

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## 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.

### **Random Recollections of an Old Publisher**

William Tinsley (1830–1900) was a noted Victorian publisher whose catalogue included works by such celebrated novelists as Thomas Hardy and Wilkie Collins. This two-volume autobiography, first published in 1900, traces his life from his rural childhood to the establishment and rise of the Tinsley Brothers company in 1858, and its later collapse. Each chapter contains a series of brief sketches of authors and other contemporaries. Volume 1 spans Tinsley's early days and travels to London, along with his first encounters with the publishing world. It includes detailed portraits of Mary Elizabeth Braddon and H.J. Byron, and incorporates material on the development of transport and general commerce in the Victorian era. Based on Tinsley's personal recollections, and incorporating letters as well as anecdotal information, these volumes will fascinate anyone interested in the history of publishing and the development of the nineteenth-century novel.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

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

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# Random Recollections of an Old Publisher

VOLUME 1

WILLIAM TINSLEY



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1  
William Tinsley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

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

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108009249](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108009249)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1900  
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00924-9 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

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

*VOLUME I*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



*In the path of  
William Tinsley*

*Lithography*

*Printed in Paris*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

## OF AN OLD PUBLISHER

WILLIAM TINSLEY

“I ran it through, even from my boyish days.”

*WITH PORTRAIT OF THE AUTHOR*

IN TWO VOLUMES — VOLUME I

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & Co., LTD

—

BOURNEMOUTH:

BRIGHT'S, LTD., THE ARCADE.

—

*(All Rights Reserved)*

MDCCC

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## DEDICATION

MY Publishers desire me to write a dedication to these volumes. I willingly do so ; for even in my old age I have more than a round dozen of staunch old friends, who never pass me by without a hearty shake of hands and good wishes. To all of you, my dear old friends, I humbly dedicate these memory sketches, with all the earnest love possible.

BILL TINSLEY.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFATORY NOTE

THE reader will see at once that the following very random recollections are much as they are named on the title page. I make no pretence at writing history, or of being a literary man, but I hope some of my anecdotes and statements are interesting. And I certainly hope the matter will give the reader as much pleasure to read as it has given me to write. I take blame for all errors in the work. At the same time, I must thank my daughter, Lily Tinsley, who has done her best to correct some of my numerous faults in diction.

WILLIAM TINSLEY.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I

	PAGE
the Fighting Man—Our Terror of Night Poachers— Poachers and their Cunning—A Noted Poacher, afterwards Gamekeeper—His Lordship of the Harvest —Two Curious Old Wood Turners     ...     ...	26-41

## CHAPTER III

Thomas and Robert Cooper, and Jacob Holyoake, at the John Street Institution—Thomas Cooper's Lectures on Napoleon and Wellington—Fergus O'Connor—Mr. Creswick and Mr. Mulready, the Artists in the Grove, Notting Hill—Book Hunting and Publishing—Early Play Going—My Brother Edward—Authors I Published For—Our Giant Novelists—Interesting Pictures in Fiction—Miss Braddon and her Books—The Opposition to Three- Volume Fiction—Lady Audley's Secret—The Ruinous Library Company, Limited—John Maxwell—Magazine Pictures Then and Now     ...     ...	42-63
---	-------

## CHAPTER IV

Mr. Mudie and the Library Company—Hookham's Old Library—Some of the old Lending Librarians— A young Librarian's Jokes—Mr. John Morley, his First Book, and his Excellent Aid with Proofs—Mr. John Heneage Jesse—The Hannah Lightfoot Mys- tery—"Guy Livingstone" and "Ouida"     ...	64-85
---	-------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)CONTENTS OF VOLUME I xiCHAPTER V PAGE

Joseph Hatton the Novelist—Four Noted Naturalists, Frank Buckland, Francis Francis, Edward Lee, J. B. Tegetmeier—Buckland's Books—Felix and Mrs. Whitehurst—The Mystery of Authorship—"The Author of Blue Blazes"—Mrs. J. Riddell's "A Race for Wealth"—An Interesting Speculation Nipped in the Bud—The two James Willings, Father and Son—James Payn, his Work and Good Business Qualifications ... ..	86-109
--	--------

## CHAPTER VI

Harrison Ainsworth and his novel, "Jack Sheppard"—John Cordy Jeaffreson—The Hon. Mrs. Norton and her Ancestors, the Sheridans—Wilkie Collins—Our Difference of Opinion on a Trade Question—"The Woman in White," and "The Moonstone"—Bill Hill as the Butler—The Right Hon. W. H. Smith—His Father's wonderful Energy in Business—My dispute with Mr. W. H. Smith and Mr. W. Lethbridge, and how it ended—The heads of the departments at W. H. Smith and Son's—Mr. Wm. Faux, the Librarian—No resemblance between Sir Joseph Porter and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith—Thomas Hardy's first Fictions—Mrs. Henry Wood—"East Lynne" and <i>The Times</i> notice of the Book—Mr. Charles Wood's wonderful Belief in his mother's Books ...	110-133
--	---------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I

## CHAPTER VII

PAGE

Mr. George Meredith—A Day with him at Box Hill—The Partnership between Edmund Yates and Mrs. Hoey in Novel Writing—How I was Deceived—Publishers' Modes of Dealing with Authors of known Merit and Trade Worth—Novels of which Mrs. Hoey was part Author—Captain, afterwards Sir Richard Burton, as I knew him in about 1860—Burton's very indifferent Religious Faith—A rare Traveller and Bohemian—A Book by Mrs. Burton Destroyed—Captain Burton's Books and their Value—Burton's Dedication in "Wanderings in West Africa"—The Burtons at Damascus—Lady Burton's strange Statements about Money Payments to Sir Richard Burton—Mr. George Sala—His early Writings—Mrs. Sala's love of her husband—Acting Printer's Devil to Sala and another Author—Sala's bad treatment of me—Mr. Joseph Levy and Sir Edward Lawson's kindness to Mrs. Sala—The noted Sala and Friswell Action for Libel	... ..	134-160
---	--------	---------

## CHAPTER VIII

Robert Crawford, of Edinburgh—Christopher Pond—Henry Sinclair's Death—Pond's Kindness to his Crippled Child—Pond's Good Nature to his Barmaids—My last visit to Pond—The Degeneration of Pantomime—The Old and the New Pantomimes, and the Pantomimists—"Joey's Occupation Gone"—No

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)CONTENTS OF VOLUME I xiii

	PAGE
Harlequinades of any Length or Importance now—	
One of the best old Pantomime Trick Scenes—Mr. George Conquest's Wonderful Impersonation of a Monkey — Arthur Williams, Harry Monkhouse, Herbert Campbell and Harry Nichols at the Grecian Theatre—Pantomime at Music Halls—Charles Lauri —Paul Martinetti—Mother Shipton—Doctor Cumming—Mother Shipton's Devil, and Miss Corelli's Rimânez—Some of Mother Shipton's Prophecies—Mr. George Humphreys—T. P. Barnum at the Playing Card Makers' Banquet—Clever Capture of Thieves	161-188

## CHAPTER IX

H. S. Leigh — Jimmy Hitchman — The Leigh Family—Gandish's and Sass's—Sir Frederick Leighton's Early Artistic Works—Artists in the sixties who became Famous—A Quarrel between Mr. Alfred Bunn and <i>Punch</i> —Some very Scurrilous matter and Pictures—The Meet Glee Club and Madame Vestris —J. R. Planché and his Recollections—Kind Letters from Planché—Planché's first Drama in 1818—Planché's Father and the King's Watch Ribbon—“Can't it be washed, Planché?”	... ..	189-216
---	--------	---------

## CHAPTER X

H. J. Byron and our Venture with “Mirth”—Byron's kindness in Business Matters — Planché's	
---	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I

	PAGE
Introductory Verses to “Mirth”—Some Witty Sayings of Byron — Hans Breitmann—Bits from Byron’s Burlesques—Alfred Austin and other Poets and Poets Laureate—Mr. Swinburne and Monckton Milnes—Mrs. Burton—Sir Edwin Arnold—Robert Buchanan—Lord Tennyson as a Business Man—An Old Woman’s Curse—Discreet Authors—Sir Thomas O’Hagan—Mr. Whiteside ... ..	217-246

## CHAPTER XI

James Grant the Journalist, and James Grant the Novelist—Grant’s Newspaper Press and <i>The Saturday Review</i> —Volumes of Poetry and Rhyme by Women—William Gilbert—Bill Romer—Andrew Halliday, his Sad Death—Charles Dickens—Albert Smith and the Egyptian Hall— <i>The China Times</i> —Charles Ross, of “Ally Sloper” Fame ... ..	247-268
--	---------

## CHAPTER XII

Charles James Mathews—Madame Vestris—“Here I am without a Shilling”—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews—A Witty Rhyme by Mathews—George Honey, the Comedian—His Mother’s Post Office Order—George Cook, “more Seats and less Cheers”—Theatrical Benefits — Charles Thompson — Jonas Levy — The Alambra Relief Fund — Inside the Victoria Sporting Club—Steele, the Betting Man, and Henry Ulph ... ..	269-294
---	---------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I

xv

## CHAPTER XIII

PAGE

William Black, my little Dispute with him—Mr. W. G. Wills, the Dramatist—Mr. Clark Russell—Frederick Greenwood—Thomas Wright, the Journeyman Engineer—James Greenwood—Justin McCarthy and Mr. John Morley at <i>The Star</i> Newspaper Office—The Supposed Mystery of Publishing ...	295-312
--	---------

## CHAPTER XIV

Shirley Brooks—The Recluse of the Iron Tower—Richard Jefferies—Publishers and Editors—Books on the Fourth Estate—"The Shilling Magazine"—Mr. Samuel Lucas—"London Society"—Edmund Yates—"Tinsleys' Magazine"—William Croft—Willing's "Press Guide"—Edmund Downey—Mr. H. W. Lucy and <i>The World</i> —Mr. Harry Furniss ...	... 313-332
---	-------------

## CHAPTER XV

A Sad Ending to a Merry Meeting—Sir Henry Irving—Death of Mr. Bateman—Always Welcome at the Lyceum Theatre—A Ghost Story told by Henry Irving — The "Hamlet" and "Merchant of Venice" Banquets — Mr. Compton's Speech — Hamlet only the After Piece—Mr. W. S. Johnson—The "London Journal": Some of the Serial Writers for it — Johnson's Swish-Tail Blacks — The Market Gardener's Little Joke ...	... 333-347
---	-------------



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00924-9 - Random Recollections of an Old Publisher, Volume 1

William Tinsley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I

## CHAPTER XVI

PAGE

J. L. Toole at the Coventry Street Picture Shop— A Little Dispute Settled at the Gaiety Theatre— Many Jolly Days with Mr. Toole—An Amusing Dinner at Greenwich—A Merry Week in Birmingham —A Trip to Stratford-on-Avon—Kind Letters from Mr. Toole—The Cause of the German War—A Foolish Picture	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	348-368
--	---	---------