There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among those to whom prizes have been awarded at the Workmen's Exhibition at the delay in handing them over, and there is also a strong feeling amongst those appointed jurors that their awards have not been carried out. Those to whom prizes have been allotted by the Prize Fund Committee will ultimately receive them we have little doubt, but those to whom prizes were awarded, and for whom the Prize Fund Committee have only a certificate, are not likely to be so speedily pacified, nor are the exhibitors who were left until the close of the show without any knowledge of the awards made. For our own trade the decision of the jurors was made known in our last issue, but few trades were so fortunate, and it was a common complaint that no opportunity was given of displaying the awards over the exhibits.

True, a list of awards was published on Saturday, August 5th, the day on which Mr. Gladstone presented one of the prizes for each group, and one week before the close of the Exhibition; a few were fortunate enough to secure a copy, but the great majority of the exhibitors did not know of it, and on the Monday following the Executive of the Exhibition ordered

THE EXHIBITION COMMITTEE.-NATIONAL WORKMEN'S EXHIBITION, 1893.

From photo by H. Ransom, Newington Butts.
and believe that the trade will recognise that the jurors appointed had no interest to serve but that of a fair and just decision upon the merits of the work before them, and that alone.

Regarding the awards made, the jurors had to work under difficulties, they had no knowledge of, or means of ascertaining what could be afforded for prizes, or how many might be given, hence they had to work in the dark, giving what they thought a moderate number, according to the branches of trade represented. When their award was published, they found that only two prizes had been allotted to letterpress bookbinding, one for design and execution and the other for design alone, for though forwarding, inboard and outboard were both marked for a prize no sum of money was allotted, and others to whom prizes had been awarded were written off with commendations only. In vellum binding also, one of the prizes awarded was written off with a commendation. Now although this is said to have been unavoidable owing to the lack of funds, we cannot but think that some trades got more than their share out of what there was to divide, and that bookbinding was very meanly and scurvily treated. In bricklayers' work, with but six exhibits, there were three prizes; carpenters, twenty-five exhibits, three prizes; stone-carvers and stone-masons, about twenty pieces, six prizes; silver and general engravers' work, nineteen exhibits, seven prizes; and so we might go on multiplying examples of very liberal treatment in proportion to the number of exhibits, as compared with that meted out to bookbinders, who, with upwards of two hundred exhibits—a moderate estimate—got three prizes, amounting to eight guineas in value. Perhaps the Prize Fund Committee, embarrassed by the smallness of the fund at their disposal, intended to show their appreciation of the amount of assistance rendered by the Worshipful Company of Stationers, if so, they succeeded remarkably well, but to have been consistent they should have given nothing. Having given, they ought to have carried out the awards made by the jurors entrusted with the delicate task of selecting the most worthy.

Exhibitions generally produce an abundant crop of grumblers, but, for its size, this one beats all its predecessors. Want of experience or absolute mismanagement was visible in almost every feature, and the day of reckoning will be an exceptionally bad time for the Executive of the London Trades Council. While it was open, no one cared to speak out for fear it might tend to injure its chances of

GEORGE SHIPTON.
(Secretary of the London Trades Council).
Manager and Hon. Secretary of the National Workmen's Exhibition.

From photo by H. Rowsen, Newington Butts.
success, though the air was full of whispers, but
the murmurs of disapproval have now swelled into
a roar of execration.

When Mr. Gladstone presented the first prize for
bookbinding to Mr. F. G. Webb he said, after com-
plimenting him upon winning it, “Yours is a trade
that I have always taken great interest in,” and
evidence of that fact was forthcoming when Mr.
Shipton presented the right honourable gentleman
with a bound volume of Tennyson’s poems (selected
from the De Montfort Press exhibit), by the critical
manner in which he examined it, the curvature of
the back and foredge, the setting of the head, and
the squares, as well as the opening, to the great
delight of the many bookbinders grouped around the
platform.

Undoubtedly “the craft of librarianship is not all
beer and skittles,” but there are qualifications which
are called for in the librarian which should not be
required of him, in spite of the opinion expressed by
Mr. P. Cowell in his pamphlet on “Public Library
Staffs.” It should not be required of a librarian that
he should not understand the mysteries of bookbinding
any more than of printing or paper making, though
it is very advisable that there should be attached to
every library someone having that knowledge, for
the librarian must have books bound or re-bound.
The librarian’s qualifications are already tested by a very
high standard, and it is impossible for him to add to
his attainments anything more than the most super-
ficial knowledge of bookbinding; and that purely
theoretical. That little knowledge is a dangerous
thing for the library, and the getting of it is a great
waste of the librarian’s time, which might be put to
more profitable use. But very few libraries have only
one official, and as it is a much easier task to make
a bookbinder a librarian’s assistant than a librarian’s
assistant a bookbinder, the natural and more profitable
course would be to make use of bookbinders for that
purpose, and obtain their help in keeping the library
in good condition. No library staff should be com-
plete without a practical working bookbinder; let Mr.
Cowell think it out, and see which pays best: to make
barrels to fit bungs or bungs to fit barrels.

Limited liability companies seem the order of the
day, and bookbinding firms are rapidly being con-
verted into these little arrangements to share in the
loss while the late head of the firm secures an annual
sum for superintending the operation. At least that
is what anyone would think who reads the walls of
some publishers’ bookbinders about the advances
of prices, and the consequent loss of work; and yet
we will venture to affirm that the firms who have
converted, or intend to convert into limited liability
companies must be showing a fair profit to induce
anyone to take up shares. Now, how can anyone
seriously contend that black is white?

“Medieval Music,” an historical sketch, by R. C.
Hope, is announced as to be published shortly by Mr.
Elliot Stock. The work will contain a history of early
church music, with numerous illustrations.

Whether or no the craze for first editions will
there will always be a craze for something in the line.
Why, whence, or wherefore the craze comes, man knoweth,
but when it comes there is a chance to make a trifle if we only know of it early enough.
Now the craze is for works on roses and their culture,
and for early books large prices may be obtained.

The Kelmscott Press is preparing a fine edition of
D. G. Rossetti’s poems.

“Early Editions” is the title of a forthcoming
book by Mr. J. H. Slater, which is intended to
clearly before book collectors hints as to various
editions of the works of modern poets and prose
writers, and how to detect reprints.

A bibliography of Welsh books, pamphlets, news-
papers, and periodicals, including books about Wales
in other languages, is being prepared by Mr. Charles
Atkinson, of Dinas Mawddwy, North Wales. Mr. Atson-
will be very pleased if anyone owning Welsh book
will send him the title, size, number of pages, and date
of publication or imprint.

Messrs. Seeley will shortly publish “Some Miscel-
aneous English Arts,” which will deal with pottery, woof
and effigies, pressed horn, enamels, and bookbinding; the
writers of the articles being Professor Church, Alfred
Hartshorne, J. R. Read, J. Starkie Gardner, and
W. Y. Fletcher.

At the New Gallery the exhibition for the coming
winter will be devoted to the illustration of Italian
medieval and early renaissance art, including decorat-
tive objects of all kinds.

The death of Mr. Frederick Burgess has raised a
flutter of curiosity as to whether his library will come
under the hammer, an incident which would cause a
smallest excitement, for it contains perhaps the finest
of all collections of Dickens, complete sets of Crick-
shank, Thackeray, and others, rare play bills, the first
collection of Elizabethan dramatists, and a very fine
collection of autograph letters.

We regret to learn that Mr. William Andrews, the
well-known publisher and antiquarian of Hull, met
with a serious accident at Whitby, where he slipped
down some stone steps and broke his right arm.
Although he is making satisfactory progress, it will
be some time (having had to undergo a very painful
operation) before he is sufficiently recovered to attend
to his literary work.

Pending reconstruction, on account of family
matters, a receiver has been appointed in connection
with the business of Messrs. Fisher & Son, book-
binders, Cloister Court, E.C. The business will be
carried on as heretofore, and the receiver, who will
only remain in office until a settlement has been
arrived at, has been appointed with the consent of all
members of the firm. Mr. H. Newson Smith, of Wall-
brook, E.C., is the receiver, to whom all payments
and communications are to be addressed, pending
reconstruction of the firm.
National Workmen's Exhibition.

Mr. Gladstone Distributes the Prizes.

The crowning event of the exhibition was the visit, on Saturday, August 9th, of the Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, to distribute the prizes. In order to spare unnecessary time and labour it was arranged that the Premier should only be called upon personally to hand over one prize representing each trade group. The platform was decorated with plants and flowers, on each side there was a large palm, while in front of the galleries were a number of banners, representing various trades. Among those who took part in the proceedings were Mr. J. Rowlands, M.P., Mr. George Howell, M.P., Mr. J. H. Wilson, M.P., Mr. Geo. Shipton, and Mr. H. R. Taylor; while among others who attended as spectators were Mr. Mundella, M.P., Mr. Acland, M.P., Mr. Majoribanks, M.P., Mr. Causton, M.P., Mr. Lough, M.P., Sir A. Rollit, M.P., Mr. Cohen, M.P., Mr. Joseph Arch, M.P., Mr. Clough, M.P., Mr. J. Hutton (chairman of the London County Council), Mr. Keir Hardy, M.P., etc. There was a crowded attendance, including about 5,000 members of the Sons of the Phoenix Temperance Society, who had walked in procession from the Embankment, accompanied by hands and banners. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone, on alighting at the Upper-street entrance, were received by the reception committee and conducted through the exhibition.

On ascending the dais Mr. Gladstone was most enthusiastically received, and attempts were made to sing "For he's a jolly good fellow," which was stopped by Mr. Shipton giving the signal for three ringing cheers. Mr. G. B. Courtenay, compositor, the chairman of the London Trades Council, presided,

and at his right and left sat respectively Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone. A choir of some five hundred voices, selected from the Handel Festival chorus, sang the "Old Hundredth." The chairman then stated that the four hundred prize winners who would receive certificates from Mr. Gladstone's hands had been balloted for. The names of the winners were:

Miss Annie Barnane, a native of Cork (weaving), Messrs. W. Toomey (bricklayer), C. Padgett (goldsmith), F. Webb (bookbinder), N. Lang (bootmaker), T. Luscombe (tailor), B. Jackson (brassworker), S. Oman (baker), J. A. Willis (cabinet maker), R. Barrett (boatbuilder), J. Solomons (cigar-maker), W. Sargent (glassworker), J. Richardson (carriage-maker), and J. W. Boswell (banner-painter).

As the Premier presented the certificates he shook hands with the recipients, and had some happy words to say to each.

On rising to speak, Mr. Gladstone was most enthusiastically received. In the course of his remarks he made some interesting references to the art of bookbinding; beautifully bound copies of Tennyson's and Wordsworth's poetical works were presented to him and to Mrs. Gladstone.

The books (Tennyson's Works) mentioned as being presented to Mr. Gladstone were selected by the Council from the bookbinding exhibit of Raithby, Lawrence & Co., Ltd., and were supplemented by a similar present (Wordsworth's Works and a copy of "Hops and Hopping" by J. B. Marsh) to Mrs. Gladstone, by the employees of the De Montfort Press.

"George Simpson & Co., Limited," has been registered with a nominal capital of £6,000 in £10 shares, to carry on the business of bookbinders, &c. Mr. George Simpson becomes governing director, with a salary of £600 per annum.