
Famous Men in the Book World.

JAMES BALLANTYNE, the celebrated Edinburgh publisher, and the friend and adviser of Sir Walter Scott, was educated to the law and commenced practice, but his inclinations led him to abandon his profession and open a printing office in Kelso, where his fine printing soon won him a high reputation. In 1796, he began a small newspaper, and first met Sir Walter Scott on the top of a coach on a journey to buy some fresh type. He printed *Blackwood's Magazine* for many years; in 1822, there issued from his press no less than 145,000 volumes, all from the pen of Scott—an extraordinary number in those days of hand presses. Born, 1772; died, 1833.

THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN, the author of many of the finest works on the history of printing that have ever been published in this country, and the hero of the bibliomania of the latter end of the last century, was born in Calcutta, his father being a naval captain. Being left an orphan at an early age, Dibdin was sent to England, where he studied for the law; afterwards he decided in favour of the Church. He was a great book lover and book collector, and the friend of many of the most eminent literary men of his age. Born, 1775; died, 1847.

THOMAS BENSLEY, the celebrated printer, was the son of a printer in the Strand, where he was at first established, but afterwards removed to Fleet-street. His edition of Macklin's Bible was a masterpiece of art, and welcomed with great enthusiasm by the bibliophiles of the day. He was instrumental in assisting Kœnig, the practical inventor of printing machines, before the *Times* took up the invention. Died, 1833.