LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Edinburgh Typographical Society.

ALSO, COPIES OF THE

INTERLOCUTORS OF THE COURT OF SESSION,

AND SCALE OF PRESS PRICES.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED,

A MEMORIAL TO THE MASTER PRINTERS ON THE APPRENTICE QUESTION—WITH ANSWERS THERETO.

Instituted May 1881.



"TEMPORA MUTANTUR, ET NOS MUTAMUR IN ILLIS."

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR THE EDINBURGH TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, BY W. J. MACDONALD.

M.DCCC.XLIV.

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AND ROADER OF PRIME PRIME

INTRODUCTION.

The Institution of "A Standing Committee" of Journeymen Printers for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Profession, and regulating affairs connected with the Printing Business, has long existed in Edinburgh; and among other duties of that body, was the superintending the Petitions of individuals whose situation required the aid of their brethren; but as the greater number of petitioners were individuals in search of employment, and the collection of contributions from different Offices for their aid being exceedingly slow and uncertain, obstacles to the proper working of the plan were thus created, which every one admitted, but for which a proper remedy has never yet been obtained; and petitioners, we need not say at how great an inconvenience, were necessitated to remain in Edinburgh, awaiting the conclusion of the tardy process of collecting the sums subscribed in their behalf.

TRAMP Societies, with a view of affording relief to Journeymen in search of work, but with that view merely, have been tried; and although the principle upon which the subscriptions—one penny per week—to these Societies were sought to be raised, was an improvement upon the system of the "Standing Committee," (of sending petitions to the various Offices for their voluntary support,) yet, in consequence of the confined limits of their object, they have been found not to succeed. Many of the Trade refused to subscribe to these Societies, but said, that if a New Society—with the object of relieving Members of other recognized Societies whose situations required pecuniary assistance—was established, and the subscriptions raised after the same manner as to the Tramp Societies, viz. by penny a-week subscriptions, they would willingly become members. In consequence, therefore, of an application from one of these Societies to the "Standing Committee," to conjoin

the task of relieving members in distress as well as attending to the other interests of the profession-this consideration of the subject was brought before a General Meeting of the Trade, when it was unanimously resolved to accede to the application, by constituting a Society under the title of "The Edinburgh Typographical Society."

Edinburgh, November 1833.

"Edinburgh, August 7, 1843. " AT a General Meeting of the Trade, held on the above date, the accompanying Memorial and Answers from the Masters having been taken into mature deliberation, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:- 'That this meeting having heard the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to wait upon the Masters for their opinions on the Resolutions embodied in the Memorial, Resolve,-

1st, From the highly flattering and honourable enconiums bestowed on said Memorial by so many concurring Employers-to adopt the same, from and after this date, as a rule of this Society;

2d, That the above Resolution may be distinctly understood, this meeting is of opinion that each branch is to have its own ratio of apprentices to journeymen; and that the two apprentices granted to each establishment be one at each department;

3d, In order that the same may be carried into successful operation, this Society, (with the assistance and co-operation of the concurring Masters,) shall use all fair and legitimate means to have the same extended to every establishment in the city-resting assured, when once a fair trial has been made, the benefits resulting will be alike advantageous to both parties;

4th, That this meeting return their sincere and grateful acknowledgments to those Masters who have so nobly and generously aided us in our present undertaking for the amelioration of our profession; and

5th, That a reprint of the Rules, with a copy of the Memorial and Answers, be furnished to the Masters."

Extracted from the Minutes of the Edinburgh Typographical Society.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

EDINBURGH TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

I. DESIGNATION, ETC.

THAT this Society shall be entitled "THE EDINBURGH TYPOGRA-PHICAL SOCIETY;" and shall not be dissolved so long as Twelve Members continue to support it.

II. OBJECTS.

The objects of this Society shall be :-

1st, To uphold the rights and privileges of the Printing Profession;

2d, To endeavour to bring about an amicable adjustment, in cases of dispute between employer and employed;

3d, To assist members who are necessitated to leave Edinburgh in search of work;

4th, To give assistance to persons in search of employment belonging to any recognised Society, on their producing a travelling Card;

5th, To give temporary relief to distressed members and members' widows; and,

6th, To co-operate with the Central Board for the interests of the profession in Scotland.

III. QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS.

That this Society shall be open for the admission of all Journeymen Compositors and Pressmen who have served a regular apprenticeship to the business; as also Apprentice Compositors in the last four years, and Apprentice Pressmen from the commencement, of their apprenticeships. Apprentices shall have no vote.

IV. RATES OF ADMISSION AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

When a person is desirous of uniting with this Society, he must be proposed by a member on a monthly night; and the Standing Committee then present shall have power to admit such person—subject, however, to the revision of this Society at the succeeding quarterly meeting. He shall pay the sum of One Shilling as admission-money, and Eightpence of monthly contribution in advance; but if he has been six months employed in town, Five Shillings: if he has a Card, dated within twelve months, from any branch of the Scottish Association, or from an English or Irish Society, he shall be admitted free. Entrants with Cards to pay their subscriptions on the first monthly night after obtaining employment. Apprentices on being enrolled Members, shall pay the sum of Sixpence, as admission-money, and Fourpence of contribution.

V. IRREGULAR PAYMENTS.

Any member allowing himself to run three months in arrears to this Society, shall be fined One Penny, and One Penny per month while above that sum, till he has been nine months in arrears, when (having previously received notification to that effect in the monthly list) he shall be excluded, and the same made known in next Circular.

VI. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTRIBUTIONS.

Members out of employment, or unable to work through sickness, on giving due intimation to that effect to the Secretary, shall be exempted from payment of monthly contributions.

VII. FINES FOR NON-ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE, AND EXEMPTIONS.

Any member being elected President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Clerk, and refusing to accept, shall pay a fine of One Shilling, and Members of Committee and Auditors, Sixpence each. Members who have served in the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Clerk, shall not be liable to any fines for non-

acceptance of any office for a period of three years thereafter, and Members of Committee for eighteen months.

VIII. MANAGEMENT AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

The management of this Society shall be entrusted to a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Clerk, elected by this Society every six months, with a Sub-Committee of Twelve Members elected by the Standing Committee. No person to be entrusted with the management of this Society who has been less than six months a member.

IX. DUTIES OF DELEGATES.

Each office shall send a Delegate to the monthly meetings, who shall collect the subscriptions in the office to which he may belong; he shall pay, or cause to be paid, the said subscriptions into the hands of the Treasurer, at the current meeting; failing which, he shall be fined Threepence. It shall also be his duty to intimate to journeymen and apprentices eligible to enter this Society the privileges arising therefrom; and to send in the names and designations of those individuals who may either neglect or refuse to become members; as also the names of the apprentices in their respective offices, with the date of their entry on their apprenticeship—to the Secretary, (within one month from the date of said entry), who shall insert their names in a book kept for that purpose.

X. DUTIES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

The President shall order the Secretary to summon all meetings of this Society, under the penalty of Sixpence. All extraordinary meetings to be sanctioned by the President and Vice-President conjunctly. Should they differ in opinion, the question to be referred to the Sub-Committee. The President shall preside at all general and committee meetings; and if absent a quarter past the hour of meeting, he shall be fined Threepence, unless prevented by sickness, or detained at work. The President to receive applications for relief, and, with the Secretary, grant orders on the Treasurer for payment. When any case appears doubtful, he shall order the Secretary to convene the Sub-Committee to decide on it. The Vice-President to act in the absence of the President.

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The Sub-Committee, consisting of twelve members chosen from the Standing Committee, shall, with the Preses, Treasurer, &c., conduct the ordinary business of this Society. Their duties shall be to manage the funds, admit new members, give advice in cases of dispute, fix the entry-money at which dishonourables can be admitted, and see that the rules of this Society are not infringed. In cases of difficulty they shall have power to order a meeting of the Standing Committee. Any member absenting himself from meetings of the Sub-Committee shall be fined Twopence.

XVI. MEETINGS.

That there shall be a monthly meeting of the Standing Committee held on the first Monday of every month, (January excepted, which will be held on the second,) for the purpose of paying in their subscriptions to the Treasurer, and transacting whatever business may be brought before them. General meetings of this Society shall be held on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November. To these meetings the Secretary shall sumbit a Report of the proceedings of the Standing and Sub-Committees, the questions submitted to them, with their decisions, and a list of the arrears due. The Office-Bearers shall be elected at the meetings in February and August; and two Auditors shall be appointed to inspect the accounts, vouchers, &c. Special or General Meetings shall be called on occasion of urgent business, as specified in Rule X. Business shall commence precisely at half-past eight o'clock. Not less than twenty-five members shall be considered competent to transact business. A meeting may be called by a requisition addressed to the President, signed by twenty-five members.

XVII. ISSUING OF CARDS.

Members leaving Edinburgh shall receive a Card, provided they have been six months in this Society, and are clear in the books. Persons entering with a Card belonging to any recognised Society, shall be entitled to an Edinburgh Card three months thereafter. Apprentices joining this Society six months previous to the expiry of their apprenticeship,

shall be entitled to a Card at the expiry of the same. All Cards shall be dated at the time they are given out, likewise the date of his entering the Society.

XVIII. RELIEF OF MEMBERS AND MEMBERS' WIDOWS.

Members who have contributed twelve monthly payments to the funds of this Society, requiring to leave town in search of employment, shall, on giving twenty-four hours' notice to the Secretary, (provided the funds amount to £15,) be entitled to receive Five Shillings; if eighteen months and under two years, Ten Shillings; and if two years and under three, Fifteen Shillings. Members receiving the above allowance shall sign an obligation to refund the same to the Treasurer, should they return within two months (deducting Two Shillings and Sixpence for every week such member may have been out of town), at the rate of Two Shillings and Sixpence per month, over and above their monthly subscriptions. Sick members, or members' widows who may be left destitute, may, on applying to the Sub-Committee, receive any sum not exceeding Ten Shillings. All applicants shall only be once relieved. Such relief not to prevent petitioners from any advantage they may derive by a trade petition, provided it has received the signature of the President or Secretary.

XIX. RELIEF OF TRAMPS.

Persons travelling in search of employment, and requiring the aid of this Society, upon producing an accredited Card to the Secretary, dated within twelve months, shall be entitled to receive Five Shillings, if the funds of the Society exceed £10; if under £10, Three Shillings and Sixpence. No individual shall be relieved more than once in 12 months. Double the above rate granted to all Coloured Cards. Every person must lodge his Card with the Secretary before applying for work, otherwise he will only receive half allowance.

XX. APPRENTICES.

That from and after the 7th day of August 1843, the following shall be the ratio of apprentices to journeymen:—For every master or company, two apprentices, and thereafter one apprentice for every three

journeymen permanently employed, in each establishment. Where more are now engaged, no others must be introduced till the number be brought within the prescribed number. No master shall employ a turn-over apprentice, without the said apprentice producing a written discharge from his last employer. For each contravention of this rule one year of additional servitude shall be imposed.

XXI. DISORDERLY MEMBERS.

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Any member conducting himself in a disorderly manner at any meeting of this Society, shall, when requested by the President, leave the room, or be fined Sixpence, and expelled the meeting.

XXII. IRREGULAR WORKMEN.

When a member of the Trade, who has been found guilty of ratting, obtains employment, the Delegate of the Chapel shall immediately communicate the same to the Secretary; and he shall not be admitted a member of the Chapel until he produce a satisfactory certificate, signed both by the President and Secretary.

XXIII. LAWS.

That every member of this Society shall purchase a copy of these Laws, for which he shall pay Sixpence.

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INTERLOCUTORS

OF THE

COURT OF SESSION.

INTERLOCUTOR pronounced by the Lords of Council and Session, in the Process of the Journeymen Compositor Printers in Edinburgh, against the Master Printers there, for a rise of Wages, so as to make them conform to the preceding Scale.

Edinburgh, 22d December 1804.

On report of Lord Cullen, Ordinary, and having advised the preceding report by Robert Bell, accountant, Find, that, in the circumstances attending the case, the pursuers, the Journeymen Compositor Printers in Edinburgh, are entitled to an increase of wages, proportioned to the different prices of work performed by them: And find, first, That all works which are understood by printers to fall under the usual designation of Common, such as Hume's History, octavo, or the Spectator, be paid for at the rate of 4 d. Sterling, for setting up and distributing each thousand letters or types, to be reckoned as formerly by the letter N, including payment for heads and directions, that is, the line at the head of the page, denoting the subject, and the line in which is the catch, or direction word, at the bottom of the page, which heads and directions the pursuers were not heretofore paid for: Second, That for printing papers in causes before the Court of Session, called Session-Work, and for Jobs, such as posting bills, advertisements, and the like, the pursuers be paid at the rate of 5 d. for setting up and distributing each thousand letters or types, reckoned as above, including heads and directions, when they occur, as before explained: Third, That for all Dictionaries, printed in the manner of a Lexicon, there shall be paid at the rate of 5d. for setting up and distributing each thousand letters or types, reckened as aforesaid, and including heads and directions; but this not to extend to Dictionaries of Science, or such as, from their nature, can be considered only as common matter, explained as aforesaid, that is, where no columns occur in the page: Fourth, That Pamphlets of five sheets and under, be paid One Shilling per sheet above what they come to by letters or types, for furniture, that is, putting in the wood-work, and extra trouble: Fifth, That all works heretofore paid double, in the technical terms of the parties, Greek and Scheme, that is, books in the Greek language, accounts with columns, rules, and figures, and the like, be advanced in the same proportion as in the first article above specified : Sixth, That all works printed in a foreign language, though with a common

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UNTO THE

MASTER PRINTERS OF EDINBURGH,

THE MEMORIAL

OF THI

JOURNEYMEN PRINTERS OF THAT CITY.

Gentlemen,—In soliciting your attention to the accompanying Resolutions, your Memorialists beg leave most respectfully to lay before you some of the more prominent reasons which seem to render their adoption necessary; and in doing so would sincerely state that, in framing these Resolutions, they contemplate as their object the permanent advantage of the honourable Employer, as well as that of the industrious Workman.

As the ground on which rests the necessity of the Resolutions, your Memorialists would respectfully urge, that while, within these few years, the demand for printing over the country generally has undergone a marked and rapid advance, the condition of the artizans who supply it has been constantly retrograding—a retrogression rendered more striking from the fact, that it cannot be attributed to a reduction in the price of their labour, since that has been the same for many years. While your Memorialists are perfectly aware of the present general stagnation of trade, and are most ready to give this its due weight in reference to the depression of their own, yet they cannot, with due submission, find in this temporary depression a sufficient cause for evils which have been gaining ground for many years. On the contrary, they firmly believe that it is to be traced to a supply of labour more abundant than the demand for it; in other words, to a superabundance of Apprentices.

tices. They would now, however, point out some of the evils which the same cause has inflicted on Masters themselves.

In doing this your Memorialists would respectfully represent to you, that the Apprentice-labour system is not one of those diseases whose action is confined to a particular part of the frame, and leaves the rest uninjured; but is rather one whose action is general, polluting every part of the body, and producing general debility. Amongst the Journeymen-Compositors the disease has indeed been a severe and fatal epidemic. But its ravages have not been confined to them-they are to be distinctly traced in the mushroom growth of Small Masters, and the decreasing profits of respectable Employers. Your Memorialists deem it unnecessary to bring forward any facts to prove the extent of the reduction which has taken place in the profits of your business; since with this you must necessarily be better acquainted than they are. But they would wish to make evident to you the intimate and necessary connexion between the Apprentice-labour system and this reduction. To effect this object they would respectfully submit, that no Journeyman, if he be so situated as to have at his command a reasonable portion of the necessaries and comforts of life, will abandon such a situation, and incur the toil, mental harassment, and risk of becoming a Master, unless the change be accompanied with a corresponding addition to his means. If this be admitted -and your Memorialists do not see how it can be denied-the notorious fact that many of the Small Masters work at, and sometimes under, Journeymen's wages, furnishes irresistible evidence of these Small Masters not having been comfortable as Journeymen. But what has produced this discomfort? Printing, as your Memorialists have already stated, has rapidly increased; but from this increase Journeymen have derived no advantage. On the contrary, the increased quantity of work has been thrown into the hands of boys, to the great detriment of Journeymen. Such being the case, your Memorialists cannot think it wonderful that numbers of Journeymen should have endeavoured, by whatever means, to obtain a command over an equal quantity of the comforts of life, by commencing business as Small Masters.* Of the

ruinous effects of these small offices upon prices, your Memorialists believe you to be so well aware, that it would be superfluous to state them.

Your Memorialists would respectfully urge, that this connexion between small offices—that is, between a reduction of prices and Apprentice-labour—is no fanciful theory, but a demonstrable truth. When a large establishment, then, endeavours to do its business by boys, it is in reality drying up the roots of its prosperity. The respectable Master who acts thus, no doubt in the first instance diminishes his expenditure; but since, by the employment of these Apprentices, he compels Journeymen to become Small Masters, and thus reduces the price of his work, he as certainly contracts the source of his income. The universal adoption, too, of Apprentice-labour by Small Masters (referred to in note page 8,) proves such labour to be an empirical capital, ready for the use of any experimenter who may choose to adopt it, and which deprives real capital of that natural influence which it ought always to possess.

When the cause of these evils is thus clearly traced, your Memorialists would respectfully suggest, that its removal is an object to be equally desired by all parties. If the view which your Memorialists have taken of the subject be correct, there is a reason for every party giving up the present system. The Master who already employs Apprentice-labour ought to abandon it, because to persist in it must ultimately force every Master to use it also; in which case no advantage will accrue to either party. The Master who does not employ Apprentice-labour has an interest in supporting the following Resolutions, because it is only by this system that his capital will have its due weight. The Journeymen's interest is too evident to require explanation. If any thing more were wanted to prove the utility of such a limitation, it is to be found in the gross injustice-(often, we believe, never thought of, but yet not the less unjust)-of Masters training up boys to a business, during a long course of years, and after they have profited by their services, turning them adrift to the desperate chances of an overstocked trade. Such conduct is unjust and unchristian, and must therefore deserve the condemnation of every honest man.

Such are some of the more prominent reasons which seem to render expedient the adoption of a limitation in the number of Apprentices; and holding these reasons to be sound, your Memorialists would earnestly

^{*} In proof of the truth of the remarks above made, it may be stated, that since 1833 no fewer than 20 small offices, each employing from three to five Apprentices, with the occasional assistance of a Journeyman, have been started in Edinburgh. Such a result is not to be wondered at, when labour like that of Compositors is remunerated at the rate of from eleven to fourteen shillings per week. Nor is their low rate of charges in the least surprising, when it is considered that every shilling which they earn above these sums is so much of an improvement. These facts are well worthy the consideration of every honourable establishment.

and respectfully solicit your co-operation in giving them effect by your acquiescence in the following Resolution:—

That from and after the passing of this Resolution, the following be the ratio of Apprentices to Journeymen:—For every Master, or Company, two Apprentices; and thereafter, one Apprentice for every three Journeymen permanently employed in each establishment. Where more are now engaged, no others to be introduced till the number be brought to the prescribed limits.

A similar satisfactory arrangement has of late been adopted in England, Ireland, and in several parts of Scotland, and your Memorialists are confident that the system would work equally well here.

You cannot but be aware of the existing vicious practice of Apprentices quitting the employment of their first Master for that of another, who seduces them from their duty by giving highly advanced wages; by which means the original Employer is deprived of the services of his Apprentice at the very time he was beginning to be useful; Journeymen are thrown out of employment; and the resetting Master enabled to take work, however extensive, at prices far below those of the honourable Employer. To such an extent has this evil attained, that from three to eight certificates, from different Masters, have been individually produced by Journeymen, as vouchers of their apprenticeships having been duly served. To remedy this evil your Memorialists further recommend:—

That no Master employ a Turn-over Apprentice without the said Apprentice producing a written discharge from his late Employer; and that for each contravention of this rule one year of additional servitude be imposed.

In reference to both these Resolutions, your Memorialists desire it to be distinctly understood, that, since they do not wish to disturb existing arrangements, their effect is intended to be entirely prospective. And in soliciting your concurrence with them, your Memorialists think it proper to state, that since their object is to restore the profits of Masters to a fair rate, as well as secure to themselves a fair proportion of work, they would consider it incumbent upon them to give effect to that aim by refusing to work to any other than concurring Employers.

In conclusion, your Memorialists would represent to you, that they have abstained from all discussion as to the abstract right of a Master to

employ as many Apprentices as he may choose; because they think that the discussion of that question, on which so many opposite views are entertained, would be misplaced in a Memorial concerning practical grievances. They propose the principle of limitation as one which it is expedient to adopt, in order to remedy deadly evils; and surely, when viewed in this light, even the most determined enemy to every thing like restriction will find nothing in a question of expediency which will run counter to his opinion.

Your Memorialists respectfully solicit your opinion on these suggestions, which may be transmitted to Mr Daniel Monro, at Messrs Ballantyne and Hughes' Office, by the 7th of January 1843.

Signed, in name, and by authority of, the Associated Printers of Edinburgh,

ROBERT YOUNG, President.

DANIEL MONRO, Secretary.

Edinburgh, December 12, 1842.

THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO THE ABOVE MEMORIAL.

1 .- From Mr WILLIAM BLACK.

Edinburgh, February 21, 1843.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of a "Memorial of the Journeymen Printers" of Edinburgh, sent me some time ago, and also of your Circular of the 10th inst. now received, referring to the same subject. The former document I should have acknowledged before this time, but a number of circumstances have prevented me. Having now, however, had another opportunity of perusing it, I hasten to express my conviction of the soundness of the views there given, and also of the urgent importance of immediately endeavouring to correct such a lamentable and injurious condition of things as is there explained.

The statement of the Memorialists, which I beg to say is, in my opinion, drawn up with great pains and ability, is quite fitted to convince every disinterested person that the system complained of has already pro-

duced in practice much mischief to the trade, and much suffering to the men employed in it. And though combinations among workmen have been not unfrequently the source of permanent injury to their own interests, cases may arise in which it may seem the only practical remedy for an existing, and more especially for a growing evil; and the present case is apparently one of that description.

The desire also expressed in the Memorial for the countenance and co-operation of the Masters, divests the proposed measure of all party or class character. But not only has the custom complained of produced practical mischief; it seems, when viewed theoretically, also to be ruinous and vicious in the highest degree; its tendency is to undermine and overthrow the whole social fabric, in so far as labour and trade contribute to its stability, and in this view I consider the matter as possessing an importance rising far above, and stretching far beyond, the interests of the present hour; and I cannot conceive of any thing more short-sighted, and I will add, more heartless, than the adoption of, and persistance in, such a course of action.

In communicating through this medium my entire concurrence in the Resolutions to which the Journeymen have come, I beg to say, that there is not at present, nor for a long course of years past, has there been a Case-apprentice employed in this office, though in no department, probably, of the printing trade is the competition greater, or the prices more reduced, and few have suffered more from the cause complained of; but I could not lend myself to the use of a system which, from the first, has appeared to me false and self-destructive.

I have to beg that you will express to the Memorialists my cordial sympathy with them in the efforts they are making to have their Resolutions adopted, and wishing them all necessary wisdom, firmness, and success in the present emergency, I am, &c.,

WILLIAM BLACK, Manager, Queen's late Printing-House.

P.S.—Might it not be a proper sequel to the adoption of the Resolutions, to have a quarterly *Printed Circular*, to exhibit to the Trade the names of offices where the fair principle embodied in the Resolutions is disregarded.

2.—From Messrs MURRAY and GIBB.

Messrs M. & G.'s answer to the first Resolution is—" Quite liberal." To the second—" Not only right, but the contrary is entirely wrong."

In addition to the above, these gentlemen likewise forwarded a long letter, referring to the same subject, from which the following are extracts:—

21, George Street, 7th March 1843.

S1R, * * * * *

Printers, moreover, are too intelligent a class of men to set the example of such glaring violation of all sound principle; and therefore we cannot believe that such combination, in the proper sense of that word, exists. We hope also we are wrong in thinking that a threat was embodied in their first circular. We have too high a respect for the profession to sustain one single unfavourable idea, or even suspicion regarding a body of men whom we value so highly, and to which we belong. Taking this milder view of the case, but having at the same time expressed what we regard as fundamental and irrefragable truths, we have no hesitation in saying that the spirit of the Resolutions is unobjectionable, and that, as we have not hitherto violated that spirit, we do not think we shall ever do so, both as a matter of respectability and of fairness to the trade. But we beg it to be distinctly kept in view, that we do not implicitly bind ourselves or combine with you. We hold ourselves, as every man should be in a free country, quite free, unfettered, and unpledged; what we mean to say is, that we think your proposition, unconnected with combination or coercion, perfectly liberal and just; and as we have acted on them hitherto, so henceforth we intend to act. This we state unequivocally.

If there are houses in town who work chiefly or solely by apprentices, and turn such apprentices off the moment their time is out, we think it a duty you owe to yourselves and to the trade, to remonstrate strongly with such offices, and to try, by all fair and reasonable means, to put an end to a system so selfish, so cruel, and so insulting. Indeed, such a system is disgraceful, and should be exposed, and tried to be put down by every legitimate way that can be devised.

With much esteem, and every kind wish for yourself and the members of the Edinburgh Typographical Association,—We are, &c.,

MURRAY & GIBB.

3.—From Messrs BALLANTYNE and HUGHES.

March 9, 1843.

We highly approve of the proposed arrangement, and do not doubt that it will, if carried out, be beneficial both to masters and men.

BALLANTYNE & HUGHES.

4.—From Messrs W. and R. CHAMBERS.

We agree to the general principle of the above, and will be glad to learn that it is acted upon by the Trade. W. & R. CHAMBERS.

5.—From Mr THOMAS ALLAN.

Mercury Office, January 6, 1843. SIR,-I entirely concur with the Memorial of the Journeymen Printers, and am willing to aid in the objects therein desired. I am, &c., THOMAS ALLAN.

6.—From Mr Robert Marshall.

12, East Rose Lane, 6th January 1843.

SIR,-In reply to the Resolutions of the Journeymen Printers of Edinburgh, I beg to state that I entirely concur, and have acted on the principle ever since I commenced business of never engaging an apprentice without either receiving a written character, or calling on his employer myself. But I am sorry to say that others have not acted on the same plan, for my apprentices have been entited away frequently by others.

I am much afraid that the printing business is too far gone to be brought back again to its former healthy state; and in a few years, I am afraid, will soon be as bad as the weaving business. Edinburgh depended principally on the law-printing, and now it is almost gone to nothing. Stereotype, lithography, and machinery, have almost ruined the business; and master-printers used to have a good share of jobbing, now it is almost confined to one or two offices, and done at such a price that a respectable master-printer would be a loser if he were to take them at such prices, and people will not pay more than they can get their jobs done for elsewhere.

I cannot but state, that a great deal of the distress prevailing in the business is to be attributed to intemperance. Although an enemy to machinery, if I cannot get sober men, I will be obliged to get a machine to get the work done in the time required. But I hope this will not be necessary.

My office differs from others in this respect, that on account of so much press-work, it prevents me from taking other work into the office, and I have been obliged to refuse work on account of not being able to accomplish it; so that for every week there may be case-work, there will be three weeks that there is none. The Tract Society requires two boys to go their messages and deliver their parcels.

I wish I could fill every frame in the office with journeymen, and keep them employed; it would be better both for master and journeymen. In R. MARSHALL. haste, yours, respectfully,

7 .- From Mr Andrew Shortrede.

George IV. Bridge, February 25, 1843.

I shall be very glad if any plan can be devised that would be generally acted upon throughout the Trade, tending to diminish the proportion of AND. SHORTREDE. apprentices in printing-offices.

8 .- From Mr Alexander Smellie.

I think the above Resolutions may be ef use to the journeymen compositors. I have now been nearly a master-printer for sixty years. I have on no occasion crowded my office with apprentices, and I have no intention of doing so. But as to binding myself down to carry on business by a prescribed rule, that I will not do. ALEX. SMELLIE.

9.—From Mr WILLIAM BURNESS.

I quite agree with the above Resolutions, and shall act accordingly. WM. BURNESS.

10.-From Mr W. J. MACDONALD.

I entirely approve of the above Resolutions.

W. J. MACDONALD.

11.—From Mr WILLIAM CROSS.

Chronicle Office, 27th February 1843.

Sir,—At the time I became first connected with the Edinburgh Chronicle, the office was chiefly filled with apprentices, and it was some time before I began to be aware of the evils arising from the system of dispensing almost altogether with the services of journeymen. I am now, however, convinced that that system is bad for all parties, and, were I not bound by existing engagements, I would alter it immediately. I agree to act on the regulations suggested in the Memorial of the Associated Printers, of date 12th December 1842, as soon as I have an opportunity, reserving to myself, however, the power of taking in a message-boy, or more than one, should I see occasion, before I have the number of apprentices reduced to the prescribed number.—I am, &c.

WM. CROSS.

12.—From Messrs Balfour and Jack.

To the first Resolution-" Disapprove."

To the second Resolution—" Never have countenanced this, and are ready to do any thing that can be suggested to put an entire stop to it.

" BALFOUR & JACK."

13.—From Mr John Fairgrieve.

I perfectly concur in the above Resolutions. JN. FAIRGRIEVE.

14.—From Mr John Gilchrist, Courant Office.

I am of opinion that the above Resolutions would prove beneficial to the Trade were they acted upon.

Jo. GILCHRIST.

15 .- From Mr Hugh PATON.

I quite agree with the above, and consider it but reasonable.

Hugh Paton.

16.—From Mr John Hutchison.

I think the above is quite reasonable, and agree to the same.

John Hutchison.

17 .- From Mr James Brydone.

Edinburgh, February 23, 1843.

In the meantime I decline interfering either one way or other.

JAS. BRYDONE.

18.—From Messrs Stevenson and Company.

We agree with the general principle of the above Resolutions.

Stevenson & Co.

19.—From Mr Andrew Turnbull.

317, High Street.

These Resolutions have my unqualified approbation, and I will adhere to them, along with my brethren in the Trade.

ANDREW TURNBULL.

20.-From Mr John Elder.

I most cordially agree with the above Resolutions.—I am, &c.,

JOHN ELDER.

21.—From Messrs Anderson and Bryce.

Provided the Trade act on the above Resolutions, we bind ourselves to the same.

Anderson & Bryce.

22.—From Mr WALTER DUNN.

I entirely concur with the above Resolutions, and have acted accordingly during life.

W. Dunn,

For G. W. Boyd & Co.

23.—From Mr George Moir.

I hereby agree to the above Resolutions. GEO. Moir.

24.—From Mr George Murdoch.

I agree to the above Resolutions.

GEO. MURDOCH.

25.—From Messrs T. & W. M'Dowall.

We agree to the above Resolutions, and will be glad to learn that they are generally agreed on by the trade.

T. & W. M'DOWALL.

ALATAN TON WORKING WE CAME A TO 26.—From Mr H. ARMOUR.

Buccleuch Street, December 26, 1842.

DEAR SIR,—I received this morning a Memorial addressed to Master Printers, thereby intimating that I was reckoned one, although I can hardly claim for myself that honour. I am one of those who have been compelled, from want of full employment as a journeyman, to do a little as a master. I have only one apprentice; but, should business increase, I pledge myself not to break through the Resolutions proposed in the Memorial.

Having been nearly forty years a journeyman, I am essentially one to the backbone; and, indeed, have never reckoned myself any thing else. -I am. &c. H. ARMOUR.

27.—From Mr James Burnet.

Edinburgh, 20th February 1843.

The first Resolution I decidedly disapprove of-as being contrary to my notion of justice to the rising generation. Nevertheless, I will practically adhere to it. The second Resolution is a most excellent one. JAMES BURNET.

28.—From Mr Peter Brown.

I shall be happy to act according to the above Resolutions, provided the rest of the Trade do the same. PETER BROWN.

29.—From Mr Thomas Constable.

11, Thistle Street, Feb. 20, 1843.

Mr. Constable declares his acquiescence in the Resolutions proposed in the Circular herewith returned.

30.—From Mr Andrew Murray.

1, Milne Square, February 20, 1843.

SIR,-I received, yesterday, through the deputation from the Printers of this city, your Circular of 10th inst., and my opinion having been requested, I beg to state that the number of apprentices, in proportion to journeymen, is fully as many as I consider consistent with the interest of a master; that I have long thought, and from all that I have had an opportunity of observing, still decidedly believe, that a greater number of apprentices than that stated in your first Resolution, is, in the end, a positive loss, from various considerations; that the number I have at present is below your standard; that I have no idea of going above it, and that my own interest is the reason of my forming this resolution.

In reference to the second Resolution, I may say, that as it is highly reasonable, I do not think that any master who acts on the principle of doing to others as he would they should do to him, would act contrary to its spirit, or even to the letter, except in peculiar circumstances.

I may be allowed to state, in conclusion, that I do not enter at all here into the question of what is to be done with our youths, or yet with what is the right of a Master; these are questions on which there are various opinions, and these opinions are greatly influenced by the position of the party forming them.

I am firmly of opinion that whatever knits together a master and those under him, is the most profitable system ultimately, and certainly by far the most agreeable to a well-constituted mind.

With earnest wishes for a return of better times to our profession, I Aw. Murray. remain, &c.,

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31.—From Mrs John Glass.

I perfectly coincide in the principles mentioned above, and would be WM. GLASS, willing to abide by them. For Mrs JOHN GLASS.

32.-From Mr. ALEXANDER WALKER.

6, James's Court, 21st Feb. 1843.

Having been called for an answer to the Memorial of the Journeymen Printers to the Masters, it appears to me that the object of it, to a certain extent, would be impracticable, as boys are required for going messages, and for work in the warehouse, and according to the plan proposed A. WALKER, could not be put to the case. For JAMES WALKER.

33.-From Mr W. H. LIZARS.

7th March 1843.

I cannot return any other answer to the above queries, excepting that I would not take a single apprentice if I could get my journeymen to perform the work at such a price as I can afford to pay. W. H. LIZARS.

34.—From Mr ROBERT FAIRLY, Witness Office.

The first Resolution I am inclined to consider as affording a fair proportion of apprentices to journeymen for ordinary business-although my own experience teaches me that it is difficult to get all the messages in a newpaper office executed with the necessary promptitude by so small a number. I am at the same time no friend to the system of inundating the Trade with Apprentices, for the sake of profiting by their labours, and have no intention of exceeding the number stipulated in the Resolution. I cannot, however, see that the matter can be subjected to any fixed rule in the Trade-because, if all trades were to follow the same prohibitory or restrictive practice, there might be a considerable portion of the rising generation in the community placed beyond the means of learning a business by which they might be enabled to earn their bread by their industry.

To the second Resolution I most cordially assent.

ROBERT FAIRLY.

35.—From Messrs M. Anderson and Company.

We have no objections to the spirit of the above Resolutions. M. ANDERSON & Co.

36 .- From Messrs D. and W. MILLAR.

We never have had an apprentice, and don't intend ever having any. D. & W. MILLAR.

37 .- From Mr JOHN STEWART.

North British Advertiser Office, March 9, 1843.

Sir,-In reference to the Memorial of the Journeymen Printers, I beg to say, that I am decidedly opposed to any undue proportion of apprentices, and have uniformly acted in accordance with that opinion; yet, thinking as I do, that an absolutely fixed number of apprentices. while the quantity of the work is variable-might, in conceivable circumstances, injure rather than benefit the town, if not the profession generally, I am not at present disposed to pledge myself to abide by the number proposed, although it has never been, nor is it ever likely to be, exceeded in the North British Advertiser Office, while it remains under my management. [The above paper has now been in existence nearly seventeen years, and during that long period only one journeyman has been reared in the office, and he is still employed in it.]

In reference to turn-over apprentices, should I ever employ one, I will only do so on receiving the written consent of his previous employer.

Wishing you and the other gentlemen who are acting for the profession every success in your endeavours to ameliorate the condition of the members of our craft, I am, &c.,

Mr Robert Young, P., E. T. A.

38.—From Messrs H. and J. PILLANS.

7, James's Court, Edinburgh, 27th Feb. 1843.

Sir,-We have carefully perused the Memorial of the Journeymen Printers of Edinburgh, and must say that they have ably stated their case, which is sufficiently startling, and affords good ground for, at least, a gradual change of system on the part of the Masters. For our own part, we must acknowledge that circumstances have obliged us rather to exceed the number of apprentices recommended in the Memorial to be taken, partly owing to the parents of case apprentices grumbling sadly

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when their boys are kept too long devils, and not set to work; but in more auspicious times we shall be anxious to restrict the number. We shall be glad to understand that, in the meantime, the large offices are about to set us the example.—We are, &c.,

H. & J. PILLANS.

39.-From Mr JAMES Hogg.

116, Nicolson Street, January 7, 1843.

SIR,—The other day I received a Memorial addressed to the Master Printers, to which a request is appended, that an opinion on the subject be sent to you. As I have some doubts whether it was intended that such mushrooms as I should have received a copy of this document, I had some thoughts that no answer was called for from me, on the ground that it was inconsistent to ask co-operation from those who are denounced as the cause of all the evils attending the trade. The Memorial seems to be addressed exclusively to large respectable establishments, and not, I apprehend, to those who are designated "empirical experimenters." Had it not been that my silence on the subject might have been construed into an unwillingness to agree to the proposed terms, I would not have troubled you with this. I beg, however, to state, that I have never gone beyond the terms you propose with regard to Apprentices, and think your requests perfectly reasonable. But some of your respectables have done far more injury to the trade by the Apprentice-system than ever the mushrooms did, by the putting of their Apprentices on the half of their earning, and thus enticing them from those who had the trouble of learning them a little of their business-the places they left being, of course, supplied by others. Your respectables never hesitate to take them whether they bring a character with them or not, if they can work a little; this is all that is required; and in the event of a dullness in the business, they are by this mode of payment at no loss with them. Let the old system of payment be adopted, and there will be fewer Apprentices. This, to me, seems to be the root of the evil, and unless you turn your attention to it, the business will in a short time be inundated with Apprentices. These turn-overs should not be allowed to work as Journeymen, unless they are able to produce a certificate from every person by whom they have been employed, which, you are aware, is not the case at present.-I James Hogg. am, &c.,

40.-From Messrs STARK and COMPANY.

We shall be happy to act according to the above Resolutions—provided the rest of the Trade do the same.

STARK & Co.

VERBAL ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN:—

Mr White (Messrs Wallace and Co.)—Stated to the Deputation that he considered the Resolutions reasonable, and would act on the same.

Messrs Neill and Company—Think the limitation of Apprentices impracticable.

Messrs Lawrie and Company—Agree to act according to the Resolutions.

Mr GALL-Agrees.

SCOTSMAN OFFICE—Declines taking any part in it.

Mrs Reid-Agrees.

Mr TAIT—Would like a meeting of Masters before giving an opinion.

Mr Muirhead—Has always acted on the principles of the Resolutions.

Printing Company—Decidedly unfavourable—and the Deputation treated with the utmost contempt by Mr. Ritchie.

Mr RUTHVEN, Rose Street-Agrees.

Mr Paton, Stockbridge-Agrees.

EVENING POST—Unfavourable—cannot afford to employ Journeymen on the newspaper.

Messrs CLARKE and COMPANY-Agree.

Mr Tofts-Agrees.

Messrs Wilson-Agree.

Messrs Grant and Taylor-Agree.

Messrs Oliver and Boyd act on the principle of the Resolutions, no apprentice having been taken in during the last two years.

Mr Johnstone, Strichen's Close, promised to send an answer, which has not yet been received.

Mr Greig-Declines to answer.

OBSERVER OFFICE—No answer. The deputation received very uncourteously by Mr Murray.

Mr Thomson, Milne's Square-No answer.

Messrs M'PHERSON and SYME.—No answer.

Mr Colston, Rose Street-No answer.

Messrs Thornton and Collie—No answer.

Mr Forrester-Promised to send an answer.

LIST OF THE NUMBER OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES IN EDINBURGH.

| A STATE OF THE STA | CASE. | | PRESS. | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| LIST OF PRINTING-OFFICES. | Jour. | Apps. | Jour. | Apps. |
| BALLANTYNE & HUGHES', OLIVER & BOYD'S, JOHNSTONE'S, GALL & SON'S, BALFOUR & JACK'S, GLASS', HOGG'S, ARMOUR'S, H. PATON'S, WITNESS, HER MAJESTY'S LATE PRINTERS, TURNBULL'S, ANDERSON & BRYCE'S, STARK & INCHES, COURANT, NEILL & COMPANY'S, SHORTREDE'S, NORTH BRITISH ADVERTISER, MURDOCH'S, PILLANS', WALKEE'S, BOYD & COMPANY'S, LAWRIE'S, ANDERSON & COMPANY'S, GREIG'S, OBSERVER, CHAMBERS', MERCURY, SCOTSMAN, SMELLIE'S, ELDER'S, CHRONICLE, MYHERSON & SYME'S, CLARKE & COMPANY'S, MILLAR & COMPANY'S, MILLAR & COMPANY'S, MILLAR & COMPANY'S, MOULD & TODD'S, MILLAR & COMPANY'S, MOULD & TODD'S, MOU | 39 12 12 12 12 17 7 14 8 3 7 16 10 4 16 15 4 8 9 11 9 9 15 17 3 2 2 2 3 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 14 16 23 1 1 24 3 3 1 24 3 3 1 24 3 3 1 3 4 4 4 4 6 6 7 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 14 10 9 9 2 14 5 2 1 1 3 9 9 1 1 4 4 1 1 6 5 8 8 6 7 7 8 10 2 2 1 1 1 2 5 3 3 5 5 7 7 3 2 2 4 5 5 17 7 2 2 1 2 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 3 3 1 1 1 1 | 46 42 5 7 11 22 21 11 22 21 11 22 21 11 22 21 11 22 21 11 22 21 11 22 21 21 | 1 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 3 2 3 |

