

NEW DESIGNS IN CHURCH SERVICES IN FANCY CASES,
By BAILEY BROTHERS, Highbury.

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Our Portrait Gallery.

MESSRS. BAILEY BROS., LONDON.



LEANLINESS is next to godliness; light and air are as necessary to health as the food we eat and the water—some say beer—we drink; and if ever a body of workers were blessed by wholesome surroundings in the place where their labour is expended, the men and women who work at Ronald's-road, Highbury, ought to feel themselves the favoured ones, for the premises of Messrs. Bailey Bros. are as well off in these particulars as any we have visited.

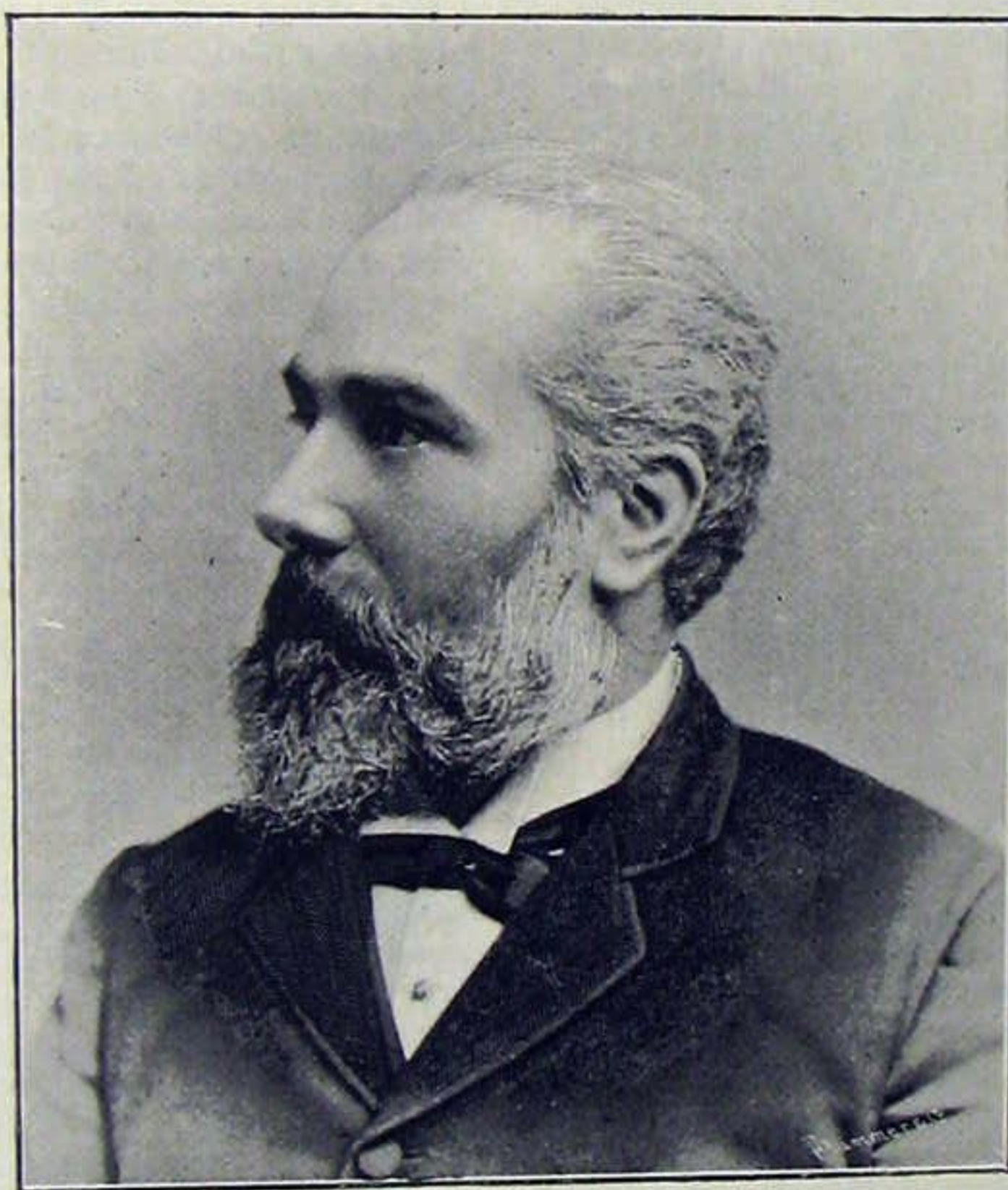
Messrs. Bailey Bros. is, however, only a business name; though there are the brothers Bailey, they have no Siamese-twin sort of ligament, nor even a parchment connection.

FRANK BAILEY, a genial, robust, broad-shouldered man bears the plural title, and bears it with an ever pleasant smile that makes him appear a very jolly fellow. (But we have not worked for him yet, and circumstances alter cases). He was born in Tasmania, on December 21st, 1845, his father, a native of Devonshire, having been sent out to that country to fill an official appointment of the very early days in the colony. In 1849 he obtained a twelve months' leave of absence and went to California where the gold craze was at its height, and there he lost his life, as the family think, foully. This sad bereavement caused the family to think of returning to England; and in 1854, Mrs. Bailey did return with six children, amongst whom was Frank, leaving the two eldest behind to win for themselves both prosperity and a large share of social prestige in the land of their adoption. When at a suitable age, it having been determined that Frank should learn a trade, bookbinding was chosen, and he was apprenticed to Mr. T. Proudfoot, of Euston-road, but after a few years he went to Mr. C. J. Forward's to finish his time on the Bible work. On the completion of his apprenticeship, he

joined the London Consolidated Society, and worked under Mr. B. Collins and Mr. G. Paveley until 1872, when the brisk state of trade gave him the opportunity he desired, and he started in business for himself in Barbican. After a year or two of uphill work, he removed to more pleasant premises outside the city, in Seven Sisters-road, Holloway, where he combined the businesses of bookbinding and book-selling until 1882, when he took the houses 82 and 101 Holloway-road. At the same time his brother, Mr.

Alfred Bailey, took over the bookselling business and the premises in Seven Sisters-road, which he still continues.

In those early days, Mr. Bailey encountered most of the difficulties which those starting in our trade experience, but want of capital. "It must not be thought," he said, "that I saved sufficient while a journeyman to start; my wages barely kept me in pocket-money." "Oh, no!" we replied, "We can quite understand that." "I was fortunate enough to be able to start with a couple of thousand pounds, but I wanted to do better-class work, and I had not enough to be able to permanently engage a thoroughly good man. The greatest difficulty I had was to get someone in after ordinary hours to give me a hand in doing what I had got and getting up samples



FRANK BAILEY.

to get more, and I was terribly hampered for a long time till I got Mr. Roberts, who has been with me ever since." The obstacles were surmounted, the business prospered, and gradually Mr. Bailey and his office were driven more closely and compactly into the corner to make room for more men, until, without the special aid of the builder, it was found impossible to obtain premises that would answer all his requirements. After considerable difficulty, a suitable plot of ground was found in Ronald's-road, as Mr. Bailey was loath to leave the neighbourhood, and plans from his instructions were made by Mr. Pooley, architect, of the Strand, and the contract for building entrusted

to Mr. Jonas Hill, of Gravesend. The building as it exists at present consists of three stories and a basement, just a little over fifty feet square, but already the builder is again at work putting up a similar block beside it.

In the erection of the building the architect was given a free hand in designing, and a very handsome structure it is; but for the interior arrangements Mr. Bailey's practical knowledge was brought into requisition and everything arranged in accordance with the actual requirements, and the consequence of these co-operative arrangements is that he has an almost model bindery.

After a little introductory talk with Mr. Bailey in his office on the ground floor, he took us up the stone staircase to the top storey of the building, a lofty room with polished wood rafted roof, splendidly lighted on three sides, where about sixty women and girls were at work under the superintendence of Miss Hall, who has been with the firm since its commencement. The room is fitted for 150 women, and the arrangements are splendid, it being heated and ventilated by patent appliances. Each girl has a locker for her own use, and on the landing of the staircase there is a narrow space fitted similarly to new Board Schools for hanging up clothes. A large lift runs from top to bottom of the building for carrying the work, and a smaller one to the forwarding shop.

The floor below is filled with forwarders, except at one part, separated from the rest by a glass partition, where the finishers and blockers work; this, too, is splendidly lighted; as is the ground floor, where the cutting machines are placed; and the circuit, yapp, and box makers have a separate department, though in this establishment the forwarders' apprentices are taught this branch as a part of their proper work, the sub-division being only for the purpose of convenience.

In the basement there is a large gilding shop and a separate room for redding the edges, which prevents the colour flying about on to other work. There is a shaving cellar, into which by means of a shoot all the shavings are cast, and thus the chances of fire minimised. Also a large furnace, and pipes running in all directions, known as John Grundy's heating apparatus, by means of which currents of hot air are circulated throughout the whole building, avoiding the necessity for fires. Beside it, is a specially constructed furnace for the incineration of all rubbish, so that there is nowhere in the building any accumulation of dirt. The sanitary arrangements are splendid, all the water and soil passing immediately outside the building and falling right away.

The ordinary staff consists of about 100 persons, and the principal work executed is Bibles, prayer and hymn books; but besides these, Mr. Bailey does a large trade in fancy boxes for sets, and a limited one in half-bound or full-bound miscellaneous work. As he himself says, "If a man wants to succeed, he must apply himself to one thing and throw all his energies into that," so he does not cultivate the modern work. In boxes, however, he turns out thousands with the accompanying sets of books, oblongs, uprights, skeletons, and flap-locks. Four of these we have

selected for our illustration of the work done; they are made in various materials, according to the choice of leather for the books with which they match.

Mr. Bailey admits himself much indebted to Mr. Froude, of the Oxford University Bible House, for the long and continuous supply of work that has enabled him for many years to keep his hands nearly always fully employed. We have not worked for him yet, but those who have, seem to enjoy it, if we may take their length of service as any criterion of their satisfaction. Both in the women's and men's departments there seems to be a happy family gathering, mothers and fathers, elder brothers and sisters, working together in this hive of industry with something like an hereditary right so long as there is work to do, and it is a long time since the shop was as slack as it has been lately. However, the tide has turned, and Mr. Bailey is preparing for its inrush of trade, by an extension of accommodation.

For many years Mr. Bailey has taken a great interest in the affairs of the Pension and Asylum Society, and with his old fellow-apprentice, Mr. John Diprose, he holds office as trustee of the society. He is also a member of the Bookbinding Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and has recently been elected deputy-chairman to the chairmanship of his old workshop colleague.

THE FIRST CASLON.—Sir John Hawkins, in his "History of Music," relates the following anecdote:—"Mr. Caslon settled in Ironmonger-row, Old-street, and being a great lover of music had frequent concerts at his house, which were resorted to by many eminent masters; to these he used to invite his friends, and those of his old acquaintance, the companions of his youth. He afterwards removed to a large house in Chiswell-street, and had an organ in his concert room. After that he had stated monthly concerts, which, for the convenience of his friends, that they might walk home in safety when the performance was over, were on the Thursday of the month which was nearest the full moon, from which circumstance his guests were wont to call themselves Luna-tics. In the intervals of the performance the guests refreshed themselves at a sideboard, which was amply furnished, and when it was over—sitting down to a bottle of wine, and a decanter of excellent ale of Mr. Caslon's own brewing—they concluded the evening's entertainment with a song or two of Purcell's, sung to the harpsicord, or a few catches, and retired about 12." This would be about the year 1740.

THE Ordnance Department have completed the reproduction of "Domesday Book." It has been accomplished by the process of photozincography, by which *fac-similes* of original manuscripts are produced. The cost of the work has been over £3,000.

BOOKPLATES.—Messrs. George Bell & Son have in preparation two volumes on "Bookplates," which will be the opening volumes of a new series of hand-books for collectors.