

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF PRINTING IN DEVON.

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(Read at Ilfracombe, July, 1879.)

IN 1877 we celebrated, with fitting ceremonial and accessories, the completion of the fourth centennial period since the introduction of the art of printing into England. The exhibition of "antiquities, curiosities, and appliances connected with the art of printing" at South Kensington, excited a widespread interest in all matters connected with typography, and directed attention not only to its general history, but also to the details of its progress in its various branches throughout the land. Mr. W. H. Allnutt, assistant librarian at the Bodleian, read a paper upon "Printing and Printers in the Provincial Towns of England and Wales," at last year's meeting of the Library Association; in which he sketched the outlines of the extension of printing in the provinces down to the commencement of the present century, and thus laid the foundation of a far wider acquaintance with this particular department of the subject. Following up the same line of enquiry, I have sought to bring together a few notes on the history of the printing art in our own county, chiefly having regard to matters antecedent to the present century. They are of necessity fragmentary and incomplete; nor can it be expected, working in a field which has been so long neglected, and many of the associations of which are of so ephemeral a character, that we shall ever be able to arrive at more than approximate results. Still the leading features of the subject may be gleaned, and they include several points of peculiar interest.

The first book printed in English was the *Recuyell of the Historie of Troye*, which Caxton had translated from the French, but found it too tedious to reproduce in manuscript

to the extent desired. Hence, residing then in Bruges, he learnt the printer's art of Colard Mansion, the first printer there, and about 1474 committed the *Recuyell* to the press. Three years later, probably early in 1477, he settled at Westminster; and in that year produced the first English-printed volume in *The Dictes and Notable Wise Sayings of the Philosophers*, "Emprynted by me Wylliam Caxton at Westmestre, 1477."

It is one of the proofs we have that the reign of Richard III. was in many ways in advance of the times, that among Richard's first acts of Parliament was one inviting foreign printers to take up their residence in England. This Act remained in force for nearly three-quarters of a century, for it was not repealed till 1533, when the sale by retail of printed books brought from beyond sea was also prohibited. It is not unlikely that this step was dictated rather by considerations of the influence of the printing press on the theological controversies of the day, than by any commercial object. In this matter Elizabeth was only too ready to second Mary. In 1583 the practice of the art of printing was forbidden, except in London and the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge. With slight relaxation, but subject to continual evasion, thus the law remained until at the Restoration another Act limited the master printers in the kingdom to twenty, besides the King's and the University printers. Framed under Charles II., revived under the second James, this final restriction on the spread of the art continued in force until 1693, when the practice of printing in England first became really free.

Devonshire holds a very honourable place in the history of printing in this kingdom. It was the fifth county into which the art was introduced, its predecessors being Middlesex, Oxford, York, and Hertford. We owe this to the enterprise and zeal for learning of the monks of the Benedictine Abbey of Tavistock, who in that pleasant little town set up the eighth printing house England had seen. Theod. Rood and Hunte at Oxford in 1478 (this press stopped in 1485); an unknown "schoolmaster" printer at work in St. Albans from 1480 to 1486; John Lettou and William de Machlinia in London 1480-1485; F. Freez at York 1497 (?)—these were all contemporaries of Caxton; and Wynkin de Worde and Richard Pynson were his immediate successors. Tavistock—1525 or earlier—was thus the fifth town in England in which a printing press was established. Ipswich (Anthony Scolsker, John Overton, and John Oswen, commencing 1548); Wor-

cester (John Oswen, 1548); Canterbury (J. Mychell, 1549); * Norwich (Anthony de Solempne, 1568) and Cambridge; were the other English towns in which public printing presses were established up to the end of the sixteenth century. Nevertheless at the commencement of the seventeenth the only recognised presses in England were, as already stated, in London and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, though there were certainly private and illicit presses at work in various places. But beyond the great centre of commerce and the two chief seats of learning, up to this date no printer had been able to establish himself for more than a few years. And even so late as 1628 London had sixteen printers only.

We know hardly anything of the press of the Benedictines of Tavistock; and only two works from it now exist. Their titles are as follows:—

"The Boke of comfort called in laten | Boetius de consolatione philosophie | Translated in to englesse tonge | [by John Walton, Canon of Osney] Emprinted in the exempt monastery of Tauestok, in Denshyre, By me, Dan Thomas Rychard, monke of the sayd Monastery. | To the instant desire of the ryght Worshypful esquier, Mayster Robert Langdon. Anno D, MD xxv."

This is the title as given in the *Bibliotheca Cornubiensis*. The book is a quarto, very scarce. There are copies in the Bodleian and Exeter College Libraries. Langdon was of Keverell in St. Martin's by Looe, and "on the last page is an heraldic shield, with 'Robertus Langdon' underneath."

The other work is a copy of the old Stannary Laws:—

"Here folyth the Confirmation of the Charter perteynyng to all the tynners wythyn the Coūtey of Deuonshyre, with there Statutes also made at Crockeryntorre by the hole Assēt and Cōsent of al the sayd tynners Yn the yere of the reygne of our soueraygne Lord Kynge Henry viij., the secūd yere [1510]"

The imprint runs:

"Here endyth the statutes of the Stannary.—Imprinted yn Tauystoke y^e xx daye of August the yere of the reygne off our soueryne Lord Kynge Henry y^e viij., the xxvj yere God saue the Kynge [1534]"

The monks are also said to have printed a Saxon Grammar, called the *Long Grammar*, but there is no record of its having been seen. They must, however, have printed

* Stow gives the monks of St. Augustine, Canterbury, the credit of being the first introducers of the art there.

much more than the two fragments of their work now extant.

It is evident from the dates of these two volumes that the Tavistock press was certainly in operation from 1525 to 1534; and, as we may fairly assume that "Dan Thomas Rychard" our Devonshire Caxton, did plenty of other printing, the thought occurred to me that it was at least possible that Tavistock may have had the honour of printing the first English Bible—that of Coverdale, which was "fynished the fourth day of October, 1535." Mr. Stevens says, "after 300 years of active bibliographical research it is now generally acknowledged that it is not known where or by whom the volume was printed,"* and it would be something for Devonshire if we could settle the point in favour of Tavistock and its monks.

Tavistock Abbey was dissolved in 1539, and we have no record concerning the fate of its press; but it may be that a part of the materials passed into the hands of the Rev. John Williams of Exeter, who in his will, bearing date 6th May, 1567, says, "I give to Mr. Gregory Doodes [or Dodds, then Dean of Exeter] my little clock w^h I had of Sir W^m. Hearne dec^d parson of St. Petrocks and all such stuff as tooles concerning my Printing with the Matrice with the rest of my tooles concerning my press, I now give unto my cosen John Williams."†

But it was nearly a century at least before Devonshire had a public printing press. Mr. Allnutt in his "Notes on Printing and Printers in the Provincial Towns of England and Wales," cites three seventeenth-century printers for Exeter, "for T. Hunt, 1645; J. B., 1688; S. Darker, 1698." In the former year I find that one of the travelling presses of the Civil Wars was set up in Exeter, in the Royalist interest; and a proclamation of December 29th, 1645, but which must have been printed in the January ensuing, bears the imprint, "Imprinted at Exeter by Rob. Barker and John Bill, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty." Another broadsheet is dated at Exeter on the 20th September preceding. These I take it were the first fruits of professional printing in Exeter. The work printed "for T. Hunt," was Thomas Fuller's *Good Thoughts*.

Barker's was, however, only a casual press, and that Exeter then had no printer of its own is rendered tolerably clear by the fact that Fitz Geffrie's *Curse of Corne-horders* was printed in London in 1631, by J. B., for "Edward Dight

* Catalogue, Caxton Celebration.

† Dr. Oliver.

dwelling at Exeter." Dight we may assume was a bookseller, if not precisely what we understand by a publisher; but he was not the first of his craft in the ancient city; for Richard Carew's translation of the first five Cantos of Tasso's *Godfrey of Boulogne* was printed in London "by John Windet for Christopher Hunt of Exeter, 1594." This may have been an ancestor of T. Hunt of 1645, perhaps his father. The names of a couple of seventeenth-century Exeter booksellers are preserved by their trade tokens—Michael Hide, 1670, and Abisha Brocas, who was steward of the city in 1672, and Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* praises the number of booksellers' shops in the ancient city. There was a Walter Dight, bookseller in 1684; Osborne, and William Beare were in business in the same line in 1693: and one Charles Yeo in 1701.

The first trace of a resident printer in Exeter is, I think, to be found in the copy of a "Resolution, with the Advice of the Bishop of Exeter" for the beautifying of the chapel in the Castle of Exeter, printed in 1683. From that time onwards the city has never lacked a typographer. The speech of William of Orange to the gentlemen who came to join him at Exeter, November 15, 1688, was printed by one "J. B.;" but the first Exeter printer whose name is recorded in full, is Samuel Darker, already noted, and his earliest extant work is *Bread for the Poor*. In very few localities did printing spread so rapidly as in Exeter. In 1700, Darker was in partnership with Samuel Farley, who was very soon in business for himself, and printed Prince's *Worthies* in 1701. Farley also printed for "Phil. Bishop, at the Golden Bible, over against the Guild-Hall," in 1703; and in 1709 and 1713 for "M. and Phil. Yeo, Booksellers, in the High Street." His office in 1709 was "over against the New Inn." Bishop afterwards engaged in printing on his own account, for we have his imprint to works between 1707 and 1715 inclusive; and there was a Jos. Bliss, partner with Farley in 1708, and subsequently carrying on business independently, to whom the afterwards notable Andrew Brice was an apprentice. In 1708 Bliss had an office in the Exchange.

The name of Farley holds an honourable place in the history of printing in the West. The Farleys were originally, according to Dr. Oliver, from Hereford. We have seen that Samuel Farley was partner with Darker in 1700; and that he afterwards carried on business by himself, and in partnership with Bliss. In 1715, "S. Farley," probably the same, opened the first printing office at Salisbury. Then in 1723,

Samuel Farley started the *Exeter Journal*, afterwards conducted by Edward Farley; and soon afterwards removed to Bristol. There he took Felix Farley into partnership, and the paper so long known as *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* was started. In 1733, Felix Farley established the first printing office in Bath. Edward Farley continued in business in Exeter, and was at the "Shakespeare's Head, near East Gate" in 1735.

Nathaniel Butter's *Weekeley Newes*, 1622, is generally accepted as the first English newspaper. The first paper printed in an English provincial town was the *Mercurius Aulicus*, commenced at Oxford, January 1, 1642. This, however, was not a local paper, but the organ of the Court party; and followed the King when he left that city. No really local provincial journal was published in England until the *Norwich Postman* was started in 1706. Then followed:—* Worcester, 1709; * Nottingham, 1710; * Newcastle on Tyne, 1711; * Stamford, 1712; Liverpool, 1712; * Hereford, 1713; Exeter, 1714; Salisbury, 1715; York, 1715; Bristol, 1715; Canterbury, 1717; * Leeds, 1718; * Northampton, 1720; * Norwich, 1720; Plymouth, 1721; Chester, 1721; Gloucester, 1722; * Reading, 1723; Maidstone, 1725; * Ipswich, 1725; Derby, 1727; Manchester, 1730. Of the original pioneers of these dates there now remain ten; the towns being distinguished by a star.

It is to the enterprise of Bishop that we are indebted for the first newspaper of the West of England; the eighth established in the provinces, so far as we are now able to ascertain. The title of Bishop's paper was "The Exeter Mercury or Weekly Intelligencer of news being a faithful Abstract of all Newspapers of note containing the material Occurrences Foreign & Domestick; with a Particular Account of what Books & Pamphlets are Publish'd in Great Britain, France & Holland, &c. Friday Sept. 14, 1714. . . . Exon. Printed by Philip Bishop at his Printing Office in St. Peter's Churchyard, 1714—To be continued weekly. Price 1½d" *

Bishop did not have the field long to himself. In 1715, Bliss started *The Protestant Mercury or the Exeter Post Boy*; and five years later Andrew Brice, who had been advertised by Bliss as a runaway in the year the *Protestant Mercury* first saw the light, established *The Post Master or the Loyal*

* Dr. Oliver says that the *Mercury* was started by Samuel Farley in 1714, and disposed of in 1715 to Bishop; but the imprint appears to give Bishop the entire credit.

Mercury, "which was issued from his office at the head of the Serge market, that is to say, in the upper part of South Street. Three years later he removed over against St. Stephen's Church."*

Andrew Brice is the most notable figure among the West Country typographers of the last century. He was not only a printer, but an author. Born in Exeter in 1690, and originally intended for the Nonconformist ministry, he learnt the art of printing from Bliss, whom he unceremoniously deserted, but eventually established himself in the city. In 1740 he introduced printing into Cornwall, by setting up a press at Truro. In 1743 the Exeter firm was "A. and S. Brice," and in 1762 Andrew was carrying on business in Northgate Street. His oddity is well displayed in the title of one of his early productions:—

"Freedom: a Poem, Written in time of Recess from the rapacious Claws of Bailiffs, and devouring Fangs of Goalers. By Andrew Brice, Printer. To which is annexed the Authors Case. Exon 1730."

It was in 1756 that Brice commenced his *Grand Gazetteer*, a topographical dictionary of considerable importance and pretensions. Another of his works was the *Mobiad*, written in 1738, and published about 1770. In 1720 he commenced his *Post Master or the Loyal Mercury*, wielding a trenchant pen, and being continually in hot water. He died in 1773, having about eight years before his death given up his business to Barnaby Thorne, on condition of receiving two guineas weekly every Monday morning.

While Brice was publishing the *Weekly Journal*, a successor of the *Loyal Mercury*, he had in his office Andrews and Trewman (the latter an apprentice), who in 1763 founded the *Flying Post*, as *The Exeter Mercury*, in opposition to their late master. There seems to have been a very pretty quarrel, for Andrews and Trewman inserted this defence of their conduct in their columns:—"Both [Andrews and Trewman] lately living with Mr. Andrew Brice, the latter as an apprentice for 7 years, and with whom a Sum of Money as an Apprentice Fee was given; the former as a Journeyman for 14 years and a half—the last 6 years of which Time as an Overseer or Director in his Printing House, &c., and who for more than the said six years was made to believe by the said Mr. Brice, that he would decline Business, and give it to him or some Share therein long since. This was in consideration of his [Andrews] going to Plymouth to begin

* Mr. R. Dymond, F.S.A.

Business for himself, there being then no Printer there, from which Place a great deal of Work came to this City every Week, he having bought a Press, Letter Cases, and divers other Printing Materials for that purpose and having at the same Time above £50 owing to him as Wages."

"The leading Article," says Mr. Dymond, "proceeds to allege that Brice often repeated this promise 'in the most solemn manner with hands and eyes lift up to Heaven, and calling God to witness'—but on Andrews pressing for a settlement of accounts, he was discharged, and had the alternative of 'abandoning about £20 due for wages, and all claims for former promises, or of waiting the issue of a Chancery Suit with his former master, Mr. Brice, who might die before it was settled, leaving him to pay all expenses and lose his debt.' He continues the narrative of wrongs suffered at Brice's hands, but thinks they are not to be wondered at, considering the way in which Brice treated his own nephew, against whom he informed for printing some news on unstamped paper, and ends with a kind of threat to produce and publish some letters that will prove his statement. We gather from this *ex-parte* narrative that Brice may have been a somewhat arbitrary old man, but the case against him is not very strong in any important particular."*

It was the fashion in those days to attach the name of the proprietor of a paper to his journal. Thus The *Flying Post* became *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post*; and when, in 1772, the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* was started it took the well known name of Woolmer. These two papers are the only ones in Devon which have had a life of over a century. At the date of the Caxton celebration there were thirty-five provincial journals in existence of this respectable age (the oldest being *Berrow's Worcester Journal* (1709), and four metropolitan. At this time and long afterwards the Exeter newspapers had Devonshire entirely to themselves, their only competitor, but that was a formidable one, being the *Sherborne Mercury*, which was distributed throughout Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, by men on horseback, whose business was commonly called "Riding Sherborne." The same method was adopted by the *Flying Post*. "January 6, 1764, the printer apologises for the late delivery of his paper in Plymouth and Plymouth Dock owing to an accident. 'However, having now engaged a Person on whom we can depend to ride Express to *Plymouth*, those who shall please to encourage the Undertaking, by purchasing the said News-

* Mr. R. Dymond.

papers may rest assured of being served therewith for the future early every Friday morning. N.B. The Person engaged to ride between *Exeter* and *Plymouth*, sets out from Mr. Lazarus Parker's House, being the *Topsham Inn* in *Plymouth*, on his return to Exeter every Friday afternoon, where he arrives that night or early the next Morning, and will bring with him small parcels, &c., at reasonable Rates. Small Parcels for Plymouth are also taken at the Printing Office on reasonable Terms which will arrive in Plymouth some hours before the Post.' In the next paper, 13th January, the first part of this announcement is repeated with this addition,—'Presently on this, Mr. Spencer, Printer of *The Exeter Chronicle*, or, as it is fresh dubbed, *The Plymouth and Cornish Flying Gazette*, distributes a Number of Bills wherein he advises us to throw off our Mask and Disguise and upbraids us with assassinating his character in the Dark and acting unbecomingly the fair Trader,' &c., &c. The editor proceeds to ask if apologizing for late deliveries and promises of amendment is assassination, &c., and enquires whether it is consistent of a fair Trader to bribe a Woman 'who hawked Papers for us' to serve him instead—'For our parts we cannot reconcile these Proceedings with the *Man of Honour* however they may agree with a Preacher of Methodism.' *

Altogether there appears to have been a good deal of the Eatanswill element, founded on a personal basis, in the conduct of Exeter journalism a century ago. The Plymouth agent of the *Flying Post* was one Mr. Wallis, bookseller.

The *Flying Post* had many changes of name. Established as the *Exeter Mercury or West Country Advertiser*, it became on July 11, 1765, the *Exeter Evening Post or the West Country Advertiser*; July 25, *The Exeter Evening Post, or Plymouth and Cornish Courant*; and finally, in December, 1770, *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post, or Plymouth and Cornish Advertiser*.

Trewman was born in Exeter in 1738, and in November, 1765, became sole proprietor of the *Post*, when Andrews, so says Dr. Oliver, removed to Plymouth and became "partner with the predecessor of the late Mr. B. Haydon." I know of no trace of this partnership, but, on the contrary, I have seen a bill of about this date with the imprint of Haydon and Trewman. Andrews and Trewman were in Waterbeer Lane, Exeter, in 1764. Trewman wrote a history of Exeter, and other works, and died in 1802. Polwhele's *History of Devon* was printed at Exeter, by Trewman, the first volume appearing in 1797.

* Mr. R. Dymond.

There are still several other Exeter printers of the last century to note. J. Spencer, the printer of the *Exeter Chronicle*, has already been mentioned. He had an office in Gandy's Lane in 1762. Barnabas Thorn, who took over Brice's business, was in the book trade in Exeter certainly as early as 1751, and carried on the printing office with his son at least down to 1785, in which year R. Thorn printed Chapple's *Review of Risdon*. Aaron Tozer, bookseller, carried on business at the "Bible," a little below St. Martin's Lane, in the High Street, in 1727, and continued for many years. John Murch was "near the great Conduit" in 1715. E. Score was the publisher, if not the printer, of an Exeter book in 1740. Other early Exonian printers were James Lipscombe, Nathaniel Thorne, John Giles, Dyer, and Upham.

Annexed are the titles of all the publications connected with Exeter which I have been able to trace as printed before 1700:

"Godfray of Bvllloigne, or the Recouerie of Hiervsalem. An Heroicall Poeme, written in Italian by Seig. Torquato Tasso, and Translated into English by R[ichard] C[arew], Esquire; and now the First Part, containing Five Cantos, Imprinted in both Languages. London, Imprinted by John Windet for Christopher Hunt, of Exeter, 1594."

"The Curse of Corne-horders: with the blessing of reasonable selling. In three Sermons on Prov. ii. 26. Begun at the General Sessions for the County of Cornwall, held at Bodmyn, and continued at Fowy. By C. Fitz-Geffrie. Printed at London, by I. B., for Edward Dight, dwelling in Excester, 1631."

"A Copy of a Petition commended to the Peacemaking Association in the West, by Col^l Blake and Col^l Pyne, to be subscribed and presented by them to Sir Thomas Fairfax. Instead of subscription, they returned this brief and moderate answer, &c." 4to, Exeter, 1645.

"George Lord Goring Generall of all His Majesty's Forces of Horse that are or shall be raised in the kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales and Lieut. Generall to His Highnesse Prince Rupert of the Western Army."

Fol. single sheet, Exon, 20th September, 1645.

"By His Highnesse the Prince of Great Brittain, Duke of Cornwall and Albany, Highest Captain Generall of all His Majesties Forces raised and to be raised within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick, &c. A Proclamation for all Persons within Our Quarters in the County of Devon able to bear Arms not being otherwise im-

ployed by His Highnesse or dispenced withall, to attend his Highnesse now advancing in Person to meet the Rebels. As Also For a Generall Supplication to be made in all Churches of Devon and Exeter on Sunday the 4 of January for God's blessing on His Highnesse and his Forces. Given at our Court at Tavistoke the 29 of Decemb. 1645. Charles P. By his Highnesse Command in Councill. Rich. Fanshawe. Imprinted at Exeter by Rob. Barker and John Bill, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty." Fol. single page, 1645.

"Resolution, with the Advice of the Bishop of Exeter, to give for the Beautifying of the Chapel in the Castle of Exeter £10, and £6 yearly to any one whom the Bishop shall appoint, to read Divine Service, and to preach a Sermon, exhorting to obedience; in the said Chapel on the first day of the Sessions, to begin precisely at eight in the morning." Fol. Exeter, 1683.

"Speech of the Prince of Orange to some of the principal gentlemen of Somersetshire and Dorsetshire on their coming to joyn His Highness at Exeter 15 November 1688. Exeter: printed by J. B., 1688" (Broadside).

"The General Association of the Gentlemen of Devon, to his Highness the Prince of Orange." Fol. single page, Exon, 1688.

"Bread for the Poor; or a Method showing how the Poor of Exeter may be Maintained and duly provided for, in a far more plentiful and yet cheaper manner than they now are. [Darker.] Exeter, 1698."

"The Speech of Sir B. Shower at Exeter." Exeter, 1698.

D[aniel] Jordaine, who introduced printing into Plymouth in 1696, is believed to have been either of French birth, or of French descent, one of the old Huguenot stock which had settled in the town about the year 1686. There was, however, an Ignatius Jurdain, alderman of Exeter, who died in 1640, having been elected a member of the Corporation of that city in 1608, and who originally came from Lyme Regis. If Daniel was of this family he represented an earlier immigration; and probably as an Exeter man learnt his trade in that city. But this is mere speculation. We know nothing of Daniel Jordaine beyond the fact of his commencing business at Plymouth in 1696, and a single entry in the Corporation Records of payment to him for printing done. But before that time he had at least one competitor. Browne Willis states that when he visited Plymouth it had two printing houses which subsisted by printing of news (*circa* 1715); and

there are still remaining, the earliest relics of the Plymouth press, some numbers of the *Plymouth Weekly Journal, or General Post*, commenced in September, 1721, by E. Kent, of "Southside Street, near the New Key, where advertisements are taken in, and all other business relating to printing done as well and as cheap as in London or in any other place." The *Journal*, however, only lasted two years. Of Kent we have no further information, but Jordaine continued in business certainly up to 1733-34; for in that year the Corporation of Plymouth for the first time employed the press. "Paid Mr. Smithurst and Mr. Jordaine for stamps, paper, and printing the water leases (the printing whereof 40s.) £15 9s. 6d." I do not understand by this that Mr. Smithurst was a printer, but that he supplied the stamps and paper; and as Jordaine is stated to have been Plymouth's first printer, Kent was in all probability its second. Like Exeter, and most of the larger towns, Plymouth had booksellers long before printers. The tradesmen's tokens issued in the town show that in 1659 William Weeks carried on business there as a stationer; and about the same time had a competitor in one John Williams.

Plymouth appears to have been the fifteenth provincial centre which established a paper.

There must, I am inclined to think, be some error in the statement of Andrews and Trewman, in the *Flying Post*, that at some time shortly antecedent to 1763 there was no printer in Plymouth. My impression is that Plymouth Dock, now Devonport, must have been intended. If there were two printing offices in Plymouth in 1715, printing is not likely to have been extinguished in the town in the interim. I cannot trace the Plymouth press of this period down to a later date than *circa* 1734 or 1735; but there is no reason to imagine that there had been any break. R. Weatherley was printing in Plymouth in 1769—there is a theatre bill of his printing of 1774, dated "Nut Street," still in being; and I have lately seen a broadside by R. Trewman and B. Haydon, Pike Street, dated August, 1779. Ten years at least before this Haydon had been in business as a bookseller, and perhaps printer also. In Bayley's *Western and Midland Directory* for 1783, Plymouth is credited with one printer only—clearly a Haydon. "M. Haydon and Son," we find in 1791. In 1793 we have the imprint, "Haydon, Clarence Press," and a later form of the firm was Haydon, Cobley & Co. The family continued associated with printing in Plymouth until recent years. Another familiar name in connection with Plymouth typography is that of Nettleton—the founder of the business,

which was carried on for more than half a century, commencing it certainly as early as 1790.

The *Plymouth Magazine* started in 1770, but reached six numbers only. Collins, in 1772, issued the *Plymouth Magazine and Devonshire Miscellany*; and in 1780 the *Plymouth Chronicle* saw the light. Both were short lived, the latter dying in 1782. In 1781 the *Devon and Cornwall Magazine* was printed fortnightly by William Locke, of Plymouth, and A. Gray, of Dock.

In the first two decades of the present century Plymouth had, among other printers, Rees and Curtis, who published the second edition of Prince's *Worthies*, and the latest and best of Risdon; subsequently we find Haviland and Creagh, and Creagh and Curtis. Jenkins and Southwood were also of this period; and in 1813 Samuel Rowe (afterwards the Rev. S. Rowe), who had been apprenticed to Mr. Southwood, of Kingsbridge, commenced to build up out of an old established bookselling establishment, in Plymouth, a printing business which eventually became very prolific, and from which issued his own important work, the *Perambulation of Dartmoor*.

No printer is to be traced in Devonport further back than 1770. In 1781 we have A. Gray, of Dock, concerned in the *Plymouth Magazine*; but the publications of the Devonport press are all of an ephemeral character until we come to the first local guide, printed by Hoxland, in 1791. This firm subsequently became that of Hoxland and Coleman; and then that of Coleman only. J. Heydon was in business at Devonport in 1799, and we find the names of Philp and Johns as printers there in the first dozen years of the century; and likewise that of Lazarus Congdon, who, in 1808, established the first Dock newspaper—the *Plymouth and Dock Telegraph*. Later comes that of Byers, the founder of the *Devonport Independent*. The most important production of the Devonport press, C. S. Gilbert's *History of Cornwall*, was printed by Congdon and Hearle.

I cannot find an earlier name in connection with printing in the third of the sister towns, Stonehouse, than Gray, 1816.

So far as we have any evidence, Millbrook, then and for nigh six score years subsequently in Devon, now in Cornwall, was the fourth place in Devon into which the printing art was introduced. A copy of the following handbill is still extant (*penes* Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, F.S.A., to whom I am indebted

for the information). John Jordaine, the printer, was, we may fairly assume, a son of Daniel, the first Plymouth typographer.

This is to give Notice

To all Gentlemen Seamen, and Able-bodied Landmen that are willing to serve on Board the *BARNARD* Privateer, WILLIAM SHEPHARD Commander, Burthen One Hundred and Thirty Tons, now lying at *Dartmouth*, (quite New, taken from the French,) Fourteen Carriage Guns, Four Pounders, and Fourteen Swivels with Ninety Men: Let them repair forthwith to the *New Inn* at *Dartmouth*, where they will be kindly received and paid Advance Money before they proceed to Sea,

Five Pounds Five Shillings to a Seaman

Three Pounds Three Shillings to a Landman

One Pound Eleven Shillings and Six-pence to Boys
Shou'd any Officer, Man, or Boy be Slain in Action, their Wives or Friends to be paid Twenty Pounds; or in Case of loosing a Limb, they will be Intitled to the Merchants Hospital, and have Ten Pounds Smart Money

Millbrook: Printed by *John Jordaine*, 1756.

There does not appear to be any other example of *Millbrook* typography extant, and it is not likely that Jordaine long continued to practise his art there.

Mr. Allnutt credits Tiverton with the possession of a printing press in 1730; but if so there can be little doubt that it did not continue in operation many years. Indeed its existence is, I think, open to considerable question. Mr. Davidson, in the *Bibliotheca Devoniensis*, records the existence of a printed copy of *Rules for the Court held in the Hospital of Tiverton*, under this date, but in all probability this was printed elsewhere. There is certainly negative evidence of the non-existence of a printing office in Tiverton in 1731, in the fact that an account of the great fire in Tiverton of that year, written by the Rev. S. Smith, head master of Blundell's School, was printed in London; and this was the case with the Rev. W. Daddo's *Tiverton Woolcomber's Defence*, printed in 1750.* However it could not have been many years after this date that the hiatus was filled up. The two oldest existing Tiverton printers, Mr. Meade and Mr. Parkhouse,

* I am indebted to Mr. H. S. Gill for these and other suggestions.

both succeeded to businesses carried on by their fathers, Henry Mead and Theodore Parkhouse, and their recollection carries them back to the days of the old inking balls and wooden press. Mr. Parkhouse also thinks that his grandfather John was a printer; and Martin Dunsford in his *History of Tiverton*, under date 1771, mentions Philip Parkhouse as an eminent bookseller there.

In all probability the centenary of Totnes printing is past. Walter Cleave is the first Totnesian printer whose name is recorded, and he was succeeded in turn by printers named Fisher and Dyer. Some of the original founts of type used by them are still in existence, being kept as curiosities. William Hannaford has been accredited as the first typographer of Totnes; but Mr. Theodore Hannaford, his grandson, to whom I am much indebted for the material of this note, tells me that his grandfather was a schoolmaster, who carried on also the business of a bookseller and a stationer. His son and successor in business, however, set up as a printer early in the present century; and was eventually succeeded in 1849 by his nephew, Mr. Theodore Hannaford, my informant, by whom in 1860 the *Totnes Times* was started, now carried on by his nephews, Messrs. Theodore and Albert Mortimore. Contemporary with George Dyer, already mentioned, was Thomas Daw, and he was followed by George Daw, of Modbury. Dyer was succeeded by Samuel Hannaford, who was no connection of the other Hannafords, and who, though not brought up to the business, and never aspiring to any but the old-fashioned wooden press, was a very tasteful printer. His present successor is Mr. Henry Toms, in whom the pedigree of Totnes printers is complete in direct and unbroken succession from Cleave, and to whom descended the ancient wooden press, bearing the names of his early predecessors.

The Barnstaple press may claim an antiquity of nearly if not quite a century. Barnstaple's first printer was Fidelio Murch, who established himself there in the latter half of the last century. Mr. Avery, the present Mayor of Barnstaple, to whom I am indebted for my information, cannot fix the exact year; but a Mr. Sytle, whom he knew, commenced business at Barnstaple in 1795, in conjunction with a Mr. Searle (whose son is in business in Barnstaple still) and Murch had been in business many years before Sytle. The oldest newspaper, not merely in Barnstaple, but

in the North of Devon, was established by Mr. Avery's father, July 2, 1824—the *North Devon Journal*, in which Mr. Avery has succeeded him.

Dartmouth does not supply much information, and the date of the introduction of printing into that quaint and sometime busy little port is unknown. The earliest printer of whom I can find any record there was named Jackson, and there is a notice of his printing still extant, dated 1799. Dartmouth was such a thriving port in the latter half of the eighteenth century that probably the art was introduced some years earlier than this, though it is unlikely that it could have been practised there in 1756, when John Jordaine, of Millbrook, printed the notice to privateersmen already quoted. For nearly three score years and ten printing has been carried on in Dartmouth by the Messrs. Cranford, the grandfather of Mr. R. Cranford having added it to his other business of a Bristol merchant in 1810. It was by Mr. Cranford that the *Dartmouth and Brixham Chronicle* was started, in 1853.

The mere dating of a book from any place is no proof whatever that it was printed there, for publication and printing are two distinct things. There is yet extant a quarto. "*Sowton: a Village Conference; occasioned by a late Law Decision.* By a Journeyman Woolcomber (C. Jones), Crediton, 1775."† This, however, is utterly misleading. Printing was not known in Crediton until at least twenty years afterwards. It was, as Mr. Edwards kindly informs me from living testimony, about 80 years ago that a Mr. Winter introduced the art there, and practised it for many years.

Tavistock had its first public printer about the same time. The first modern printing press in that town was set up by Mr. Chave (whose son still carries on the business) in 1797; and a Mr. Simmons, who was Mr. Chave's first apprentice, was the first printer in Okehampton.

Torrington is another Devonshire town in which printing dates back to the eighteenth century. Mr. Doe kindly informs me that Mr. Squance carried on the business there in the latter part of the last and beginning of the present cen-

† Probably it was this that led the Rev. H. Cotton in his *Typographical Gazetteer* to credit Crediton with a printing press at this date.

ture; and that it is very unlikely Torrington had a printer before him. He was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Fowler.

Kingsbridge is doubtful. A printer named Southwood, who served his time in Plymouth, was in full business activity there some seventy years since, and he was preceded by one named Denner, but at what date it does not now seem possible to ascertain. Mr. C. Fox, who kindly aided me here, could glean nothing further.

I have not been able to ascertain that a printing press had been set up in any other Devonshire town than those enumerated prior to the commencement of the present century. Mr. Allnutt, on the authority of Mr. Cotton, gives 1789 as the date for South Molton, but I cannot trace printing there to anything like that date. Probably the belief here also arose from the erroneous ascription of an imprint.

It is very probable that the revival of ordinary trade—after the diversion caused by the long-protracted French war, which was brought to a close at Waterloo, and the subsequent stagnation ere the current again began to flow in its proper channels—led to the extension of the art of printing in many Devonshire localities where it had been till then unknown. There are several towns, hitherto unnamed, into which printing was introduced during the first three decades of the present century, though evidence as to the exact date is in most cases difficult to obtain. It does not follow on the one hand, as already pointed out, that because a book or pamphlet bears the imprint of a certain town it was printed there; nor on the other can we fairly assume that the earliest dated publication extant of any locality marks the actual period of the introduction of printing therein. The first fruits of a local press are almost universally of an ephemeral character.

Among the places which may be credited with the possession of printing offices at least fifty years ago, with the dates of works produced there which are still extant, are, Teignmouth (E. Croydon, 1806), Sidmouth (1810), Ashburton (Howe, 1825), Newton Abbot (Forord, 1830), Exmouth (1824), Honiton; Bideford (1829), Axminster (1814), Colyton (1826), Modbury (which had a bookseller named Tozer in 1769).

Printing was introduced into Torquay by an amateur. The Rev. Mr. Fayle, incumbent of Trinity Church, brought from Somerset a schoolmaster named Lane, and he was the first who practised the printing art within the rising watering

place. Not only did he print, but he tried his hand at casting types, though his efforts in that direction were not marked by any great success. The earliest professional printers in Torquay were Messrs. Cockrem and Elliott, who established an office there about 1834. Mr. Cockrem had served his time at Totnes, with Mr. Hannaford; and Mr. Elliott his at Plymouth Dock (Devonport), with Mr. Congdon.

A few general and miscellaneous notes may fitly bring this brief and imperfect sketch to a close. And first with regard to the allied arts of engraving and lithography.

Exeter was unquestionably the first place in the county in which engraving was practised as a business; and the first engraver in Exeter, and in Devon, was E. A. Ezekiel. He was a man of considerable ability, as his engraved title to Martin Dunsford's *History of Tiverton* shows. He did not, however, do the illustrations to that work, which was printed in Exeter, in 1790, by T. Brice. Ezekiel, who was born in Exeter in 1757, and was self-taught, etched several clever portraits, and died in 1806. Five years before his death the old city had given birth to the greatest engraver of the West of England—Samuel Cousins, born in 1801, and apprenticed to Reynolds, a prolific, able artist.

Very spirited and artistic etchings were executed early in the present century by T. H. Williams, of Plymouth, the earliest of which are included in the *Picturesque Excursions*, commenced in 1801. The etchings for Carrington's *Dartmoor*, by P. H. Rogers, are also noteworthy.

George Banks, F.L.S., of Devonport, was an engraver of considerable skill, and his botanical illustrations have rarely been excelled for their fidelity and finish.

Lithography, invented by Senefelder about the year 1795, and introduced into London in 1800 or 1801, but not permanently established or successfully practised in this country until many years later, so far as Devon is concerned, had its earliest connection with Plymouth. The first Devonshire book with which I am acquainted which possesses lithographic illustrations, is Hennah's *Lime Rocks of Plymouth*, circa 1821–2, the drawings for which were made on the stone by Henry Worsley, of Plymouth.

Stereotyping, too, was first practised in the county at Plymouth, where it is now regularly carried on in connection both with ordinary printing and with newspapers—the first daily paper in the county being established in that town.

The printers of Devon have contributed their quota of

worthies to maintain the fame of the county. Several, like Brice and Trewman, have engaged in authorship; others, like Besley, Pardon, and Kent, have taken prominent positions in the metropolis. Sir William Mitchell, the founder of the *Shipping Gazette*, began life as a printer's apprentice at Modbury. Samuel Phelps, the actor, ran away from his apprenticeship with Mr. Manicom, a printer at Devonport.

It is difficult to cite with absolute precision the number of printing offices in the county now; but the recently published directories afford materials for an approximate estimate. Including all branches of the printing art—engraving and lithography as well as letter-press—it would appear that at the present moment there are between 160 and 170 printing establishments in the county. Of these, Plymouth possesses the larger number, about 36; Exeter is some 10 short of this total—26; Torquay has 16; Devonport, 14; Barnstaple, 12; and none of the others reach 5 save Teignmouth, Kingsbridge, Newton, and Tiverton. The art is practised in no fewer than 39 of our towns and villages; and in seven of these engraving and lithography are also carried on; there being altogether about 20 establishments devoted wholly or in part to these branches.