, both Westleys and Remnants put their men on time work. Messrs. Leighton and Eeles did the same thing, but further heightened the tension by ordering the foreman to book the time spent on each job; this was bitterly resented, and the men, rather than put up with such a tasking system, threatened to leave. Then it was found that a few had accepted the employers’ prices without the consent of the committee, and as soon as the news got abroad a number more clamoured for that list in preference to time work, until the committee, in spite of censures and fines heaped upon the offenders, were compelled to accept the terms offered them. It was this victory that drew forth the note of exultation, “Now the first blow has been struck.”

The second blow is clearly contemplated in the same report:—“The subject of apprentices is the first to engage the attention of your committee during the ensuing year; this momentous question, which has so much convulsed the trade, which has so often suspended the wheels of business and has given an exultation and a triumph to the working community, is now about to be entertained, to be discussed and to be decided.”

This resolve on the part of the employers was brought to a too speedy head by a little incident in Mr. Bone’s shop. The average number of men there employed was eight and there were three apprentices, but there was also a custom on the part of this employer of getting his apprentices to work long after the journeymen whenever he had a rush on and paying them one fourth of the journeymen’s prices, so that often the men were sent off for want of work, and the apprentices would be kept working away at the highest pressure. On December 11th, 1838, Mr. Bone had eleven men, this being the busy time of the year, and on that day he introduced a new lad with a view to making him an apprentice. At dinner time on the following Saturday, the 15th, the men held a meeting to consider the situation, and did not return to work in the afternoon, but at five o’clock sent two of their number to Mr. Bone to request his observance of their apprentice regulations, reminding him that some of the larger houses had reduced the number of their apprentices in accordance with the men’s wishes. Mr. Bone, however, peremptorily refused to do so, when the whole eleven gave him the customary week’s notice, and left on the 22nd. Notice of this was immediately sent to the Secretary of the Masters’ Association, and on Monday, December 24th, a printed circular containing the names of five men, immediately followed by another, containing the names of the other six men, was sent to the affiliated employers.

On the same day one of the committee of the Trade Society met the foreman at Mr. Westley’s, who wanted a man, and asked the committee man (Mr. C. Clarke) if he could recommend one. Mr. Clarke told the foreman of the affair at Bone’s, and asked if he could take one of the men on. The foreman agreed to, and provided the man had given proper notice of leaving and had finished his work, in order to not interfere with Rule 5 of the Masters’ Association. This being assured Mr. Clarke directed one of the men who had left Bone’s to apply for the job; the foreman saw him and engaged him, but as it was half-past four in the afternoon he was to wait till after tea before commencing work. During that interval the notification of the Secretary to the Masters’ Association arrived—the black list—and on his return to commence work the man was informed that Mr. Westley could not employ him as he would be subjected to a heavy fine. As soon as the men at Messrs. Westley’s got to know of what had happened they refused to work overtime—after eight o’clock at night—until the proscription should be withdrawn, with the consequence that on the following Saturday the whole of the men received notice to leave.

On the 27th December one of Bone’s men, hearing that a man was wanted at Messrs. Remnant and Edmonds, applied for the situation, but on giving his name was informed that no one was wanted just then. Next day it was known throughout the shop, and that night they refused to work overtime. On the Saturday morning the firm requested a deputation from the men to know the reason of their action; two deputations, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, waited on the employers, making in all five men, who explained that it was in consequence of a man being refused work because he had been proscribed by the Masters’ Association. The firm vehemently denied all knowledge of the circular, and swore they did not want any fresh men—Messrs. Remnant and Edmonds were never at a loss for strong language—the meeting or conference broke up with a very violent ebulition of temper and unmentionable adjectives, and at the close of the day all the men employed—about ninety—received notice to leave. On the following Saturday, January 5th, 1839, as the men filed out of the premises in Lovel’s-court, Paternoster-row, the five who had formed the deputation were given into custody, charged with conspiracy on four counts: 1st, to force Messrs. Remnant and Edmonds to take certain persons formerly employed by William Bone into their employment, they having no occasion for them; 2nd, with conspiring to force Messrs. Remnant and Edmonds to take certain persons unknown to their employment, they having no occasion for them; 3rd, with conspiracy to injure and impoverish the firm; 4th, to obstruct them in their business.

On the same day, January 5th, Messrs. Leighton and Eeles asked each man individually, “Do you belong to your Trade Society?” and “Are you determined to continue belonging to it?” and on being answered in the affirmative, each received a week’s notice of discharge. Only the foremen were then left; in the words of the firm, “Every man belonging to that Society having left us on Saturday last, except our two foremen, who are determined to leave it.”

It may here be observed that two or three of the leading employers had forced a false situation upon the great majority forming the Employers’ Association by endeavouring to prevent men from obtaining
employment who had given the proper notice required by custom of the trade, thereby straining Rule 5 of their own Association. According to their own laws there was no reason for the proscription of the men who had left Mr. Bone's employment; but having made a false step, one against their own constitution, they had to justify it, and they sought to convince their fellow members that while it was quite right and proper that they should combine, combinations of the men were intolerable, and must be put down.

At a meeting held at Anderton's Hotel on January 9th, 1839, it was "Resolved:—That the members of this Association pledge themselves to discharge from their employment all men who continue to belong to the Journeymen's Society (as now illegally constituted) on the 19th of January instant, unless the pending differences be amicably settled in the meantime."

"Resolved:—That the above resolution be forthwith printed and affixed in every member's shop."

Inasmuch as the eleven men formerly employed at Mr. Bone's had also been indicted for conspiracy, there was little chance at this time for an "amicable" settlement of the "pending differences."

[To be continued.]

JUBILEE OF THE DEANSGATE PRESS, MANCHESTER.
—In commemoration of this event, celebrated in February last, Mr. J. Cassidys, of Manchester, has just completed a life-sized marble medallion portrait of the founder of the firm, the late Mr. Geo. Falkner, which on Monday, September 11th, was presented to the firm by their employes. The difficulties which arise in the realisation of works of a posthumous character in reproducing the features and lineaments have been very successfully overcome by the artist, who worked from a model prepared from photographic prints, assisted by the excellent portrait in oils by Mr. J. H. E. Partington, which was exhibited in the Grosvenor Gallery some years ago, and a sketch profile by the late Mr. J. D. Watson. In acknowledgment of the event, Messrs. Falkner & Sons have issued to their employes in Manchester, London, and Liverpool, a large emblematical certificate designed upon conventional lines, and reproduced in monochrome by the photo-lithographic process, which is an excellent example of modern work.

MISS JAMES, the librarian of the People's Palace, London, is evidently anxious that the profession to which she belongs should be taken advantage of by her own sex much more than it is. In a paper read at the Library Association Congress at Aberdeen, the other day, she rather sharply criticised a speaker who had alluded to women and boy-assistants as if the terms were synonymous. Miss James told her hearers that in America the number of women librarians was very large, but the supply is still below the demand. The salary paid is from £40 to £400, and the lowest rate is 20 cents per hour.

THE current number of the Quarterly Review (No. 353) contains an article on bookbinding.

Badly printed books, trying to the eyes and the temper, are not quite such a new invention of modern civilisation as some would have us believe. Even as far back as the early sixteenth century, in the days of Francis I., an imperial patent went forth concerning "the books of the Holy Roman Empire and the commission by royal grace thereto appointed." The patent read: "Seeing that we have heard with displeasure that, to the hindrance of literarie, many printers and publishers use paper that is much too bad, and letters that are hard to read, and that this has already been commanded by our predecessors to be changed as a most mischievous thing, which command has up to this day been ill-obeyed: We, therefore, graciously decree, in order to avoid the withdrawal of privilege in respect of any such badly printed book, that every publisher and printer shall henceforth use good paper and readable type."

Probably one of the most valuable books of which only a single copy was printed is the work of Charles Babbage, the eminent Cambridge mathematician, who prepared a number of logarithmic tables, which were printed in twenty-one volumes, octavo, London, in 1831, with different coloured inks on variously coloured papers. The object of this work was to ascertain, by experiment, what tints of paper and colours of ink were least fatiguing to the eye. One hundred and fifty-one variously coloured papers were chosen, and logarithmic tables were printed upon them in light blue, dark blue, light green, dark green, olive, yellow, light red, dark red, purple and black.

The Latin treatise of Nicholas Copernicus, "On the Revolutions of the Celestial Orbs," maintaining that the sun is the centre of our planetary system, round which our earth revolves, remained in manuscript for some thirteen years, because he correctly anticipated that bigotry and papal authority would denounce his theory as heresy. But a few hours before the death of this great mathematician and astronomer, 1543, at the age of seventy, a printed copy was presented to him by his friends, the first and, doubtless then, the only one in existence.

Nicolas Fabry de Peiresc always kept a binder in the house, sometimes several, whom he employed when "the books came rolling in on every side." He had them bound in red morocco, with his cypher or initials in gold. He would even bind up bits of old volumes and worm-eaten leaves; good books, he said, were so badly used by the vulgar, that he would try to have them prized at least for their beauty, and so perhaps they might escape the hand of the tobacconist and the grocer.

St. Boniface was one of the early book collectors, and as a missionary found it useful to display a finely painted volume. Writing to the Abbess of Eadburga for a missal, he asked that the parchment might be gay with colours, "Even as a glittering lamp and an illumination for the hearts of the Gentiles." "I entreat you," he writes again, "to send me St. Peter's Epistle in letters of gold." Not even the modern collector could be more modest in his wants.
The men indicted by Mr. Bone were:—
George Taylor, William Walker, Robert Barber, John Rogers, John Brown, Robert Hutton, Alfred Smith, John Hobson, William Thomas, George Appling, and James Longdon. They were brought up at the Guildhall, on January 9th, 1839, before Sir Peter Laurie, to enter into sureties in the sum of £80 each, with two sureties in the sum of £40 each, to appear and plead to an indictment for conspiracy. To show the maliciousness of this prosecution, we quote the printed report of the case:

"Sir Peter Laurie asked whether two bondsmen could not be bound for the whole eleven defendants? It looked oppressive to require these men to produce twenty-two householders worth £40 each.

"Roe (the officer of the Court) said he had no authority to consent to this, but he should not object to any course the magistrate chose to take.

"Sir Peter asked if any complaint had been made by the master to a magistrate before he indicted.

"Roe replied none. Mr. Bone went at once to the grand jury.

"Sir Peter said this was an abuse of the grand jury system. Here were a number of workmen put to a good deal of trouble and some expense in finding bail, through the decision of a secret tribunal, hearing only one side of the case. The prosecution might or might not be just, but the form was oppressive. He knew nothing of the nature of the case, nor had he the authority to enter into it now."

The case was, however, disposed of on the solicitor for the defence stating that "as the twenty-two sureties were present this relaxation was of no moment," when the sureties were taken and the men bound over to appear at the Old Bailey, on Monday, February 4th. Subsequently the case was removed to the Court of Queen's Bench, to be tried before Thomas, Lord Denman, on Friday, June 28th, as was also the case of the five men indicted by Messrs. Remnant & Edmonds, of whose names only one can be found, John Burton.

Following the resolutions of the Employers' Association, a printed notice was posted in all the workshops of the members of that Association, headed "Extract from the minutes of a special meeting of the Master Bookbinders' Association, etc.," with copies of the resolutions appended, and as a consequence over 250 men were discharged.

The news of this assault upon the rights of the workmen to combine was, however, not received with favour by many of the smaller employers in the trade, who called a meeting at the "King's Head" Tavern, Newgate-street, on Friday, January 14th, to discuss the situation, when it was resolved to adjourn till the 14th, to invite all employers to a conference, and to request the attendance of a deputation from the journeymen, that the meeting might come at the true facts of the case. The meeting was held on the 14th, Mr. Eli Soul, of Tabernacle-walk, in the chair, when Mr. C. Clarke, one of the deputation of four, explained the cause of the dispute. After hearing this it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Macefield, "That this meeting having ascertained that a deputation from the Employers' Association waited on the booksellers requesting them to withhold their work, not only from themselves, but from their other binders, until a strike which had taken place among the men was settled; and finding after careful examination that such statement was entirely without foundation, cannot too strongly express their disapprobation of such unprincipled conduct."

Mr. W. Wilton then moved, and Mr. Wood seconded: "That the master bookbinders of London not connected with the Masters' Association, feeling that great injury is done to them by the prejudice instilled into the minds of the booksellers against employing men belonging to a trade society, denounce it as unjust, while they themselves have an association exercising still greater arbitrary power, and equally illegal."

Mr. Thorn moved: "That it is the opinion of this meeting, that in consequence of the uncalled-for severity which has been exercised, it becomes their duty, as far as in their power, to render as much assistance as possible, by providing with employment those men who have been discharged."

These resolutions having been adopted, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Straker, E. Soul, Macefield, Peck, Thorn, Norman, Matthews, Trender, and Fellows, was appointed to draw up an address, which was subsequently issued to the public by advertisement in the newspapers, and to the booksellers by circular.

"Address to Booksellers and the Public:
"The master bookbinders of London not connected with the Masters' Association, feel it to be their bounden duty to themselves to notice the statements of that body; statements which they have proved, by the most careful investigation, to be based upon untrue and garbled accounts, affecting both their characters and interests. Opposed in practice to combinations of every kind, they cannot but think it singularly unfortunate that a body of men who have for the last two years organised themselves into an association, the rules and practices of which are of the closest and most stringent nature, should endeavour to deprive their workmen of the means of protecting themselves, their wives and families, by setting those reasonable bounds to the supply of labour which would enable it to maintain its value in the market, and also to support that labour when unemployed. If these men, in their zeal to accomplish these objects, have been found somewhat to overstep the bounds of discretion, are
It would have been interesting to have known what were the results of this bold proposition for a mutual co-operation offensive and defensive, affecting not only the relationship of employer and employed as between binder and journeyman, but also between binder and bookseller or publisher, but no record remains. No doubt the same idea had been before entertained, and with the same object in view, as a means to the enforcement of the laws of the combination, viz., what we latter-day saints or sinners call the "boycott," but up to the present time the employers have always preferred to "row their own boat," in which every man has pulled to his own stroke, rather than admit in practice what in theory they all profess: that the interests of labour and capital are identical. It was this prevailing idea which underlaid Mr. Walther's suggestions, as it did some years previously the scheme inaugurated by Mr. Faulkner, and as it has underlaid many other trade movements since, but

The best laid schemes o' mice and men
Gang aft agley,
and when once the irritation and distrust engendered by actual conflict has taken possession of the minds of the leaders on either side, conciliation—even toleration—become alike unlikely until one of the parties is helpless.

A New Use for Bookbinders' Varnish.

A correspondent of the American Bookbinder writes to that journal: "It may be known to some, but is probably not known to all of your readers, that ordinary bookbinders' varnish is almost a sovereign remedy for all cuts, sores, etc. A young employé of ours, who has for years applied to Dr. Bookbinder for relief for cut and mashed fingers, has turned the information thus gained to practical account in quite another direction. He is something of a chicken fancier, and he, as well as others of that guild, is greatly beset by a disease among fowls, known as 'sore head,' and for which there is no reliable remedy known. Now, our young friend being somewhat of a reflective turn of mind, was not slow in arguing if bookbinders' varnish would cure boys' sore hands, it would cure his chickens' sore heads; so he procured some of the stuff and proceeded to anoint the afflicted of his feathered pets. To his delight, it acted almost like magic, one application frequently effecting a complete cure, and the most obstinate cases requiring only two or three vanishings. The relation between bookbinding and poultry raising may seem rather remote, but maybe some of your readers take an interest in both, and would profit by the remedy accidentally discovered.—Fraternally, OLD PRINTER."

Bishop Babington had a little book containing only three leaves, which he turned over night and morning. The first leaf was black, to mind him of Hell and God's judgments due to him for sin; the second red, to mind him of Christ and His Passion; the third white, to set forth God's mercy to him, through the merits of his Son, in his Justification and Sanctification.—Clarke's Examples.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Paris Bibliothèque Nationale is so full of books that the authorities propose to erect a sort of barrack in the courtyard to stow away the large numbers of new works which are daily coming in. To extend the library into the Rue Vivienne has cost millions of francs, and that only provides room enough for storing two and a half millions of volumes.

From the reports of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, in lower Austria slackness of business and unsatisfactory conditions of trade continue. Bookbinding is almost entirely limited to local requirements; the Austrian publishing trade is steadily declining, leaving the field more open to its German rivals, and this is felt by the binding trade of the country all the more, as the binding generally is executed at the place of publication, so that the importation of ready bound books is increasing. The Imperial Printing Office does its own binding, and even large banks and private firms keep their own binding establishments. Neither in letterpress, commercial, nor album work is there any activity, and this is proved by the fact that at the beginning of the year there were 301 bookbinders on the register and at the end thereof but 304.

Section 20 of the new law in rescission of the German Trade Marks Protection Law of 1874, reads: "Whenever German goods on their entry into or passage through a foreign country, are subject to the necessity of bearing a mark indicative of their German origin, the Federal Council may decree a like necessity to be imposed upon the foreigners' goods on their entrance into Germany for the inland or transit trade, and may order the confiscation of the goods in cases of contravention. The act of seizure can be left to the Customs and Excise authorities. The sentence of confiscation must be pronounced by the executive authorities."

There exists in Germany a union of book-lovers, with its seat at Berlin, the aim of which is the publication of good books and to further, also, the writing of these. To the latter purpose prizes are offered, and 5,000 marks were offered for the best novel according to the rules of the competition. No less than 126 manuscripts came in, but none of them were found worthy of the prize! By far the greater number came from lady writers.

The binders of Rome have been called upon to assist the printers in making a strong protest against the proposal of the government to establish printing offices in the chief prisons. A large meeting of the trade societies of the kindred trades was held at the Cirque Royal, when very strong indignation was expressed against the authorities.
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**Foreign Notes.**

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