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Our Portrait Gallery.

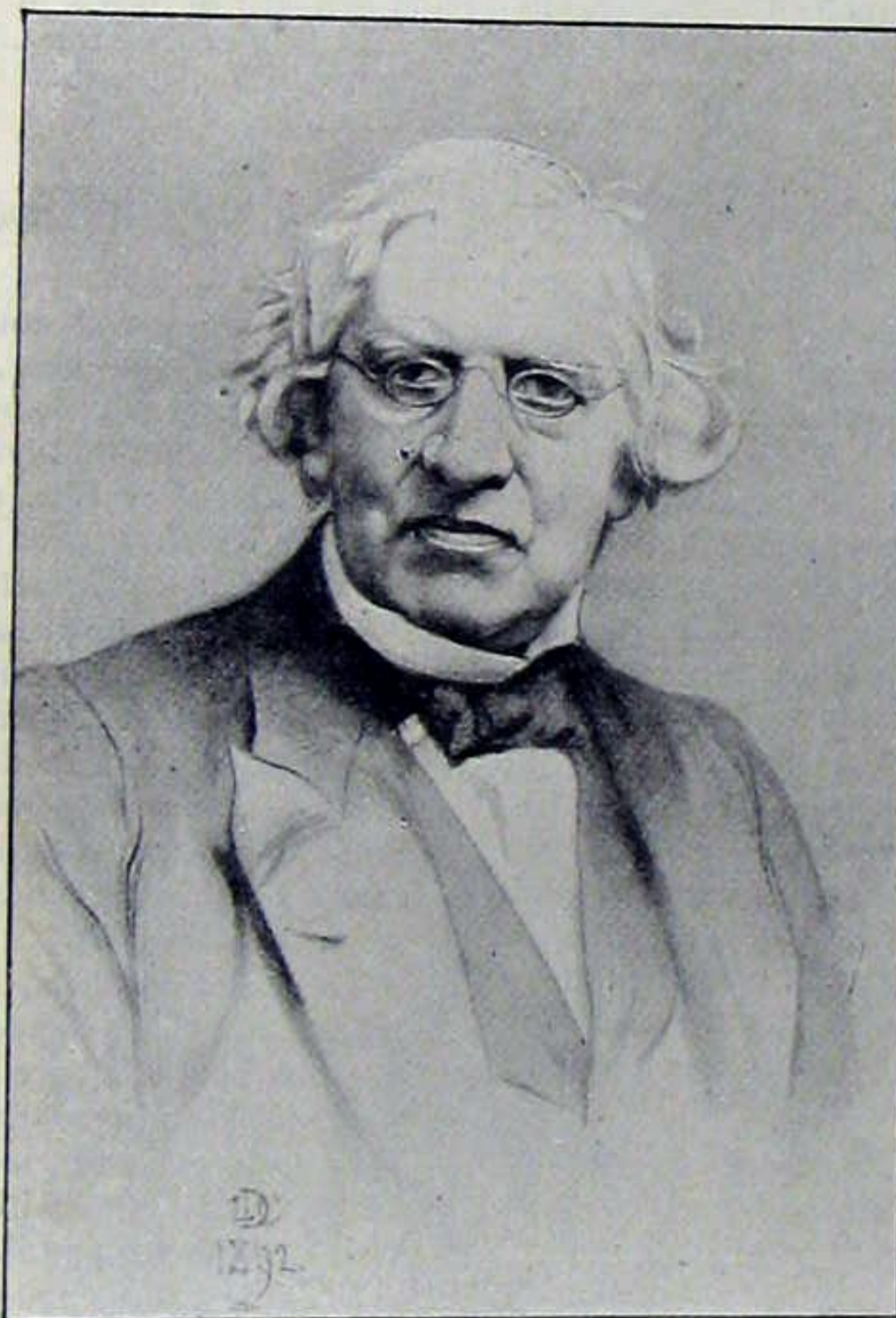
JAMES MACLEHOSE & SONS, GLASGOW.

THE founder of this firm, one of the most widely known in the north, was James MacLehose, who was born in Govan in 1811, and at the early age of twelve years was apprenticed to the late Mr. George Gallie, bookseller, of Glasgow, with whom he remained for three years after the expiration of his term of apprenticeship. In 1833 he went to London, to the house of Seeley & Co., where he remained for five years. In the biography of his friend Daniel Macmillan will be found many interesting records of his life in the metropolis, and many extracts from letters which show how, even at that early date, the strength and genuine goodness of his character, and the warmth of his heart, had begun to attract to him the confidence and attachment of his friends. In 1838 he left London, and began business for himself with Mr. Robert Nelson, at 83 Buchanan-street, Glasgow. In 1841 Mr. Nelson retired, and Mr. MacLehose carried it on in his own name with such success that in 1849 he was able to move to the larger premises, 61 St. Vincent-street, where it has ever since been conducted; but in 1862 a bindery was added to the bookselling business. At a very early period he was appointed bookseller to the Faculty of Procurators, and afterwards to the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1864 he was appointed bookseller, and in 1871 publisher, to the Glasgow University. The increasing cares of business were relieved in 1881 by taking his two sons (Robert MacLehose, M.A., and James J. MacLehose, M.A.) into partnership with him, and thenceforth the style of the firm was James MacLehose & Sons.

In 1885 Mr. MacLehose, senior, died; and his sons now carry on the business. What manner of man he was, whose portrait is given on this page, can best be told by the following, from the *Glasgow Herald*:—

“ His wide and appreciative knowledge of books, and the correctness of his judgment, made him a notable figure in the literary circles of our city; but it was during the latter part of his life, and after he had become a publisher as well as a seller of books, that he became identified with its literary history. The taste he displayed in all he undertook, the extraordinary personal labour he gave to his work (we do not believe he ever published a work in general literature of which he had not perused every line), coupled with the assistance rendered him by

his brother the University printer, in the practical duties of typographer, soon came to be recognised, until the publications issued under his name assumed a place as regards excellence of production second to none in the kingdom, and the old glories of the Foulis period began to be again associated with our city. We need only refer to such works as those of Principal and Professor Caird, Professor Blackburn's reprint of Newton's 'Principia,' or the poems of Dr. Walter Smith, as examples of this. But the name of Mr. MacLehose will be hereafter associated more particularly with two works intimately connected with the history of our city. The first of these, 'The Old Country Houses of the Old Glasgow Gentry,' was published in 1870, and a revised and enlarged edition issued in 1878. It was a volume of exceptional interest, involving



THE LATE JAMES MACLEHOSE.

exceptional labour on the part of the willing helpers who worked under his untiring and enthusiastic direction. It was one of the hopes of his life that it should be supplemented and completed by a record of the men who have made our city what it is, and for the last two years of his life he laboured, with what indeed was an almost excessive assiduity, at perfecting the work which is to follow, 'Memoirs and Portraits of One Hundred Glasgow Men.' He had associated with himself in its production not less than fifty of our

leading citizens, over whom the kind and good old man presided with a geniality and depth of interest which won every heart, and increased day by day the respect and affection with which they regarded him. Every line was gone over and revised with his own pen, and the day before he was struck down was the day on which the last touch was given to the work. It is not one of the least regrets of his associates that he to whom the book is due, and to whom it was so dear, has not lived to see its issue.

"For years his desk in St. Vincent-street had been the centre around which gathered almost daily most of the literary and intellectual talent of our city. Under an unpretending, and even sometimes bluff, demeanour he hid the warmest of hearts; and those who were honoured by his friendship, know best the loss they have sustained by his death. He was the kindest and most disinterested of advisers, and the best of friends."

Under the special attention and encouragement of the present proprietors, the binding department has been made a very important branch of the establishment, where work is executed in the very best style,

but no ordinary trade work is done. All the books bound here are either the firm's own work, or the work of private customers who, appreciating its quality, frequently send long distances to secure the execution of their orders meeting their own requirements. Levant, morocco, and a special calf are the principal styles, hand finished and single lettered, and though many of the books are elaborately bound with special designs, a large share are in the severely plain style which finds favour particularly in Scotland.

We have some examples of the bindings of Messrs. MacLehose & Sons in preparation, but up to the time of going to press, they were still incomplete, and will appear in the next number.

Of the present members of the firm we may say little, but, that following their father's example, they have won the respect and admiration of the trade in Glasgow to the fullest degree, and that a sincere regard for them is manifested by the branch of the Bookbinders' Union in that city, many members of which are at work in the new bindery opened this year in Gordon-street.

Bookbinders' Pension and Asylum Society.

WE very much regret to learn that at a recent meeting of the trustees with the finance committee, the only way out of the present difficulty in which the society is placed, seemed at the time to be a recommendation to sell out part of the stock. Fortunately, two of the trustees have taken the question in hand, and are endeavouring to avert such a calamity by making an appeal in quarters where our ordinary appeals do not meet with the success desired.

Mr. John Diprose and Mr. Frank Bailey, with commendable promptitude, convened a meeting at the "Freemasons' Tavern," on December 8th, and having laid full details of the difficulty before those present, a committee of employers was immediately formed, and £78 8s. od. was at once subscribed towards the funds which so sadly need the assistance of every sympathiser.

An appeal was at once drawn up, of which the following is a copy:—

Bookbinders' Pension and Asylum Society.

SPECIAL AND URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to lay the following facts before you, and solicit your kind co-operation to prevent the above deserving institution drawing on its capital, which at the present time only realises about £88 per annum. The facts are briefly these:—

The committee, out of sympathy for the many applicants for admission to the Asylum, have elected more pensioners than the funds would appear to justify, hoping the growth of the trade would bring increased subscriptions; but, unfortunately, that hope has not been realised, especially this year; in consequence

of which they will not be able to meet the current expenses of the year, which not only include the payment of pensions, but also the supplying of coal to the inmates of the Asylum, and keeping the buildings in substantial repair; also many other incidental expenses, which are a great drain upon the limited resources of the Society.

There are at the present time thirty-eight pensioners to support, and the large sum of £823 was required last year to meet the expenses; but, owing to the great depression in the trade during the present year, the employes have not been able to contribute anything like the amount they have previously subscribed, the result being that funds are urgently needed to meet present necessities.

The members of the trade, together with the trustees, whose names are appended to this appeal, desire to use all their influence in bringing this matter before you, with the hope that they will be enabled to hand over to the committee a sum of money sufficiently large to dispense with the necessity of making use of any of their capital.

Waiting your favourable consideration,

We are, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES BURN & Co.	LONGMANS, GREEN & Co.
LEIGHTON, SON & HODGE.	GEORGE SIMPSON.
A. STRAKER & SON.	MATTHEW BELL, COLLEY & Co.
SMITH BROS.	FISHER & SON.
T. N. EGLETON & SONS.	ROBERT PECK.
KEY & WHITING.	BAILEY BROS.
DIPROSE BROS.	C. J. FORWARD & SON.

JOHN DIPROSE, } Trustees of the Bookbinders'
FRANK BAILEY, } Pension and Asylum Society.

Subscriptions should be sent to Messrs. Diprose and Bailey, 20 White Hart-street, Strand, W.C.