provided to cook the dinners of the workpeople, and
certain of the women-folk were always told off to act
as cooks. The ovens are of the latest pattern. The
workpeople bring their own food and can buy their
potatoes cooked. The second floor is devoted to
collating, sewing, and papering. This is a much larger
floor than the one above and will take in considerably
over a hundred workers. We noted three Brehmer’s
sewing machines at work here, and our guide men-
tioned that they would sew either on string or tape.
There was also a back sewing machine, and knocking
down and nipping machines. “There were women at
work in this room “guarding,” and one old lady, who
was doing her work with excellent precision, told us
that she had been at the work for half a century.

Mr. Bell then initiated us into the mysteries of caout-
chouc or india-rubber work. “We use it as extensively
as anyone in the trade,” he said, “and find it invaluable
for large atlases and books of plates.” Having
explained how the solution of india-rubber was placed
on the edges and then affixed to the specially made
cloth, the proprietor permitted us to test some of the
work done, with a result that satisfied us that the
ordinary overcasting could not compare with this
system. Several men were engaged upon some large
folios that were being placed in leather, and very
handsomely finished, but Mr. Bell explained that he
made no pretensions in this department, and did not
take it in ordinary leather work. Upon coming a floor
lower, quite a bevy of attractive young ladies were
discovered busy at work laying on the gold ready for
the blockers. Floating a small piece of gold leaf in
the air, Mr. Bell asked us to guess its thickness? We
gave it up and then learned that it was the 360
thousandth part of an inch.

We now found ourselves in the basement, and here
all was alive with work. Guillotines, clamping
machines, and blocking presses of all descriptions
were in full swing. A trimming machine was working
with a pleasing noiseless action in an out-of-the-way
corner. It left the edges practically uncut, the knife
cutting with a saw-like movement upon a table that
rose and fell. Fourteen presses were all in use upon
an extensive variety of work and thirteen hand blocking
machines with four of Gough’s steam blockers were
in full work. The dexterity of the cloth-cutters is
extraordinary, and would utterly astonish an outsider.
Passing from the basement we espied the fine sixteen-
horse power engine that provides the machinery on
the whole four floors with the necessary driving power.
It was some relief to get into the calmer atmosphere
of the counting house, were we were able to have
five minutes chat with our good old friend, Mr.
McInnes. A refreshing cup of tea greeted our return
to the proprietor’s sanctum, and here we sat for a
while listening interestedly to that ever-busy worker,
Mr. Colley, who next to Mr. Bell, is the soul of Temple
Works. He was able to inform us upon many matters
concerning the state of the trade, expressing his entire
satisfaction with the amount of work the house was
done at this almost dead season of the year.

As we rose to leave, Mr. Colley asked us to re-
member that Temple Works paid full wages and
thoroughly believed in the Trades Union.

Bookmaking—Past and Present.

There are certain people who are wont to give vent to exaggerated
expressions of admiration for all the productions of a past age,
not infrequently accompanied by a disposition to belittle the work
of the present day when compared with the more remote.
This is especially true of the results of the printer’s and book-
binder’s art. We hear of and read articles extolling the superiority
of the make of books which date from the period when the
invention of printing had just been made known to the world.
From the glowing phrases one
would receive the impression that the cutting of
letters, the manufacture of paper, the perfection of
ink and clearness of printing had been all at once
attained at the birth of the new art, and that it had
been rather retrograding than advancing since that
day. It is perfectly natural and admissible to both
feel and express admiration for the fine qualities
possessed by the early specimens of art, as it is
equally true that he must be a person devoid of
appreciation who can without enthusiasm examine
the beautiful illuminated manuscripts which, although
wrought by hand 500 years ago, preserve their gold
and colours to this day with undimmed brightness.
But that is no reason for attempting to deny the
immeasurable advance in the progress of humanity
which was made by the advent of the printing press.

Just as the very art of printing came at a time
when the age was ripe for it, which is true of other
great discoveries, so other improvements have been
added from time to time as the reading world has
been educated up to a demand for a greater number
of publications, characterized by points of superiority
of make over those which have preceded. Not a
week passes without there being chronicled a claim
of more or less importance for some new and useful
device which appertains to the art of bookmaking in
one of its numerous branches. Necessity being the
mother of invention, as the old saying runs, in these
days of a demand for an extensive and cheap pro-
duction of books the producer is compelled to meet
the demand for cheap and artistic work by the use of
new and improved machinery. To save labour is to
save money, and the prudent man who hopes to meet
his competing rivals must avail himself of every
means which tends to lessen the cost of production.
Our cheap bound books of the day are simple marvels,
and one can hardly refrain from expressing surprise
that any profit can be obtained after the paper
maker, the printer and the binder have performed each his
share of the whole work. That there is a profit is
unquestionable, but to the inexperienced it would seem
as if the elaborately rich covers of some of our gift
and holiday books were alone worth the price which
is asked for the volume.