CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Printing and Publishing History

The interface between authors and their readers is a fascinating subject in its own right, revealing a great deal about social attitudes, technological progress, aesthetic values, fashionable interests, political positions, economic constraints, and individual personalities. This part of the Cambridge Library Collection reissues classic studies in the area of printing and publishing history that shed light on developments in typography and book design, printing and binding, the rise and fall of publishing houses and periodicals, and the roles of authors and illustrators. It documents the ebb and flow of the book trade supplying a wide range of customers with products from almanacs to novels, bibles to erotica, and poetry to statistics.

Annals of a Publishing House

Annals of a Publishing House contains the early history of the influential Scottish publishing house, William Blackwood and Sons. From small beginnings, the firm had rapidly become the leading Scottish publishing house, dominating the literary world, particularly through *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*. Owing to the death of Mrs Oliphant, the commissioned author, Volume 3 was written by Mary Porter, daughter of John Blackwood, sixth son of the founder, and covers his career. Beginning as head of the new London branch, he assumed control of the firm on the death of his uncle Robert in 1852. He reorganised the firm and added its prominence. He formed working relationships with many of the leading Victorian writers, including Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot, Edward Bulwer Lytton and Thomas Hardy. He expanded the firm's output to include travel writers such as Burton on India and Speke on the search for the source of the Nile.

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter <u>More information</u>

> Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter More information

Annals of a Publishing House

Volume 3: John Blackwood

Mary Blackwood Porter



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paolo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108021418

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1898 This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02141-8 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter More information

THE

PUBLISHING HOUSE

oF

BLACKWOOD

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter More information



the Blackame

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter <u>More information</u>

Annals of a Publishing House

JOHN BLACKWOOD

BY

HIS DAUGHTER MRS GERALD PORTER

THE THIRD VOLUME OF WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND HIS SONS THEIR MAGAZINE AND FRIENDS

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS EDINBURGH AND LONDON MDCCCXCVIII

All Rights reserved

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter <u>More information</u>

INTRODUCTION.

In the preceding volumes have been given the history of the founding of 'Blackwood's Magazine' and the publishing house by William Blackwood, and the story of the life and work of himself and of the sons who immediately succeeded him. In this volume it was the intention of their late lamented biographer, Mrs Oliphant, to trace the life and work of John Blackwood, the youngest of the sons to follow their father's profession, and the one to whom was granted a longer span of life in which to develop the talents and industry that distinguished them all. His association with most of the best known writers of our day has invested his name with a special interest, which his nephew and surviving partner, William Blackwood, has thought demanded a more detailed account of his life and work and of the many happy social relations which subsisted between him and his contributors.

vi

INTRODUCTION.

The able and graceful pen which should have furnished this memoir is, alas! laid aside for ever, and the task has fallen to her who was to have aided Mrs Oliphant, by supplying a daughter's recollections of the years spent in daily companionship with the subject of the narrative, and whose knowledge of his character and aims has grown with her life.

MARY PORTER.

3 RANDOLPH CRESCENT, EDINBURGH, September 1898. Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter More information

CONTENTS OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE OF JOHN BLACKWOOD.

School and college days—First political fight—"The grand tour"— Rome—Established in Pall Mall—Friendship with John Delane —An ever-widening circle of contributors—Recalled to Edinburgh —Becomes Editor of 'Blackwood'—Literary society in Edinburgh —William Edmondstoune Aytoun—"Bon Gaultier"—A facetious sheriff—St Andrews in the "fifties"—John Blackwood's marriage —Professor Blackie—Rev. James White—A memorable day with Tennyson—Colonel Hamley at Leith Fort—Thackeray's visit

1

PAGE

CHAPTER II.

GEORGE ELIOT'S EARLY NOVELS.

G. H. Lewes sends the MS. of 'Scenes of Clerical Life'—The work of a diffident author—Thackeray and Albert Smith—The "Monarch of Mountains"—Acute criticism of the 'Scenes' by Charles Dickens—John Blackwood's first meeting with George Eliot— His criticism of 'Adam Bede'—A "popular" as well as "great" author—'Mill on the Floss'—'Silas Marner'—Friendship with Publisher—Speke and Grant—Death of Major William Blackwood

37

CHAPTER III.

EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

John Blackwood assumes his nephew William as a partner—Tennyson and his critics—Sir Richard Burton—Writers of travel connected with the House—The Editor's life in London—Meetings

viii

CONTENTS.

with Thackeray, George Eliot, and Hamley - Three literary brothers-Rev. W. Lucas Collins-A visit to Oxford-Mrs Oliphant-David Wingate, the collier poet-The 'Chronicles of Carlingford'-The Count de Montalembert's visit-The later works of Bulwer Lytton - Anonymous publication of 'The Coming Race' and 'Parisians'- 'Romola'- Disastrous result of editorial civility. .

58

CHAPTER IV.

A. W. KINGLAKE AND 'THE INVASION OF THE CRIMEA.'

"Going to be a wonderful book"-Excitement caused by the first volume-With Aytoun and Hamley at Ascot-Return of Captain Speke-The African traveller's sorrows as a literary man-Death of Thackeray-John Blackwood's affection for "Old Thack."-Kinglake's ingenious method of declining suggestions-Gladstone on the Homeric theology-The historian revisits the Crimea-General Todleben and Kotzebue-Kinglake's opinion of George Eliot and Mrs Oliphant-Sir William Harcourt an ecclesiastical authority

88

CHAPTER V.

LAURENCE OLIPHANT.

A stormy petrel-The Schleswig-Holstein war-"In tremendous hot water"-An evening at the Cosmopolitan-'The Owl'-"A superstition about being constant to 'Maga'" - Captain Speke and Captain Grant-Death of Speke-The success of 'Piccadilly'-The prophet Harris-Work in America-'Times' correspondent in Paris-American war-'Maga's' attitude-Her war correspondents-Colonel Von Borcke-The death of Aytoun -Biography by Sir Theodore Martin-The Editor's retrospect 119

CHAPTER VI.

THE EDITORIAL SANCTUM.

Rev. G. R. Gleig-John Blackwood's mode of guiding his contributors -- Politics in the "sixties" -- Banquet to Disraeli in Edinburgh-George Eliot's return to her first friend with 'Felix Holt'-Miss E. J. Hasell-Miss Anne Mozley-Criticism on J. S.

CONTENTS.

Mill—'Gravenhurst'—The Editor at home—Henry Stephens— Sunday visits—John Hill Burton—"Shirley" and the Hermitage of Braid—Lord Neaves—The upmaking of the Magazine—Lord John Manners—Disraeli's first Government

CHAPTER VII.

STRATHTYRUM.

CHAPTER VIII.

CHARLES LEVER.

First overture from "Harry Lorrequer"—Editorial doubts—How he wrote his books—"Go ahead in your own fashion"—'Tony Butler'—Death of young Lever—A growing friendship—Cornelius O'Dowd—Death of Thackeray—"No more mistery"—A French adventurer—Novel suggestion for extinguishing literary talent — Vagaries of the post-office — 'Tony Butler' at St Martin's-le-Grand—Garibaldi-worship — O'Dowd's tribute to Garibaldi—Whately and the bread fungus—Medicinal properties of the Editor's letters—First meeting with Lever—Introduced to the Blackwood group—A golfer on Garibaldi—John Blackwood and his family visit Lever at Trieste—The last evening—Death of Lever

224

CHAPTER IX.

"THE MILITARY STAFF OF BLACKWOOD."

Sir Edward Hamley—'Operations of War'—'Our Poor Relations'— 'Shakespeare's Funeral'—'Voltaire'—General William Hamley

148

x

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER X.

THE EDITOR ABROAD.

With Laurence Oliphant in Paris—An astonishing and exciting life —Mr Frederic Marshall—M. de Blowitz—Mr Simpson's illness— Mr Rudolph Lindau—Mr P. G. Hamerton—At the Japanese Legation—Shakespearean reading at Sir Theodore Martin's— Tennyson—Lord Cranbrook—Mr Herbert Cowell—Mrs Oliphant as a literary god-mother—Rome again—W. W. Story, sculptor and poet—The Palazzo Barberini—Miss Brewster—An original view as to the cause of the potato disease—A golf caddie's art criticism—Homeward bound

304

CHAPTER XI.

MRS OLIPHANT AND NEW RECRUITS.

Mrs Oliphant: Her long services to the Magazine-Early sorrows-'Carlingford' series-'Historical Sketches'-Article on Charles Dickens-Review of Prince Consort's life-'Valentine and his Brother'-Admiration for her biographical powers-Personal recollections — Garden party at Magna Charta Island. Mrs Walford : 'Mr Smith'—'Pauline.' Miss Butt : An early success - 'Miss Molly.' The Gerards (Madame de Laszowska and Dorothea Gerard): The Editor's praise of 'Reata'-1400 pages of MS. Anthony Trollope : A literary secret-'Nina Balatka' and 'Linda Tressel'-'Cæsar's Commentaries'-A birthday present -'John Caldigate.' R. D. Blackmore : First interview-'Maid of Sker'-Burns and the reviewers-'Alice Lorraine'-'Sixty Years Ago.' Charles Reade : 'The Woman-Hater'-Editorial qualms-Author's replies-Justification of Zoe-Æsculapius-The "lady" doctors. Death of Alex. Russel of the 'Scotsman'-Pleasure in making Reade's acquaintance-Editorial satisfaction -Another friend in the world .

335

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XII.

GEORGE ELIOT'S LATER WORKS.

'The Spanish Gypsy'—"Felix Holt's Address to Working Men"— Disraeli in Edinburgh—Holidays abroad—George Eliot in Rome —Other poems—A fresh epoch—'Middlemarch' published in bimonthly parts—Discouragement while writing—Stimulating effect of John Blackwood's letters—Death of Lord Lytton (Bulwer)— George Eliot's praise of 'Kenelm Chillingly'—Success of 'Middlemarch'—A new novel—John Blackwood's first perusal of 'Daniel Deronda'—Personal recollections of, and visits to, George Eliot —A trusty messenger—A startling inquiry—Salvini as Othello —Sir W. Fergusson—John Blackwood's criticisms on 'Deronda' —A new device in reporting a conversation—The tribe of Israel —Objects of the book—Its popularity—Success in America— Death of G. H. Lewes—'Theophrastus Such'

375

CHAPTER XIII.

LAST YEARS.

| "Ancient Classics for English Readers"-"Skilled labour" at a popu- | |
|--|-------------|
| lar price—Anthony Trollope's 'Cæsar'—Sir Theodore Martin's | |
| 'Horace'-Lord Neaves and 'The Greek Anthology'-A grati- | |
| fying compliment—Death of Samuel Warren—"How John was | |
| drilled "-The Duke and Duchess of Rutland-Before the Copy- | |
| right Commission—International copyright the greatest boon to | |
| authors and to literature-A retrospect-The early makers of | |
| the Magazine Their successors A power in the publishing | |
| world and a friend to authors-His methods-Finds the public | |
| "a most excellent beast in the main"—His last game of golf— | |
| Illness-Strathtyrum-Autumn days and sadness-Death-Some | |
| tributes | 40 0 |
| | |

INDEX .

© in this web service Cambridge University Press

www.cambridge.org

427

xi

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-02141-8 - Annals of a Publishing House, Volume 3 Mary Blackwood Porter Frontmatter More information

PLATES.

| JOHN BLACKWOO | D. | | | | • | | | Frontispiece | | |
|--|----|--|---|---|---|--|--|------------------------|--|--|
| From a photograph taken at Rome. | | | | | | | | | | |
| JOHN BLACKWOO | D. | | • | • | | | | To face p. 182 | | |
| From a photograph by Rodger, St Andrews. | | | | | | | | | | |
| STRATHTYRUM | | | | • | • | | | <i>To face p</i> . 218 | | |
| From a water-colour by Frier. | | | | | | | | | | |

© in this web service Cambridge University Press