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**Our Portrait Gallery.**

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No. 1.—JOSEPH ZAEHNSDORF.



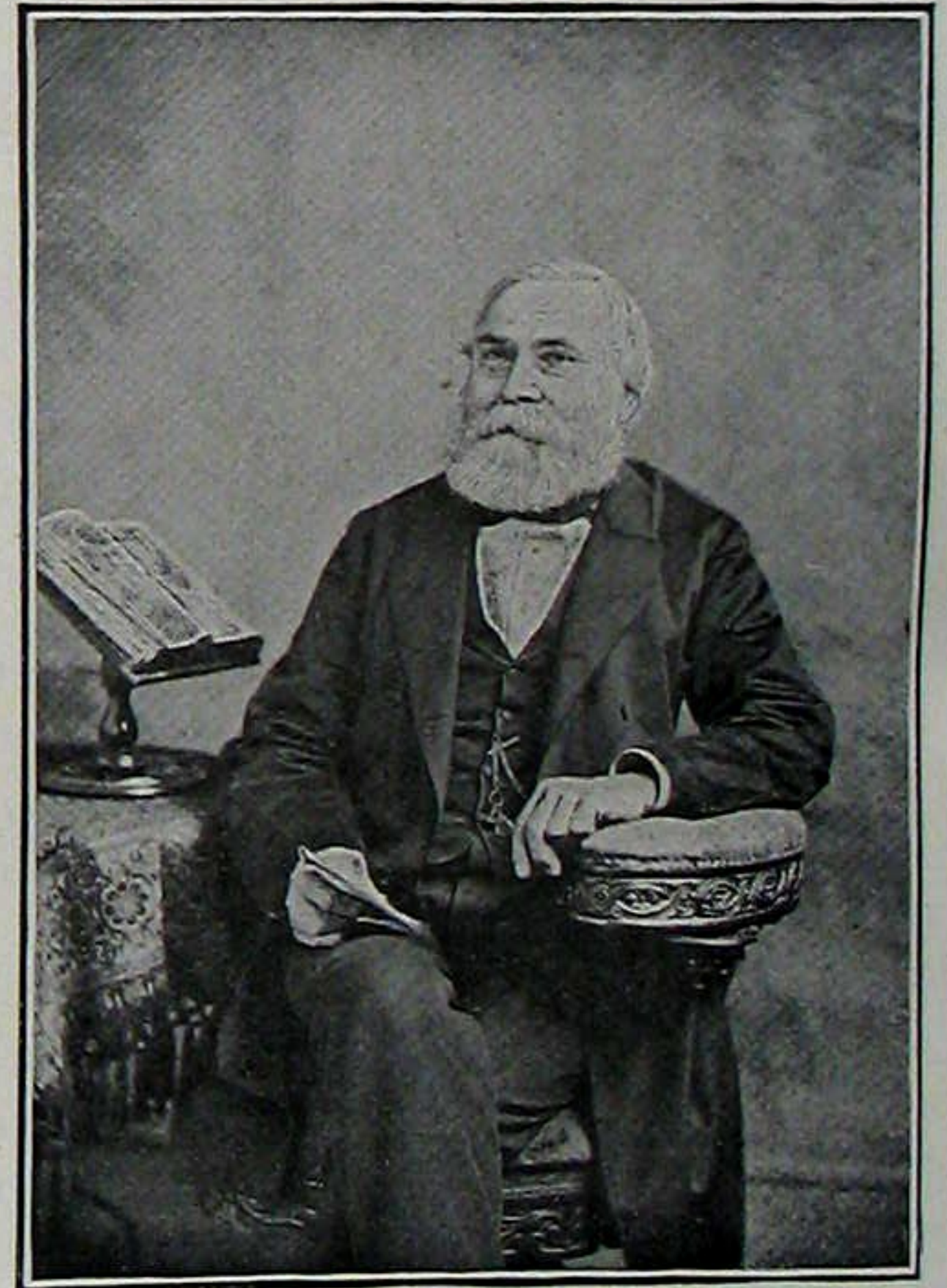
**J**OSEPH ZAEHNSDORF, founder of the well-known binding house in York-street, Covent Garden, was born at Pesth, a city of Austria-Hungary, in 1816. He was educated at the Gymnasium of that city, and there evinced a taste for the study of drawing and languages, in both of which accomplishments he afterwards excelled. At the age of 15 he was sent to Herr

Kupp, of Stuttgart, where, after concluding an apprenticeship of four years, at the end of this period, at his master's desire, he remained another year, a most unusual course in Germany, where apprentices usually, on the expiration of their term, seek a new employer.

From Stuttgart, Mr. Zaehnsdorf proceeded to Vienna, where he worked in the shop of Stephan, who was in a large way of business in that city. Here he was marked out as a clever hand-worker and might have long remained with his employer, whose confidence and respect he held, but the desire to travel was strong in him and he visited Zurich, Friburg, Baden Baden, ultimately reaching Paris, where, hearing of an opening for a binder at Athens, he determined to settle down in that ancient capital. Before doing so, Mr. Zaehnsdorf paid a visit to his brother, who was established as a jeweller in London, and acting upon his advice he decided to remain in this city. His first employment was with Messrs. Wesley & Co., who were then well-known "extra" binders, and here he remained for three years, during this time he had to contend with many difficulties which the prejudice of the men had raised against him, but steady application to his work, and his straightforward, honourable manner, ever characteristic of the man, carried him through. From Wesley's Mr. Zaehnsdorf went to Mackenzie, then the best binder in London.

Here he remained until 1842, when he commenced business on his own account. For 12 or 15 years progress was slow, but hard work and dogged perseverance enabled him to build up the extensive business which, in the hands of his son, is steadily growing and increasing. Mr. Zaehnsdorf died in 1886, and no better idea of the man or truer estimate of his character can be gained, than that given in the words of one of his old employés who, speaking at his grave-side, said:

"To us, his employés, he certainly was very strict, and particularly so with regard to our work, but this strictness was ever



JOSEPH ZAEHNSDORF, SENR.

tempered by good humour, gentleness and kind-heartedness. Having risen from the ranks, he knew well, and never forgot, the troubles, anxieties and cares which befall so many of us in our humble station of life. His advice, his experience, and what is often more, his purse, were always ready and open to assist any one of us who was deserving of it."



OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.—No. 1.

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JOSEPH ZAEHNSDORF.



