

GIVEN ON JANUARY 4, 1899.

1849.

# JUBILEE

1899.

OF THE

## BORDER COUNTIES ADVERTIZER



### Special Illustrated Edition

Issued in Celebration of the Jubilee of the "Border Counties Advertiser."

*With a Record of many interesting events during the last Fifty Years.*



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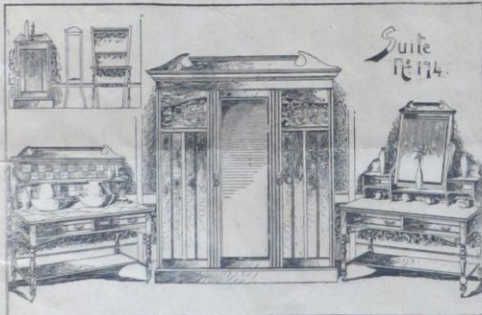
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PROMPT AND PERSONAL ATTENTION.



## Border Counties Advertiser.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BORDER COUNTIES ADVERTISER, JANUARY 4, 1899.

THERE was no newspaper printed in Shropshire, except in the county town, and no English newspaper in North Wales, except at Bangor and Carnarvon, when, fifty years ago, the "Oswestry Advertiser" began its career, a little monthly periodical of eight octavo pages, equal to something like two columns of the sixty-four which are now printed weekly. The photographed page is the exact size of the original. The new publication was also a railway guide. The Great Western line had been opened between Shrewsbury and Chester in October, 1848, the trains on the Gt. Western branch began running on the first of January, 1849, and thus we are celebrating the jubilee of railway communication with Oswestry as well as the jubilee of the "Advertiser." It will be seen as we proceed that the paper, which may be said to have been started by the Great Western Railway, was largely occupied in recording the events connected with the construction of the Cambrian; but Oswestry had to wait twelve years longer before it was connected by rail with Montgomeryshire, and more than fifteen before the locomotive ran to Ellesmere. In 1849 the Royal Oak coach, leaving Oswestry daily at one o'clock p.m., arrived at Newtown about five; and passengers for Ellesmere, journeying by Great Western to Whittington, found an omnibus awaiting them there at twelve o'clock and six. Third-class travellers by rail were not much better off than those who had still to use the coach road. If they wanted to come from Shrewsbury to Oswestry in the morning it was necessary to breakfast, one may say, in the middle of the night; for the "postmen" started at 3.35, arriving at Oswestry a couple of minutes before five, which must have been particularly pleasant on a cold morning in the depth of winter. A third-class ticket will now take us all over the kingdom, by more than forty trains which leave Oswestry on the Great Western and the Cambrian in the course of the day.

MR. S. ROBERTS.  
First Proprietor.

## A TREBLE JUBILEE AT OSWESTRY.

The present year is not only the railway jubilee and the journalistic jubilee at Oswestry; it is also the jubilee of the markets. The Fowls and the Cattle Markets were opened in June, 1849, and the Smithfield in July; and no events were more important in the history of the town. A little more than three years before the "Advertiser" was started the Town Council ventured upon the experiment of monthly fairs; in 1853 fortnightly fairs were established, in the face of considerable opposition; and in 1872 the present system came into operation. Looking at its remarkable success, it is some satisfaction to remember that the "Advertiser" warmly supported the advance in each case; and among the benefactors of the town it is only just to mention Mr. George Hilditch, who led the first movement, and Mr. John Thomas, who was the determined advocate of the second.

## AN INCIDENT IN OSWESTRY STREETS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

A writer in the sixth number of the "Advertiser" was of opinion that "were an Oswestrian, who took leave of his beloved town before the commencement of the century which has now run well nigh half its course, to revisit it at the present day, he would be completely and bewilderingly astounded by the altered aspect of the places he knew so well." If so, what his bewildered astonishment would be now who shall say? It is true the population had nearly doubled in the first half of the century, and even in 1846 the railway was beginning to have its inevitable effect upon the old-fashioned appearance of the town, but there were still only 4,700 or 4,800 inhabitants, and if a stranger passed down the street people were inclined to ask who he could be. An incident which the present writer remembers well, for it made an impression upon his youthful mind, accustomed to the ways of a larger community, may perhaps illustrate as well as anything else the primitive manners of the Oswestry of fifty years ago. Walking in the streets with a prominent inhabitant, afterwards a town councillor and a magistrate, he and his older but scarcely more sedate friend met a well-known character of those days, by name "Billy Small Beer." The future magistrate, in the middle of the street, and in the broad light of day, had no hesitation in taking a pistol out of his pocket, and firing it in the air, for the sake of starting Billy, who, having seen him taking of the law, exclaimed in his terror, "You're in law's 'an, Mr. Jones!" (Jones was not the name, but never mind, "you're in law's 'an." "Law's 'an," which sounded mysterious to boyish ears, was soon discovered to mean the hands of the law. Billy was no doubt

right theoretically, but no officer of justice appeared on the scene, no commission seemed to arise in the empty streets, and the incident probably closed with a small addition to the steady police in Billy Small Beer's pocket. The same incident to-day would have its sequel in the police where at the time, for more reasons than one, it found no mention. Those were the days when letters had to be posted at a quarter to five in the afternoon, and no one thought of asking for more than one delivery, when the postage of the smallest foreign letter cost a shilling, when the electric telegraph, in Oswestry at any rate, was almost as much a dream as the electric light. In the second number of the "Advertiser" it is curious to find a quoted article on the electric light, which had then been known for forty-six years, but chiefly as an interesting experiment for the lecture room. At last, a fresh discovery gave promise of greater utility, and, in the words of the writer, it only remained "to complete the secondary but not less important object of rendering the light commercially valuable by producing it at as cheap a rate as any other." Little did the writer suppose that more than another forty-six years would pass, and the problem would not even then be altogether solved!

## THE OLD TOWN AND THE NEW.

An Oswestrian of 1849, if he had never seen the town since that year, and if he could now be taken through the streets and round the public buildings, would certainly be bewildered. Covering field after field where he played as a boy he would find long rows of houses; he would pass by new thoroughfares from one part of the town to another; in place of the narrow street which connected the Quadrant with the Cross he would see a broader one, bordered by new shops, some of them large enough to surround him; and of the public buildings scarcely one stone is left upon another. All the chapels are new, the parish church has been restored, Trinity enlarged;

is the chief feature, and there is many a green over agricultural depression. So does history repeat itself! One correspondent, a well-known farmer of those days, mentioned that Free Trade is the cause of the distress, announces that a society has been formed "to arrest the progress of the system." The subscribers never got the worth of their money! Another writer is engaged in a more hopeful enterprise; he advocates early closing, and writes to say the young men of the town have established an association to secure it. They had some success in their modest aims, but little dreamt of a weekly half-holiday, which was to come after many years. In this year, too, the Oswestry Young Men's Institute was revived; it was destined to become moribund once again before its final revival in 1855. Of the committee of 1850 only our venerable and respected townsman, Dr. Fuller, who has been associated with all subsequent developments of the Institute, survives. Towards the close of 1851 the editor replies to a number of complaints on the scarcity of news. The "Advertiser" of those days was "an unstamped paper," and deterred by law from publishing news of a certain character. What the illegal news was nobody seemed to know. The Queen's Speech was thought to be illegal news, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's not; and, since lawyers could not agree, the editor of the "Advertiser" decided to keep on the right side. So he reported county courts, but not police proceedings! He informed his readers of the election, in 1851, of Mr. Thomas Minshall, who was the first Nonconformist Mayor of Oswestry; but ventured in any little clue of the meeting of the Town Council. The burdens of the journalist of those days were heavy; and in the same article the editor makes a pathetic complaint of what he had to bear. The advertisement duty and the paper duty swallowed up his profits, compelling him to abandon the gratuitous system and charge a penny for his paper; but the pennies came in freely, and in January, 1852, the paper was again enlarged. The editor was now Mr. Askew

Gore acknowledges his unopposed election for North Shropshire.

## THE CURIOSITIES OF ADVERTISING.

The first of a series of amusing advertisements by a character of those days is found in this paper for August, and may be reproduced here just as it stood—

## COMMERCIAL SCHOOL,

Lower Brook Street, Oswestry.



W CULLIS (formerly of the Royal Military School, Chelsea, London; and Writing Master to the Juvenile Royal Family) having this day completed his first year of teaching in Oswestry, desires most sincerely to thank those parents who have given him the preference of instructing their children; and from their encouragement he hopes to be spurred to greater exertions (if possible).

It is pleasing in the very short time of twelve months to see children six and seven years old making bills and inditing letters. The attention of the public is called to his Evening School. Hours: 6 till 8.

No holidays.

"Warnings and Kind Advice to Drunkards" is in the press, and will shortly appear.

Mr. Cullis, in his "Warnings and Kind Advice to Drunkards," had the advantage of writing from personal experience.

Another advertiser, a few months later, announced "to the nobility, gentry, heads of families and seminaries, that having resumed his professional duties, he would 'have the pleasure of introducing to his pupils' various fashionable dances, including 'Pop goes the weasel.' The dancing masters address their clients in the same style in 1899!

MR. W. W. ROBERTS.

Founder of the "Advertiser."

## LOCOMOTION—BY RAILWAYS AND DOGS.

The publication of a prospectus of the Montgomeryshire Railway Company in August, 1852, is worth noticing, for it was the beginning of a movement which after many changes led to the construction of what is now the Cambrian Railway. The methods of locomotion, still employed in the fifties included the use of dogs as draught animals. The editor of the "Advertiser," writing in June, 1853, and commenting on the death of Mr. Richard Evans, "a late respected tradesman," by a fall from his horse, of which the occasion was the horse's fright at one of the carts drawn by dogs, which were much too often seen on the roads in this neighbourhood," says "we have no abstract objection to the industrial employment of dogs, but goes on to object to the cruelty of overloading these faithful friends of man. The Legislature took a different view, and prohibited the use of dogs for purposes of draught; and Englishmen who now visit the Continent and see, for example, the dog-carts in the market at Antwerp, will perhaps be surprised to learn that less than fifty years ago a similar sight could be witnessed in their own country.

## POETRY.

Among the original poetry in the "Advertiser" in 1853 was a contribution from "G.M.D.," who has since made himself known to the world of English readers as a novelist; the initials will be recognised.

Another poem, contributed the same year, we must have the pleasure of giving. The initials in this case also will be familiar to some of our readers, in connection with another highly-esteemed contributor to our columns in those days, the Rev. James Matheson, minister of what was then the Old Chapel, and is now Christ Church, a man of rare goodness and intelligence, who exercised a remarkable influence on the intellectual life of Oswestry.

## SONNET TO A FEBRUARY PRIMOSE.

In snow and frost among the grass thou growest,  
Thy nature not thy substance, faintest flower,  
Not what to other eyes thou dost of power  
To send false images through them to the heart,  
But when I push the frosty leaves apart,  
And see thee hiding in thy white leaves,  
Thou crownest us within me from that hour,  
I have no words; but fragrant is the breath,  
Pale beauty of thy secret life within.  
There is a wild that cometh for thy death,  
But thou art life in me, and life in heaven, shall dwell  
Thy spirit, beautiful, unspeakable! G.M.

## AN IMPORTANT STEP—SHAKESPEARE FALLING OFF THE PRESS.

In January, 1853, the "Advertiser" took the form of a regular newspaper, and was printed on four pages, each page being smaller than half the present size. In this number we come across a mention of what was then called "table-dancing," which was "the subject of universal curiosity," and

MR. ASKEW ROBERTS.

The Maker of the "Advertiser."

Roberts, who came into possession in July, 1850, and was associated with the paper up to the time of his death in 1883. The founder of the "Advertiser," Mr. William Whitridge Roberts, emigrated to Australia, became the editor of one of the Adelaide daily papers, and died there in 1861. The first publisher was Mr. Samuel Roberts, father of Mr. W. W. and Mr. Askew Roberts.

## THE ELECTION OF 1852—THE PROTESTANT FLAG.

The election addresses which appeared in May, 1852, showed how the "Advertiser" was already extending its borders. It was no longer a mere local paper, for Colonel Middleton Bulditch and Mr. Bagot addressed the electors of Denbighshire through its pages. The Hon. W. Bagot had sat for the county since 1835, and now the Liberal owner of Chirk Castle, who had been defeated in that year and again in 1847, was once more trying conclusions with him, and destined to be successful, and to sit in the House of Commons until 1868, when he lost his seat and Mr. Osborne Morgan won it. In these days, when the Protestants are up in arms again, it is interesting to see that the Colonel described himself as "a humble but sincere Protestant, ready to resist all aggressions from without, but anxious to live in perfect charity and good-will with my fellow-subjects of all religious persuasions," and Mr. Bagot insisted upon the importance of "the security of the Protestant Church and the resolute maintenance of the reformed religion." Colonel Middleton Bulditch was "decidedly opposed to the imposition of a tax upon himself," Mr. Bagot, maintaining us in this tax upon himself, and Mr. Bagot insisted upon the importance of "the security of the Protestant Church and the resolute maintenance of the reformed religion." Colonel Middleton Bulditch was "decidedly opposed to the imposition of a tax upon himself," Mr. Bagot, maintaining us in this tax upon himself, and Mr. Bagot insisted upon the importance of "the security of the Protestant Church and the resolute maintenance of the reformed religion."

## BATHS IN 1849.

The first volume of the "Advertiser" contains little news, nothing, indeed, except reports of the County Court; but some of the advertisements are interesting. "William Edwards begs to call the attention of the public to his commodious and retired Baths (on the Welsh Walls), fitted up with every convenience, and offering to the inhabitants of Oswestry the enjoyment of a luxury from which they have hitherto been debarred." Where is that luxury now? Fifty years after Mr. William Edwards's advertisement some of the inhabitants of Oswestry are trying to persuade the Town Council to let them bathe. In 1849 the Club was formed, with Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., father of the present Lord Harlech, as patron; and there was a local Cricket Club, under the patronage of the Earl of Powis. On the third of August they played a match with the Shrewsbury Victoria Club. Wickets were pitched at half-past nine, and dinner was on the table at five.

## AN UNSTAMPED PAPER. WHAT WAS

In its second year the "Advertiser" appeared in altered form, as a quarto, and paid a little more attention to news; but the correspondence



"In all probability the first gleam of some great discovery, which shall raise to fame and fortune the philosopher who rightly follows out the clue." Table-turning and card-trick have not yet made any philosopher's fortune!

In August the publisher was able to record the receipt of the advertisement duty (of 1s. 6d. on each advertisement), and

and "B. Lowe Parr," whose letters, continued from time to time, excited peculiar interest, was warning them that the Shrewsbury and Welshpool might be made, and "to make the share of the railway." The "Shrewsbury and Welshpool Railway" was now advertising its prospectus. At the same time "the Oswestry and Newtown Railway Company" was announcing that "pre-

#### THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE LAW.

On the other side, among the last episodes of the time, is a charge of a trivial theft against an unfortunate girl, led into evil courses by her mother's coyness, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation! The Recorder, it is true, says "the Oswestry and Newtown Railway Company" was announcing that "pre-

the bridge broke, numbers were thrown into the river, and ten were drowned. On the following Sunday the preacher in Oswestry Church "improved the occasion" by avowing that the accident was a judgment from Heaven brought down by the awful fact that Jollan's Band played the "Comet Polka," which was a blasphemy against God!

#### 2

#### THE OSWESTRY ADVERTISER.

##### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

Our present publication is necessarily imperfect, and may possibly be some day improved. Some who have ever endeavored to collect information from original sources will be surprised at this, for they will know and appreciate the difficulties in the way of such a success. We hope, by degrees, to fill out the deficiencies, and correct the inaccurate department, and to appreciate as nearly as may be to the ideal we have set before us—a "complete compilation of useful local information." In this endeavor we trust we shall be aided by all who are in possession of particular subjects. Especially we trust to be supported by the assistance of correspondents who, in presenting our deficiencies, will also be serving their own interests in the best possible way.

**PRISONERS.**—The late John Jones, Esq., of the 11th of last month, and out upon the plains of Philadelphia was run over by a train. He escaped unhurt, as the engine of his ship, and an engine should have been held over him. The motor men, however, backed up, in order to spare his screaming friends the disagreeable publicity of an accident, and in tenderness to the reputation of the guilty parties who knew the deceased to be an unsteady and unsteady man.

**AN OSWESTRYAN.**—We would willingly meet our correspondents, whether by entering our publication, and drawing more space to literature and news, and public did not understand the step. To be enabled to do so we must have more advertisements, and a printing office, unless the return from the advertising department compensates for the loss. With reference to a Newspaper, an Oswestrian's plan is feasible, but the time is not yet ripe. He will see that it would not be difficult to amplify the Advertiser, and to make it a weekly, so as to supply his desideratum, were the signs of the times sufficiently encouraging to warrant the step.

##### COUNTY COURTS OF RECORD.

North East Wales and Oswestry District.  
Edward Lewis Richards, Esq., Judge.  
The Courts for the January Circuit, 1899, will be held as follows—  
Thursday Jan. 11, Mold.  
Saturday 13, St. Asaph.  
Monday 15, Denbigh.  
Tuesday 16, Holywell.  
Friday 19, Llandudno.  
Saturday 20, Newtown.  
Monday 22, Walsby.  
Tuesday 23, Oswestry.  
Thursday 25, Llanfyllin.  
Friday 26, Ruabon.  
Saturday 27, Wrexham.  
Wednesday 31, Ruthin.  
Instructions for Plaintiffs must be left at the Clerk's Office thirteen days before the day of holding the Courts.  
The Gold Edwards, } CHIEF CLERK.  
Sax. Williams, }  
Wm. Simons, }

##### A Page of the First Number of the Advertiser (exact size).

in the following December another advance was announced. The "Advertiser," from the beginning of 1857, was to be, in a portion of its impression, a "stamped newspaper," paying more attention to news and local affairs. This compulsory use of the stamp on all copies of a weekly newspaper still prevented the "Advertiser" from taking that form, but the statutory change in the law was to come before long, and on the twelfth of September, 1855, the stamp duty having been lifted away, the weekly issue began. The publisher had a fortunate start-off for his first number of the new series, in the new of the fall of Schenck. Through the extension of the telegraph, the news reached London in a few hours, but the year before, when the battle of the Alma was fought, the public had to wait more than a week for the intelligence, which was announced in the "Advertiser" for October.

##### MR. CULLIS AGAIN.

From the volume for 1854 we select another gem, for which our thanks are due to the late Mr. Cullis—

##### COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, LOWER BROOK STREET.

##### MR. W. CULLIS.

Writing Master to the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, (formerly of the Royal Military Academy, Cheltenham, for Twelve Years Schoolmaster at Salisbury).

**A** GAIN returns his unfeigned thanks to the many parents living in Oswestry and its vicinity, who for the last three years have entrusted their children to his care; and entering as he doth, this day, upon his fourth year, he is determined to be as assiduous, untiring, and painstaking as ever in promoting the welfare of his pupils, by constantly laying before them that what ought to be done must be done. This he began with, and by this he intends to be directed. It would be superfluous and fulsome panegyric to state what is taught in the school; parents themselves have been the best judges. One thing might be mentioned: that the Word of God forms a prominent feature; if only one day neglected, every thing seems to go wrong.

Lord Palmerston having (officially) strongly disapproved of the bad, unclean, and illegible hand writing of the present century—W. Cullis hopes that his style of calligraphy will in some measure wipe off this national disgrace.

Mr. Cullis has permission to refer parties interested to Mr. Bickerton, of our Town Council; Mr. Owen, clock and watch maker; Mr. Evans, saddler; Mr. Edwards, butcher; Mr. Nares, Albion Inn; Mr. Tyley, Sun Inn; Mr. Williams, Welsh Harp; Mr. W. Davies, Waterloo House; Mr. Jones, Greenfield Cottage; Mr. Holland, builder; Mr. Jones, butcher, Church Street; Mr. Morris, Mure, &c.; and in the country, Mr. Hughes, Orley, near Yorkington; Mr. S. Williams, Vron, near Selattyn; Mr. Rogers, Crickheath; Mr. Lawrence, Llyncelyn; Mr. Evans, Nantgallen; Mr. Jackson, Park Hall Farm; &c. &c.

N.B. Applications for admittance will be useless, unless it be for the quarter commencing Michaelmas ensuing; the School being quite full, sixty children are now being taught in a room only 21 feet by 16.

##### RAILWAY TROUBLES.

In the beginning of 1856 the Oswestrians were still anxious lest they should lose the chance of railway communication with Montgomeryshire;

##### CARRIERS.

Bala, Hugh Jones, from the King's Head, every Wednesday.  
Felton, Thomas Fox, Horse Shoe, Wednesday.  
Keechin and Kinnerley, Mrs. Beddoes, King's Head; Mrs. Glover, Three Tuns; Wednesday.  
Llandrinia, Williams, Albion; Lewis, Fox; John Richards, Coach & Dogs; Edward Bagley, Green Dragon; Wednesday.  
Llanfyllin, Edward Lloyd, Horse Shoe; David Davies, Bell; Wednesday and Saturday.  
Llangollen, William Thomas, Roar's Head; Davies, Horse Shoe; Wednesday.  
Llangollen, David Davies, George, Wednesday.  
Llangollen, Elizabeth Mason, White Horse, Wednesday and Saturday.  
Llanrhaeadr, Robert Hughes, Thomas Davies, Roar's Head; Jacob Evans, Three Tuns; Wednesday; John Morris, Three Tuns, Wednesday and Saturday.  
Llanrwst, Robert Evans, Roar's Head; David Ellis, Five Bells; Wednesday.  
Llanglwyd, John Mann, Star, Wednesday.  
Llanynghy, Hugh Price, King's Head, Wednesday and Saturday.  
Llanmelfort, Margaret Edwards, Fox, Wednesday.  
Machobol, Briggs, White Horse, Wednesday.  
Meifod, Margaret Jones, White Horse, Wednesday.  
Rudnal, Pugh, Bear, irregular.

##### FAIRS.

Oswestry, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 2 and 3.  
Shrewsbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9 and 10.  
Llangollen Friday, January 26.  
Ruthin, Monday, January 8.  
Wrexham, Thursday, January 18.  
Meifod, Saturday, January 20.

##### COMMON NOTES FOR 1859.

Dominical Office..... 6  
Golden Number..... 7  
Roman Indiction..... 7  
Solar Cycle..... 10  
Epact..... 6

parations for letting the contract were in active progress," and the first advertisement, on the 11th of April, which B. Lowe Parr said, was "not ten days later than we should have expected." The 11th of April came round, but no bid was out, and the patience of the shareholders was tried for some time longer. The "Advertiser" commented severely on the policy of the directors, and a committee of the House of Lords seem to have taken the same view.

##### MR. CULLIS' CONCISE MORE.

Again Mr. Cullis helps to relieve the tedium of life by composing a new advertisement, in which he appears as "writing master to the Prince of Wales." We take the following from the "Advertiser" for July 9, 1855—

##### V.



##### R.

##### MR. CULLIS.

From the Royal Military College, Cheltenham, Tutor, and Writing Master to the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Princess Royal, and Princess Alice.

**B**EIGS to return his unfeigned thanks to his numerous patrons in Town and Country for their very liberal, yet, unprecedented support showered upon him for the last seven years, and commencing as he does this day his sixth year, he intends to be as assiduous (more so, if possible) as ever, in forwarding his pupils for the past several vocations in which their parents, or their own choice, may place them.

Mr. Cullis is determined that it shall not be said of his scholars, as unhappily it is reported of many pupils attending schools (pshaw! a mere name) not very far distant, that—

"The scholars knew no more  
At six months' end than what they knew before."  
But that ENERGY on the master's part, inculcated at the same time PERSEVERANCE on the part of his scholars, shall for ever bury in oblivion this disgraceful (though just) remark of the great poet Dryden.

##### A BIT OF OLD WELSHPOOL.

(Photograph of Grace Evans's Cottage.)

##### AGAIN ENLARGED—A TWOPENNY PAPER.

By the middle of 1857 it became plain that the "Advertiser" could not meet the fast increasing demands upon its space in North Wales and elsewhere without further enlargement, and the publisher accordingly increased the size and the price; and from the first of July it became a twopenny paper.

##### ANOTHER ENLARGEMENT—TENNYSON A DANGEROUS MAN!

At the beginning of 1857 the "Advertiser" was again enlarged. In the first number the editor inserted "Tennyson's New Year's Bells," and announced his intention to publish Shelley's lines "On the Funeral of the Dead Year," in the second number a letter, a column long, pointing out the deadly errors of the "New Year's Bells," and in conclusion stated that he could take the "Advertiser" no longer if such a tone as that which was indicated by the intention to publish Shelley's poem, continued to be maintained in the paper! Needless to say, the poem appeared. Does any one still think the "New Year's Bells" poisonous stuff, and do clergymen still stop their subscriptions if the local paper publishes Shelley? As for the late Post Laureate, he is now regarded, we believe, as something like a pillar of orthodoxy. So fast do we move on in theology, in the end of the nineteenth century.

##### THE EATANSWILL GAZETTE.

We have moved also in the courtesies of journalism; and an extract from the "Advertiser" of February 4, 1857, giving a quotation from an article in which one of the leading papers of that day in a town not fifty miles from Oswestry attacks the other, shows that Dickens was not indulging in extravagant caricature when he invented the "Eatanswill Gazette."

That was waspish, coarse, and illiterate, the blarney of many years but too well informed as. That he was a pitiful miserable, stupid and cowardly in his attacks, everybody knew. But that he could at one and the same time evince the simplicity of the poem with the malignity of the serpent, showed a combination of qualities which we were not till now aware any mortal was possessed of.

##### WILL THE GREAT COMET STRIKE THE EARTH?

A few weeks later, in the beginning of June, the editor of the "Advertiser" finds it necessary to reassure some of its nervous readers on the question of the day—"Will the approaching comet strike the earth?" The coming of the comet had "caused considerable apprehension in many quarters, pamphlets had been published which added to the popular alarm, and it was necessary to inform the timid that the great majority of comets, and practically all of them, are entirely gaseous. So great was the terror created by the expected collision, that land in the midlands was said to be left uncultivated, and numbers of people in Ireland emigrated, believing they would be safe in foreign parts! But not the least remarkable event in connection with the comet—which some of our readers can remember, stretching it seemed, something like half-way from the horizon to the zenith—was a sermon preached in Oswestry on the 27th of June, 1857, on the text, "The coming of the Son of Man." The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. J. J. Jones, of the Wesleyan Mission, and was a most interesting and powerful discourse. The sermon was delivered in the evening, and the church was crowded. The sermon was delivered in the evening, and the church was crowded. The sermon was delivered in the evening, and the church was crowded.

##### RAILWAYS.

On the 4th of August there were public rejoicings over the cutting of the first and of the Oswestry, Welshpool and Newtown Railway, as Welshpool, after the shareholders had waited long and impatiently for the works to begin; and in the same number of the "Advertiser" the cutting of the first and of the Vale of Clwyd Railway, at Denbigh, was reported. Railway matters continued to occupy a large amount of public attention, and many columns of the "Advertiser," and in December, 1857, the first and of the Newtown and Machynlleth Railway, another link in the Cambrian, was the occasion of much rejoicing at Machynlleth.

##### MR. JEBB AND MR. WATERTON.

In February, 1858, the late Mr. R. G. Jebb's inaugural address at the first annual meeting of the Oswestry Naturalists' Field Club is reported, and it is worthy of notice because of an interesting allusion to Mr. Jebb's friendship with one of the first naturalists of the age, the late Mr. Waterton. Mr. Jebb says:—

I have the pleasure of knowing a naturalist now living, who, from very early days, proposed to himself White (as he called it) as a model. I refer to Mr. Waterton, of Walton Hall, near Wakefield. The quarto edition of White is never absent from his table, and supplies a pedestal to the tea set every evening. Waterton lived on an island in a lake, the lake being surrounded by a park and woods of considerable extent, and the island was defended by a very high wall. Everything within this wall was devoted to the birds; no run is allowed to be fed, or the nest of any bird to be disturbed. Waterton's tastes are thus devoted for the observation of the habits of the birds. Waterton is a Roman Catholic, and though we have often argued long and differed very widely on points of belief, not a single word of asperity that I recollect, ever passed between us. I cannot understand why men should quarrel, or even dislike each other, merely because they differ in opinions on religious matters. I, for one, cordially hope that men of various opinions will join this society, and that harmony will long continue to prevail among its members.

Mr. Jebb, father of the late Mr. A. T. Jebb, known to many of our readers, afterwards became a frequent contributor to the "Advertiser."

##### REMOVAL TO LARGER PREMISES.

The next event in the history of the "Advertiser" was the removal of the printing works in November, 1857, from the Bailey Head, where the "Advertiser" was first printed, to Caxton Place, near Beattie-street, the premises now in the possession of Mr. Gwynne.

##### 1859—A POLITICAL WARNING PAM.

In 1859 came a general election, and an interesting contest in North Shropshire, but not a poll; for the third man retired at the last moment. The contest was interesting for more reasons than one. It was among the latest elections, we believe, in which men talked of "warning pams," which have now almost disappeared, so that politically many of our readers practically know not what they mean. Wall, Mr. Whitehead, Dod, the member for North Shropshire from 1846 to 1859, was a warning pam. The seat was claimed as the property of the two great families, the Hills and the Gores, and there being no Hill handy in 1846 Mr. Dod was put in, and, a Hill succeeding in 1857, Mr. Dod continued to keep the place warm for the heir of Bezyntin. In 1859 Mr. Dod stood aside, and Mr. Ormsby-Gore (the late Lord Harlech) put in his claim to the political property.

##### A THREE-CORNERED FIGHT.—THE "ADVERTISER" ON BIG HOUSES.

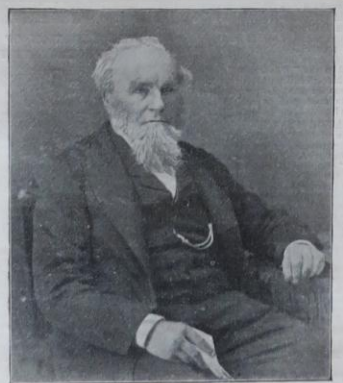
To the surprise and indignation of the Conservative wirepullers he was not allowed to come into possession unchallenged. The late Sir Baldwin Leighton appeared on the scene; and suddenly, in positions which afterwards altered in the case of his son, the present member for the Oswestry Division, and Mr. Mainwaring of Orley, he divided the Liberal. Which the Tories should they vote for, when Mr. Hill of Hawkstone, their neighbour, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, and Sir Baldwin were soliciting their suffrages? It is curious to read the editorial remarks of the "Advertiser" of those days—

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It is not to be denied that the time has come when high families of ancient lineage, aristocratic appanages, and large possessions, will cease to claim the right to monopolize the respect which all will gladly render to the houses of Hawkestone, Wynnstay, Powis and Brocton, and in the respective counties where their dominions lie will arrogate to themselves a right to be obeyed. But if there be about the graceful houses of the people as to make it the ground for a social claim, to represent by this means a whole county, the time cannot be distant when, despite of lineage and rank, and possession, both political power will be wrested and personal respect be withdrawn from the aristocracy.

**Prodigious!** The battle raged for some time. On the 27th of April no less than three addresses from Sir Baldwin, three from Mr. Hill, and two from Mr. Ormsby-Gore appeared in the same number of the "Advertiser." Mr. Ormsby-Gore promised to follow the example of his father, Mr. Hill desired



MR. THOMAS MINSHALL.  
The First Nonconformist Mayor of Oswestry. (See page 1.)



that he had been soliciting votes "for one of the other candidates." Mr. Bader, smiling for the Liberal support, explained that he "did not hold extreme opinions." He expressed "the greatest confidence in the result" of the poll, but retired before he could ascertain whether the confidence was justified.

#### MR. CHARLES SABINE.

In June of this year the "Advertiser" lost one of its most valued contributors, and Oswestry one of its most estimable and most notable inhabitants, in Mr. Charles Sabine, whose grandchildren are still among us. Mr. Sabine was a prolific author, chiefly of short books of a religious or philanthropic character, but it was his fine spirit, his sympathetic nature, and his fearless advocacy of what he believed to be right, that gave him his unique position in the town. He is the Mr. Osberton of the "Gordian Knot," a once well-

known of Parliament, magistrates, contractors, and engineers were all gentlemen on an equality when associated in such work as they were about that day.



MR. T. SAVIN.

#### A CLERICAL DEFENCE OF DISSENTERS.

Another remarkable utterance is found in the "Advertiser" of November 30—no less than a clerical defence of Dissenters for not attending church on Mayor's Sunday! Some one had criticised their action, when the Rev. George Chubb, curate of Oswestry Church, wrote to say that to have accompanied the Mayor to church would have been a direct violation of their convictions!

#### THE RISE OF THE VOLUNTEERS.

This was the year of the great Volunteer movement, when Rifle Corps were formed in many places. Towns in the Border Counties seem to have held back for a time; but in the paper for December 14 a meeting is reported at Wem, which was destined to see the Queen's Prize brought home from Wimbledon; on the 28th a similar meeting was held at Montgomery; and before the end of the month, Ellesmere had followed suit; a fortnight later the "Advertiser" announced that several names had been sent in for a corps at Oswestry; and about the same time Welshpool and Newtown were trying to bring themselves into line with their neighbours.

#### 1860.—AGAIN ENLARGED.

On March 7, 1860, yet another advance was made in the "Advertiser," which now appeared as an eight page newspaper.

#### WHICH OF THE WRETCHED MEN WON?

One of the most popular events of the year was the international prize-fight between Sayers and Heenan for the championship of the world! Both the prize-fighters, wrote to the "Times," and the "Times" published their letters! Heenan, complaining that Sayers was not willing to fix a date, offered, in the columns of the leading journal, to "fight the four best marksmen can be produced in England, beginning with Sayers," and the "Advertiser" reprinted the letter. Forty years have made a difference in our estimation of prize-fighters! Sayers actually came up to the scratch; the battle was duly fought, and each of the combatants was afterwards awarded a belt! A story told in Oswestry at the time, illustrates the universal interest in the event. A divorced clergyman was meeting another inhabitant of Oswestry, remarked in solemn tones upon the enormity of the offence, but added—"and which of the wretched men won?"

#### MR. SLANEY, M.P. AND RECREATION GROUNDS.

In May of this year it is interesting to note that Mr. Slaney, the Liberal member for Shrewsbury, moved a resolution in the House of Commons in favour of recreation grounds for the people. Mr. Slaney was before his day, the Government opposed him, and his motion was negatived without a division.

#### RAILWAYS, &c.

There is not much of special interest to record for the next twelve months. Garibaldi was carrying on his heroic war of liberation, but in Shropshire and Wales, to judge by the columns of the "Advertiser," people were chiefly interested in railway extensions. The battle was being fought in the Parliamentary committee rooms, and the "Advertiser" devoted many columns to the re-

#### WELSH UNIVERSITY.

On the 17th of August we meet with the name of Osborne Morgan, who was afterwards to play so large a part in the politics of his native land. The "National Eisteddfod" was held that year at Conway, and Mr. Osborne Morgan was in the chair. On the 28th, we find the record of another "National Eisteddfod" at Aberdare, described as "the inauguration of the union happily effected at Denbigh between the North and South Wales Eisteddfod." Mr. Osborne Morgan's name appears again in the "Advertiser" in September, 1864, as taking part in a public meeting at Carnarvon in support of the proposed Wales University. On that occasion he stated that the project was started twelve years before by his friend Mr. Hugh Owen and himself.

#### RAILWAYS TO LLANFAIR AND LLANGYNOG.

On the 29th of August the first sod of the Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitechurch Railway was cut at Ellesmere; and on the 23rd of the following month at Llanfyllin, the first sod of the Llanfyllin Branch, which was opened in July, 1863. In 1862 the "Advertiser" was again treated, with railway matters. Column after column, page after page, overflowed with reports of Parliamentary Committees. At this time, it is interesting to note, a line from Llanfair to Llanantffraid was suggested, and Llangynog was the terminus of various competing routes, as it has been again in these later days. There was the Oswestry and Llangynog Railway, there was a line running through the Vale of the Tanar, and there was a line from Llanfyllin. On the 10th of September the first sod of the Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitechurch Railway was cut with great rejoicing.

#### POLITICAL FIGHTS.

In June, one of the great railway promoters, Mr. Henry Robertson, succeeded Mr. Slaney, who died in May, as Liberal M.P. for Shrewsbury, his opponent being Mr. R. Banner Oakley and in the following month the immemorial political peace of Montgomeryshire was disturbed by a fight between Mr. Chas. Wynn and the Hon. S.C. Hanbury.

the Rev. W. (afterwards Bishop) Walsham How delivered the opening address, which some of our readers still remember with great pleasure, although they would dissent, as the Bishop doubtless did later in life, from associating "singing"



THE EARL OF POWIS.



MR. SHIRLEY BROOKS.  
Editor of Punch.

Tracy, for the seat vacant through the death of Colonel Wynn. There was a determined contest, but Mr. Wynn succeeded by a majority of 310.

#### MR. GLADSTONE AS CHAIRMAN OF AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Amongst the many parts played by Mr. Gladstone in his long life was that of Chairman of an Agricultural Society, and on the 1st of October we find a report of his speech at Malpas, in the chair of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Society. He was at the time Chancellor of the Exchequer. Again, on the 29th of that month, a speech of his at Wrexham is reported, in connection with the cutting of the first sod of the Wrexham, Mold, and Connah's Quay Railway.

and "a somewhat shallow worldliness" with the great-hearted Thackeray. In the following year Mr. How again delighted a large audience by his remarkable address at the opening of the Public Hall, where for thirty years the Institute continued to exist until it was merged in the Free Library. In 1864 also the Victoria Rooms were opened, with Lord Powis as the chief speaker. Lord Powis never opened his mouth without saying something good, and many of his speeches are reported in the columns of the "Advertiser."

THE QUEEN'S PRIZE FOR WEM—"PUNCH" AND THE "ADVERTIZER." At the rifle meeting at Wimbledon in 1863 the Queen's Prize was won by a Shropshire

*In Punch they speak of a picture called 'Thought of the Public Square.' It represents a public man, who in the public domestic room of an hotel has addressed a question to an attendant being desired by another guest to interrupt him to speak to the person, as he is a private servant. He then happened to the last departure during a late visit to Scotland. He asked his attendant the unaltered public man as a noble margin, as we have known a man more likely to have been a public man than a mere poet."*

#### MR. SHIRLEY BROOKS'S AUTOGRAPH.

A Paragraph sent for insertion in the "Advertiser."

#### PUBLIC HALLS AND PUBLIC SPEAKERS.

Amongst the other notabilities of the volume for 1862 may be mentioned the first sod of the Oswestry Agricultural Society; a quoted article, present system of education in Wales, with its intermediate schools, its colleges, and its university, was advocated; and the suggestion for a Public Hall should be built, and a Literary Institute established at Oswestry. We observe, in looking through the files, that movements advocated by the "Advertiser" have a way of getting themselves completed in spite of any amount of opposition! The Institute was soon opened, and on the 3rd of the following March

Volunteer, Sergeant Roberts of Wem, and a supplement to the "Advertiser" of July 22nd contained a report of the Sergeant's reception in that town, and leading from the "Times" and the "Telegraph" on his success. The "Advertiser" also contained verses which were to appear in "Punch" of the same day. This requires explanation. Mr. Shirley Brooks, who was now editor of "Punch," resided at one time in Oswestry, and was a frequent visitor to the "Advertiser" and its proprietor, Mr. Asker Roberts, who occasionally gave him a copy of the paper for review or press which was to appear in "Punch" on the same day. The following were the verses on Sergeant Roberts—

#### Commercial School, Brook Street, Oswestry.



The 9th year in Oswestry, the 21st in the Neighbourhood.

MR. W. CULLIS, L.S., Writing-master and accountant (Barrister-at-Law) (as is now well known) by Her Britannic Majesty, the Prince Consort, K.G., Duke of Cambridge, K.G., &c., &c., likewise by His Imperial Majesty, Louis Napoleon of France; Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Prussia, &c., begs to announce that his school reopens (on 1st Monday, July 4th, 1860, on which day his Pupils are expected to muster, and parents wishing to place fresh scholars under his care, are respectfully advised to make immediate application. Let no parent ever say, "My child is so dull, he'll never learn." I have tried him in this school, that school, and his other school! &c., only step forward, and give him a trial now, and quickly your fears will dissipate.

Per Quarter ... 15s. Expecting to pay less N.B. (Above 14 ... 15s.) will be suitable.

Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

#### RAILWAYS.—A STORM.

In September the "Advertiser" was again largely occupied with railway matters. The number for September 7 devoted a great portion of its columns to the opening of the Liverpool and Newtown Railway, and the cutting of the first sod



MR. DAVID DAVIES  
Of Llandinam.

of the Mid-Wales, at Rhayader, by Mrs. Pyne, Watt's granddaughter. Mr. David Davies, afterwards M.P., and one of the most influential of Welshmen, and Mr. Savin, who played so large a part in the construction of Welsh Railways, were the chair at Rhayader, aroused a storm among the company by his reference to these gentlemen. They were many and honourable contractors, but he discovered of their financing the line. This began a tempest, which was not even stayed by the device of the vice-chairman, in moving the popular toast of "Sir Watkin." At last Mr. Whalley, guided beyond bearing, declared that he was a gentleman, a member of Parliament, and a magistrate, and it was not his place to argue with men like the contractors. A storm of abuse greeted his words, and Mr. Thomas, the High Sheriff of Glamorganshire, very strongly expressed his opinion that, now the local system was done with, mem-

ports. The Oswestry and Newtown Railway was opened as far as Welshpool in August, 1860, and the first sod of the Denbigh and Llangynog Railway was cut in September. It may be recorded that Llanfyllin was lighted with gas in November, due to the popularity of Sir Watkin and Lady Williams Wynn in 1860, must we omit the presentation of their portraits at Wrexham, in December, from 11,000 subscribers as a token of sympathy with them in the great fire at Wynnasy two years before.

#### TWICE A WEEK.

The paper duty having been abolished, an attempt was made, beginning on the 7th August, 1861, to publish a penny paper twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday, but after only a month's experiment the old weekly issue, at twopenny, was resumed, in deference to the wishes of a large number of readers.







## A CLERICAL CRY FROM SHREWSBURY AGAINST ARCHBISHOP TEMPLE.

In the volume for this year we find little to note, but what we described, in a leader on October 27, as "A Clerical Cry from Shrewsbury," may be brought to the knowledge of the present ministers of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Tangle, appointment to the see of Exeter by Mr. Gladstone.



THE RIGHT HON. SIR G. O. MORGAN, BART.

stone had been received with equal disfavour by High Church and Low, for Dr Temple was one of the "Ecclesiastical Reviewers," and in those days too liberal for Dr Pusey on one side or Dean Close on the other. An attempt was made, therefore, to persuade the Dean and Chapter to refuse election, upon which, of course, they would have received a very unpleasant reminder that what they had to do was to obey the Queen and leave their conscience alone. It is stated in the article that Dr Temple had added to his discredit in the eyes of his critics by helping to lay the foundation stone of a Wesleyan Chapel, and subscribing to the erection of a Congregational manse, offences which the Archbishop of Canterbury is little likely to commit to-day!

## 1870.—THE "ADVERTIZER" AND THE UNJUST CONVICTION.

In January, 1870, we called attention in our leading column to the unjust conviction of a man named Henry Jones for poaching at Woodhill, near Oswestry. Jones had been sent to prison for three weeks, in default of paying a fine, and there he remained a fortnight. In the meantime two leaders protesting against the conviction had appeared in the "Advertiser," with the result that the case was quashed, and Jones was released, and one of the committing magistrates handed to us a sum of money for the injured man.

## THE BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS.

In 1870 the public mind was greatly exercised over Mr Forster's Education Act and the religious difficulty, and it led to a long correspondence in our columns in which the Rev W. W. Wynne (afterwards Bishop Hereford), at that date still Rector of Whittington, took part. On the other side the Rev



THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD (DR. HOW).

T. Gascoigne, minister of Christ Church, Oswestry, was among the writers; and Bishop How, in closing one of his letters, said:—"The only argument I have ever met with in support of the secular system which has had any weight with me is the finding of Mr Gascoigne among its defenders," a very pretty, and we may add, a very well-deserved, compliment; and characteristic of Mr How.

## MR GLADSTONE AND THE WELSH ESTABLISHMENT.

In May the House of Commons debated a resolution in favour of Disestablishment in Wales, and the debate is remarkable for Mr Gladstone's speech, illuminating, as it did, the consistency of Mr Gladstone's career, true consistency amidst much seeming inconsistency. The speech is too long to quote, but our remarks upon it will show what we mean—

The chief value of the debate is to be found in Mr Gladstone's speech, although the Premier moved the vote, and may appear to some people to have spoken strongly in favour of the Establishment. The speech is a work more carefully and in the light of political history, will perhaps arrive at a different conclusion. They will mark as a most significant fact, that no attempt is made to defend the Establishment on any moral principle, and that the difficulty of overthrowing it lies in the heart of the country, is the point chiefly indicated by the Prime Minister. They will observe that Mr Gladstone only says he belongs to the number of those who consider that national establishments are opposed to the principles of the Christian religion. In short the members of the Liberal Society will be far from discouraged by Mr Gladstone's speech; and it is not too much to say that, if at any time he should be convinced that the Established Church is the church of the minority, he could find consistency in a measure for disestablishing it.

Thus, even as early as 1870, Mr Gladstone professed the principles which he applied to the present

point. Disestablishment of the Church in Wales about a quarter of a century later.

## MR CLEMENT.

In April we had to record the death of a truly Shropshire worthy, Mr Clement, M.P. for Shrewsbury. Mr Clement, who was known far and wide as a surgeon of extraordinary skill, was long the stalwart leader of the Shropshire Liberals, and everybody esteemed him, and none of all parties subscribed to erect a memorial to his memory. It was at his house that Charles Dickens was a guest when he paid a visit to Shrewsbury.



MR CLEMENT.

## 1871.—A CHANGE IN PRICE.

On April 5, 1871, the experiment was made of reducing the price of the "Advertiser" from 2d. to 1d., without reducing the size. We believe the circulation was doubled; but after a trial of eighteen months the price was raised again, not to 2d., but to 1½d.



MR. W. W. E. WYNNE OF PENIARTH.

One of our Eye-Gone Contributors.

## BYE-GONES.

On the 4th of October Mr Akear Roberts began the column of "Bye-Gones," which has continued ever since, and Mr Roberts was fortunate to secure the help of some of the leading antiquaries of Wales and the Borders, including the late Mr W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth, Mr R. E. Rowley Morris, Mr Morris C. Jones, the Chevalier Lloyd, Mr T. G. Jones, the Rev W. A. Leighton, and the Rev W. Y. Lloyd, not to mention others still living. "Bye-Gones," which was reprinted in separate form, gained a high reputation, and in a very few years sale of the reprint fetched a large price in the book market.

## MR. SALWEY RESIGNS.

In October the Vicar of Oswestry, the Rev T. Salwey, resigned, after an unbroken term of forty-five years, for twenty-four of which, through ill health, he had been an absentee. Various attempts had been made, in previous years, to persuade Mr Salwey to retire, chiefly, we believe, by High Churchmen, who objected to the "evangelical views" of the Vicar's lucubrations, the Rev G. Culbert, but Mr Salwey declared his intention of sticking to his living until Mr Culbert was provided for. This resolution he found himself unable to carry out, and efforts were made, without success, to secure for Mr Culbert the vacant incumbency, to which the Rev W. Howell Evans was appointed. His nomination was objected to by the Bishop of St. Asaph on the ground of Mr Evans's ignorance of Welsh, but the difficulty was surmounted by the establishment, or rather the re-establishment, of Welsh services (which had been discontinued about fifty years before), and they have been held ever since, first in the Victoria Rooms and then in an iron church erected for the purpose. Mr Culbert afterwards became vicar of Aberllynor, and died in 1894.

## ILLNESS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

In December the illness of the Prince of Wales caused the keenest anxiety through the country, and our columns were crowded with frequent bulletins. The death of his Royal Highness was hourly expected. The bells of St. Paul's were ordered to be in attendance to toll the great bell if occasion should arise; and at the "Advertiser" office, as doubtless, at almost every newspaper office throughout the Kingdom, every thing was in readiness for the announcement of the fatal news, which, to the delight of the whole country, never came.

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY PRETTY MAID.

About this time an event which occurred at Wem occasioned extraordinary comment. A curate was charged with attempting to seduce a young woman who was a Dissenter. The event was recorded by a lady, by a parson, in our columns, and so great was the public interest in the matter at Wem that the arrival of the "Advertiser" was greeted by a large crowd, and all the copies were immediately appropriated.

## THE PARSON AND THE MAID.

(Glosser: A small town in Shropshire.)

Where are you going, my pretty maid?  
I'm going to chapel, sir, she said.  
You shouldn't go there, my pretty maid.  
What is your reason, sir, she said.  
The preacher is tall, my pretty maid.  
And so was Peter, sir, she said.

And shoemakers too, my pretty maid.  
And Paul was a shoemaker, sir, she said.  
And tradesmen of all sorts, my pretty maid.  
Including carpenters, sir, she said.

They mix with colleagues, my pretty maid.  
Didn't their Master, sir, she said.

While I go to mend, my pretty maid!  
And He was mend, sir, she said.

The church is the fashion, my pretty maid.  
Was the church at Jerusalem, sir, she said.

Your ministers were, my pretty maid.  
And who used the towel, sir, she said.

While they ought to rule, my pretty maid.  
So James and John thought, sir, she said.

No bishops ordained them, my pretty maid.  
Four John the Baptist, sir, she said.

I ply your law, my pretty maid.  
Oh thank you kindly, sir, she said.

If I walked with your minister, my pretty maid—  
How false would I stare at you, sir, she said.

They would call me nice, my pretty maid.  
Poke with any anything, sir, she said.

But I'll scorn to do it, my pretty maid.  
Nobody asked you, sir, she said.

You'll fall for—, my pretty maid.  
Oh! that's curing, sir, she said.

Don't mention a word, my pretty maid.  
You can't rule Dissenters' tongues, she said.

The verses had a temporary popularity, and a little child was heard singing them as she sat nursing a still smaller infant, on the curbside of one of the streets at Oswestry.

## THE POLICEMAN AND THE POET.

In February, 1872, an interesting correspondence between P. C. Rowlands, then of Llanelli, a frequent contributor to our columns, and the Post Laureate was published.

Llanelli, January 18th, 1872.

Honoured Sir—Pardon me in taking liberties in writing, being a warm admirer of your poetical productions, some of which I have had much pleasure in reading during my leisure hours. I have noticed in Welsh, which language, as a vehicle of thought, is surpassed by no other. The "Charge of the Light Brigade," and beg to forward a copy, which please to accept. Hoping that the fervent and burning eloquence of the original lines have not been lost in the translation—I am, honoured Sir, your most obedient servant, Henry Rowlands, Alfred Tennyson, Esq.—(Then follows the Welsh translation.)

Faringford, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, Feb. 14th, 1872.

Sir—My thanks have been long delayed, but I beg to believe they are not the less sincere for this. Unfortunately I have forgotten almost all the very little Welsh I once knew, so that I am unable to judge of the merits of the translation, but I feel, notwithstanding, an interest in possessing it—I have the honour to be your obedient servant, A. Tennyson.

ters, and Mr Cornwallis West of Ruthin Castle was appointed. It is curious to consider how all the holders of this high office in North Wales are again Conservatives, after a period when the old Tory monopoly had been considerably disturbed. The Lord-Lieutenant of Denbighshire, at first a Liberal, has passed over to the other side; as has the Lord-Lieutenant of Carmarthen here. How hardly shall they that have ruled remain in the Liberal party! Anglesey, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire have been lost by the death of the Lord-Lieutenant during a Tory Government; and now there is not a Liberal in office.

## THE FIRST UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES.

In the autumn of this year the first session of the first University College in Wales, Aberystwyth, was opened, and the dream of long years began to be realized.

## 1873.—THE RITUALISTIC CONTROVERSY.

In 1873 the Ritualistic controversy, which has again assumed so acute a form, was raging in our pages: High Church clergymen writing on one side, ardent Evangelicals on the other. We were compelled at length to announce that only one column could be devoted to it. In March we published an article from the "Figaro," looking into a Ritualistic paper for a gross attack upon the Rector of Whittington, Mr How. We were glad to see, had proposed to omit the Athanasian Creed on Christmas Day, Easter Day and Whit Sunday. Hence the religious Billingsgate of the Ritualistic organ. Amongst the novelties which excited curiosity in those days was the practice of holding "Retreats," now accepted, we believe, by all sections of the Church; and to correct the popular misapprehension on the subject, we published a few months later than this, at Mr How's request, a description of what a "Retreat" really was. The incident is worth mentioning, as an example of the rapid change of opinion.

## CHURCH RESTORATION—A GROAN.

In the course of this year the Old Church at Oswestry was undergoing restoration, and there was some public feeling as to the disturbance of the graves. A contributor put it into verse, as follows:—

A GROAN FROM A BONE.  
(WRITTEN IN A CHURCH UNDERGOING RESTORATION.)

Alas! alas! No need right  
Could groan my sorrow here,  
For little vested interest have  
The living in the dead.

I slumbered in unbroken sleep  
A hundred years or more,  
Within the vault I purchased dear  
A seat the old church floor.

Until the quarry's ruthless pick  
Let in the light of day,  
And banished out prematurely  
My bones! Oh, where are they?

The noble handpiece of my frame,  
My cranium once so wise,  
Was stolen by a butcher's dog  
Before the public eye.

Six pointed toes were carried off  
By divers carmen crows,  
What could induce such petty theft?  
Not piousness petitions.

My dural and my lumbar spines,  
Ah, whither are they fled?  
They're gone, I fear there's little doubt,  
On too high like my head.

My ribs and ends of dust and bone  
Were carted off the ground,  
And peer and pauper's clay alike,  
Commingle, forms one mound.

My destination ultimate  
Is that I may be one;  
Some farmer, plough will have me hence,  
To use for horse manure.

MORAL.  
A moral from my awful fate,  
I hope you will adduce;  
To purchase will to bury in  
Is now no earthly use.

Though sack-men are out of date  
The sack you'll get some time,  
Might old men in sale utilized  
Dead bones may make quick time.

Oh, if I had to die again,  
I'd try to die at sea,  
Remember the life  
A shark's inside T.

The cheapest vault for me,  
Faringford,  
Freshwater,  
Isle of Wight.

July 14 1872

My thanks have been  
(long delayed) but I beg you  
to believe they are not the  
less sincere for this.  
Unfortunately I have forgotte  
almost all the very little  
Welsh I once knew so that  
I am not able to judge  
of the merits of the translation  
but I feel, notwithstanding,  
am interest in possessing it  
I have the honour to be  
Your very obedient servant  
A. Tennyson

## TENNYSON'S AUTOGRAPH.

## LLANFYLIN AND LLANGYNOG RAILWAY.

On the 16th of June the Royal Assent was given to the Llanfyllin and Llangynog Railway Bill.

## 1874.—PEACE, RETRENCHMENT, AND REFORM.

Early in 1874 Parliament was suddenly dissolved, by Mr Gladstone, and before January was







**ENLARGED AGAIN.**  
In July, 1879, new machinery having been erected, the "Advertiser" was again enlarged, seven columns being added, with an alternative list, in which the addition amounted to fifteen columns.



CAPTAIN PRYCE.

(See Page 6.)

#### BISHOP FRASER AT OSWESTRY, ON RELIGIOUS DRUGS.

In October Dr. Fraser, Bishop of Manchester, one of the greatest Bishops of his generation, preached in the Old Church at Oswestry. The event may seem scarce worth noting, but his sermon is of great interest for the sake of present controversies, and the following utterance—

In the present day they were trying to make men good by means of drugs. Some were trying to do it by a sort of belief in magic. People were being taught that they could only get to heaven through the priest, and the absorption of the priest. This was the use of drugs instead of food. Drugs, and even deadly, might be necessary here and there in cases of severe and inveterate disease, but an ordinary constitution did not want drugs, but the healthful exercise and wholesome diet of sound Christian doctrine.

We wrote an article on the Bishop's sermon, pointing out how large-headed and uncharitable his views were, and he was good enough to say, in a letter referring to the report and the article, "The report seems to me speedily done, and I could not but be gratified by the kindly article, which was so far true, that it correctly describes the aim that I proposed to myself, though I am only too conscious how far I am from realising it."



THE PRESENT SUB-EDITING AND REPORTING STAFF.

#### 1879—STILL WAR.

Still war, in 1879, when, before we had quite finished with the Afghan, we fought the Zulu. The warlike frenzy of the Zulus may be illustrated by a verse from a Society paper, referring to the advance upon Colenso—

No quarter! No show-out of pity;  
Cut the warriors down as they run;  
Blaze the walls of the thirteen per cent city,  
Blow a score from the mouth of a gun.

But the Ministry of War was coming to the end of its days, and on every hand the conditions were preparing for the general election.

**BISHOP HOW AND BARMOUTH.**  
In May we published the following by the Rev W. W. How, rector of Whittington, a few weeks afterwards appointed Bishop of Barmouth. Barmouth was one of his favourite resorts—

#### BARMOUTH.

##### AN AGGRIEVED VISION.

Listen, men and maidens fair,  
Who in Barmouth do repair,  
Seeking health and sunshine there,  
Basking in its sunny air.  
While of grievance a pale  
With a sad heart I declare,  
First of all you are aware  
That no peasant can compare  
(Search the land through everywhere)  
With the three clefts in your ear.  
How then could those Vandals dare  
To block out the sweet view there  
By that wall all gazed and here  
Built along the road so fair?  
The enough to make men swear,  
And fair maidens tear their hair,  
As in tapers in despair,  
Vainly they attempt to stare.

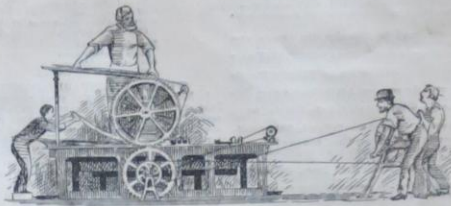
Over the stones so rude and square,  
Men of Barmouth, if you care  
For the wealth of beauty rare,  
Which your glades and meadows wear,  
Bonds from your walls so bare  
Two feet you might rightly spare:  
This would last the wrong repair.  
Has not here wrong I hear  
In our houses ranking there,  
Lies on men and maidens fair,  
And with me my services share  
Why, oh, why, I ask, where'er  
Hiding from my easy chair  
I would breathe the balmy air,  
Plying on your thoroughfare,  
Seeking to dispel dull care  
With the sight of all things fair,  
Why must every rocky hill  
On the down on flow here,  
Not the dainty maiden fair,  
Not the sea from—would it were!—  
But (it is too hard, I swear!)  
Posters—bifrons vulgar, square,  
That with yellow sickening glare  
Blurring nature, flout and stare  
On the grey rocks every where.



MR CHARLES WYNN.

Men of Barmouth, hear my prayer:  
If a worthy pride you share  
In your country, do and dare!  
From that wall so gaudy and bare  
Four and twenty inches spare;  
And from all the rock-slabs there  
Those atrocious posters tear;  
Nor in future let them bear  
Ought the eye of taste to scare.  
Save this—  
Bill-stickers, Beware!

In the same month we recorded the death of Lord Hamner, politician and poet, for twenty-five years M.P. for the Flint Boroughs.



ONE OF THE FIRST "ADVERTISER" MACHINES.

the Church in Wales. Later he was well known as the host of Mr Gladstone (to whom son Henry Mr Rendel's second daughter was married) on his journeys to the south of France. One of our illustrations shows Mr Gladstone and Mr Rendel walking together near Valence in 1881.

For the benefit of despairing Liberals at the present moment it may be well to place on record the return of the general election of 1880—

Liberals	—	—	—	354
Home Rulers	—	—	—	61
Conservatives	—	—	—	237

During this and all subsequent general elections we published several editions daily, giving the results of the polls, and the "Advertiser" Office, through a great part of the night, was a lively scene, with Liberals and Conservatives waiting there to learn the results.

#### 1881—THE COST OF AN ELECTION IN 1880.

In March, 1881, a return of the election expenses was printed. Some of the items are more than sufficient to justify the legislation which brought down the costs of political contests to a comparatively moderate sum. Thus, Mr Charles Wynn spent £13,453 in polling 2,041 votes, and Mr Rendel having spent £6,656, the total cost of the Montgomeryshire election was £20,109. In 1885, under the new law, the cost was £2,302.

#### THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA IN ENGLAND.

At this time the late Empress of Austria, whose tragic death has excited the pity of Europe, was living in the district, and hunting with Sir Watkin's Hounds and other packs. So much interest has been excited by the tragedy at Geneva that the following from "Punch," which was re-published in the "Advertiser," will be interesting—

#### WITH THE WYNN-STAY.

("PUNCH" TO THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.)  
A welcome to the Kaiserin, who rides so straight and well,  
No other lady in the hunt from her may bear the bell;  
From Austria's old Imperial halls she comes to English land,



Mr C. W.—W—W— "I hope you will vote for me, Mr Jones?"  
Mr JONES. "Well, I dunna know."  
Mr C. W.—W—W— "But you would not turn me out after being in the seat 17 years, and my father 50 before me?"  
Mr JONES. "I dunna know that, nayther. I've fand that when 'aters has bin in the same ground long, o's well to change the seed."

#### MONTGOMERYSHIRE ELECTION CARTOON.

Designed and drawn by Mr W. Thomas of the Advertiser Office, and issued from the Office.

MR GLADSTONE AND LORD RENDEL.  
At Fawcett.

#### 1880.—THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The year 1880 was pre-eminently an election-year. In Montgomeryshire the appearance of Mr Rendel for the county was met by the selection of Mr (now Sir P.) Pryce-Jones to fight the Boroughs, upon which one of our most esteemed contributors sent the following lines to the "Advertiser"—

#### POLITICAL HOMOEOPATHY IN MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

##### LIKE CURE LIKE.

The swells and the snobs of our Tories, dismayed  
At contact with Magistrates suited by trade,  
To cure like by like, are now making no bones  
About choosing for candidates, Sir Pryce-Jones.

The hit, of course, was not at Mr Pryce-Jones, for it could only be honourable to him to have built up his great business, but at "the snobs" who about this time were showing their dislike of "tradesmen-magistrates."

In March came the dissolution, quickly followed by the election, and the great Liberal triumph at the polls. Wales went practically all one way, for out of thirty seats the Liberals carried twenty-eight; and of all the Welsh victors Mr Rendel's in Montgomeryshire was the greatest. In that county the Wynn had held, it may be said, immemorial possession, and that they should be ousted by a stranger was gall and wormwood to them and to the Conservative party. The Liberal triumph in Wales was doubtless due in part to the earnest and repeated attempts which had been made in the House of Commons by Mr Osborne Morgan (as he then was) and others to secure justice for Wales in the matter of burial in the churchyard and other things. Mr Rendel became the leader of the Welsh members in the



And not a rider in the field has lighter bridle hand,  
so gallantly she races on through all the life long day,—  
And who would shrink his horses when an English leads  
the way!

The meet was fixed for Chertsey, the hounds were  
Wolton Wynn's,  
An old fox dog was quickly found and "Yolks" away  
he spins  
For halfpence on to Hall he ran for Wilkesley like the  
wind.

But there upon the course at Ash the hounds were close  
behind,  
Heads up they ran, before them felt the feet fox for his  
life.  
In south it was a "crowded hour" of son-in-law's strife,  
So farred we with the Wymsey Hunt, and even in the race,  
Though Middleton and Bulkeley rode, as English sports-  
man can.  
Upon her grand old horse, *Hard Times*, the Empress  
sailed away.  
The dark blue light shone for us an Oriflamme that day.  
She topped the fence—she flew the brook—now sound the  
fox's knell,  
And deft the cap, and hand the brush the Empress wins  
so well!

Pots and pans and pewters,  
Of furniture use,  
Plates and cups and saucers  
Play the very dance.

Removal's useless,  
Elin's gambols cease  
Only at the whirler—  
Here comes the police!

#### WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT.

In November's meeting of great importance was  
held at Chertsey—the beginning, in fact, of the  
revived movement for Disestablishment in Wales  
—which resulted in the introduction of a Minis-  
terial measure, which was read a second time in  
the House of Commons in 1895. It is a curious  
fact that the Welsh Liberal M.P.'s fought shy of  
the movement, and in 1893, of the representatives  
of North Wales, only Mr Stuart Rendel, who be-  
came the leader of the movement, was present.  
Mr H. Richard and Mr Dillwyn also attended.  
Mr G. O. Morgan, it should be explained, was in  
the Ministry and could not attend.

course of the day a long procession  
passed through the streets, and the weavers of  
Newtown proclaimed their sentiments in motions  
like this—

"As we finish our cloth with labour and skill,  
We'll cut out the Lords and finish the Bill."

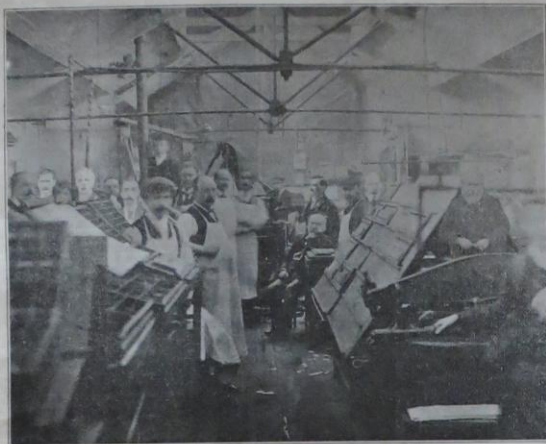
Some of the passages of Mr Chamberlain's  
rhetoric at Newtown may be worth  
quoting. He said Lord Salisbury "only  
listened to the voice of Wales when it was  
hipped to him from a public house," and of  
the Peers, now his dear friends and allies, he said—

It has happened, gentlemen, in the history of many  
nations that they have had for a time to be subject to  
the cruelty and oppression of despotic monarchs, the  
domination of a long line of warriors, and kings, and  
the condition of such nations has been the subject of the pity  
and commiseration of mankind; but, gentlemen, if you,  
who have for ever escaped the possibility of such a con-  
tingency as this, were now to lay your liberties at the feet  
of the peers—before a club of Tory landlords a mere  
committee of the Tory caucus, we should indeed be an

object—not of pity or commiseration, but of scorn and  
contempt to all the world. (Cheers.)  
One thing is quite clear, that if this tremendous power is  
to remain in the hands of individuals we may as well  
even to prize of our liberties as a free people. If one  
man or a handful can block the way to the rights and  
privileges of millions of their fellow-citizens, then we have  
only escaped the tyranny of kings in order to submit to  
the arrogance of nobles (Cheers, Cheers). I have come down  
here to plead before you the cause of the men who are  
suffering mightily for their vote (Cheers). They are your  
fellow-citizens—your flesh and blood. Like you they help  
to sustain the pillars of the empire; like you they help to  
meet the demands of its prosperity and wealth; and I am  
full of confidence that you will not rest or falter until you  
have won from the hands of privilege and authority the  
privileges and the rights which every freeman prizes as  
the dearest object of his political condition.

A few days later Mr Chamberlain spoke at  
Denbigh, and made his famous declaration that  
he was a Dissenter. He said—

I will not forget the remarking. I boast a descent of  
which I am so proud as my kinsmen may be of the title  
which he owes to the smiles of a king—(loud cheers)—etc.



IN THE "ADVERTIZER" COMPOSING ROOM, 1894.  
*Tuesday Night's "Advertiser" Staff.*



ALBION PRESS

On which the "Advertiser" was first printed. It was the first Albion Press used  
in Oswestry, and gave the name to Albion Hill.

#### 1892.—POLITICAL POT AND KETTLE.

In March, 1892, the Conservatives of Oswestry  
held a meeting to protest against the new rules  
of procedure in the House of Commons, the  
closure, as it was then the fashion to call them;  
and one of the speakers, breaking into poetry,  
declared that "the closure holds the hall of free  
debate." The incident is notable because of the  
good will with which the Conservatives now  
apply the closure!

#### MR. BRADLAUGH—A PREDICTION.

Another political prediction of the same period  
is perhaps worth remembering from oblivion. Mr  
Bradlaugh, the elected representative of North-  
ampton, had been elected from the House of  
Commons, and there was a long and heated corre-  
spondence on the subject in the "Advertiser," in  
which Mr Bradlaugh himself took part, to ex-  
pose the misrepresentations of one of his assail-  
ants, who, being convicted of false accusations,  
replied that he wondered Mr Bradlaugh should  
be so sensitive! The prediction is found in one  
of the letters, in which the writer said, "The  
admission of Mr Bradlaugh into the House of Com-  
mons would set a precedent to posterity, which  
might culminate in an entire subversion of  
Christianity in England." Mr Bradlaugh be-  
came an honoured and respected member of the  
House, and Christianity has survived.

#### MR. DARWIN.

In April died Mr Darwin, the greatest of  
Scientists, and one of the greatest of Englishmen  
of all time. In June he was followed to the tomb  
by the most illustrious hero of the century, the  
single-hearted Garibaldi.



CHARLES DARWIN.

The death of Mr Charles Minshall of Oswestry  
must also be placed on record here, for to him,  
especially in its early days, the "Advertiser"  
was indebted for many valuable contributions.  
He was a man of rare qualities of mind and heart,  
although his sensitive character kept him, to  
the public loss, too much out of public life.

#### 1893.—A SHROPSHIRE GHOST.

Towards the end of 1893 there was extraordi-  
nary excitement over a supposed ghost in  
North Shropshire. London daily papers  
even sent their special correspondents all the  
way down to Shropshire to inquire into the mys-  
tery, and a well-known member of the Physical  
Research Society offered, if the "manifestations"  
continued, to come down and investigate them.  
Before he could do so, a doctor removed the  
real "ghost," a servant girl, from her sur-  
roundings, and the "mystery" was explained.  
"Judy" gave an account of the ghostly perfor-  
mances—

On the hedge she hangs  
Articles to dry—  
Pronto! In a twinkling  
Over they fly—(H)

The great agricultural event in 1894 in Shrop-  
shire was the Royal Agricultural Show at Shrews-  
bury, when we published an illustrated report.  
At this time music at Oswestry—where music  
had long been earnestly cultivated, largely  
through the efforts of Mr J. Whittington Davies—  
had the advantage of Mr Henry Leslie's direction,  
and the Festivals of Village Choirs excited wide  
spread interest. A School of Music established  
at Oswestry at Mr Leslie's suggestion was not  
successful.

#### PEERS v. PEOPLE.

The great struggle of the year was between the  
House of Lords and the people over the question of  
the Franchise. Political leaders were active on both  
sides. Sir R. (now Lord) Cross visited Welshpool  
early in the summer; and Mr Chamberlain came  
down to Wales in the autumn.

#### GEMS FROM MR. CHAMBERLAIN IN

##### WALE.

Mr Chamberlain, who was the guest of Mr  
Rendel at Plas Dinan, was received with great  
enthusiasm at Newtown, where there was an im-  
mense gathering of Liberals. In the



THE WREXHAM OFFICE.



THE NEWTOWN PUBLISHING OFFICE.





A BIT OF OLD OSWESTRY (Lloyd Mansion).

the favour of a king's mistress—(cheers and laughter)—for I can claim descent from one of the two thousand—one of the elected ministers—(cheers)—who in the time of the Stuart left home and work and profit rather than accept a State-made creed which it was sought to force upon him—(loud cheers)—and for that reason if for no other I share your hopes and aspirations, and I repeat the trouble, the sorrow, and the anxiety from which you have suffered so long at the hands of a privileged assembly. (Cheers and applause.) But the cup is nearly full. (Cheers.) The career of black-headed wrong is coming to an end. (Cheers.) The House of Lords have alienated Ireland; they have oppressed the Dissenters; they now

an adaptation from "Punch" which appeared in the "Advertiser" in November—"Prophet," said I, "of things evil, trade is going to the devil. In the place of you and Lowther, Chaplin and many another here. Sophists shall not all undamned, do you think the thing that's wanted. By our kind depression-haunted—tell me truly, I implore—Is it, can it be Protection? Answer plainly, I implore! Quoth our Drayton, Tax once more."

## SIR WATKIN.

In May died Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, the last of the long line of baronets of Wynnstay who inherited the title from their fathers. The succession continued for all but 200 years, the baronetcy having been created in 1688. The last of the "old Sir Watkins" was one of the most genial and most popular of Welshmen. He was succeeded by his nephew.

THE BAILEY HEAD.  
First Printing and Publishing Office.

oppose the enfranchisement of the people. (Cries of "Shame.") We have been too long a per-children nation—(cheers)—and I hope you will say to those that if they will not bow to the mandate of the people they shall lose for ever—the right—the authority which they have so long abused.

The storm of abuse raged for some time round Mr Chamberlain for those speeches in Wales. He was assailed in the House of Parliament and out of doors, and those who now sing his praises could not then point his character in colours too black. Yet the man has not changed. At a Conservative meeting at Oswestry a noble lord said "Mr Chamberlain's scurrilous personal attacks of the Birmingham Caucus and of those hired ruffians who, the other day, made an inroad into a peaceful assembly"; and another speaker, a man of good position in the county, used terms so abusive that we cannot reproduce them here.

## DEATH OF MR ASKEW ROBERTS.

In December Mr Askew Roberts, if not the founder, the maker of the "Advertiser," died at his residence at Crowsley, Oswestry. Mr Roberts was also the originator of the well-known "Gossiping Guide to Wales," which has had and continues to have a very large sale, and a contributor to various archaeological publications. His public services were recognized by the creation of a memorial clock, to which men of all parties contributed.

## 1885—FAIR TRADE.

In the beginning of 1885 the advocates of Fair Trade were loud and demonstrative. It is only fourteen years ago, but where is that reform now? It was on everybody's tongue in 1885, but the boys and girls who are at school to-day probably do not even know what it means! The prevalence of the demand in 1885 may be illustrated in

"Then it's time that we were parting, Parrotter," I cried upstarting. "Get thee back to Dolwyddelan, or press upon a Welshpool horse, I require no further token of the rot your League hath spoken. Fair Trade phylax to be broken by experience and and more. Take thy BEAR'S words to heart, who said Protection's day was over." Quoth Pryce-Jones still, "Tax once more."



SIR W. WILLIAMS WYNN.

most esteemed contributors, happily still living, may be given. Jasper, of course, is Mr Jasper More, who was Liberal candidate for the division he now represents as a "Unionist." Mr Jephson was the Liberal candidate for the new Oswestry Division, created by the Redistribution Bill.

## GAIN IS GODLINESS.

"I am strongly in favour of Religious Education, believing it to be our first duty to educate our children in the faith of their fathers, and that even if it has no other recommendation it will tend to economy in the future government of the State."—From the Address of Mr Watkin, the Conservative candidate for Shrewsbury.

Our fathers, they were Druids first,  
And roared men in wicker,  
But if we had them back again  
They'd not revive the liquor.  
And then our Saxon ancestors,  
They worshipped Thor and Tuisen;  
But there was a most pious time,  
For School Board rates weren't brisk, O  
Our English sires, in Mary's days,  
Sent hitherward many a merry—  
And better let old Smithfield blaze  
Than stamp up now a quarter!  
So you will not be in the lurch,  
But money you'll save lots on,  
If you will stand by Mother Church  
And nobly vote for Watkin.

In Ludlow, too, you may be sure,  
You'll have to pay a rouser,  
If you don't keep your doctrine pure  
And halloo "Down with Jasper."

Those Atholite and Methodists,  
They nothing do but spend all,  
Saves will say our Catholics  
And grins for Stuart Remiel.

To nice diversities of faith  
We wisely must be deaf soon,  
For Munio Jumbo's votaries  
Are better far than Jephson.

Their creed is diabolical,  
Their practice very lax is,  
But we don't care for that at all,  
If they'll keep down the taxes.

## THE SETTING OF ENGLAND'S SUN.

We seldom or never hear now of the "setting of England's sun," a very old cry of the Tories, but it was employed as late, it seems, as 1855, for one poet, calling upon Conservatives to rally to the defence of the Establishment, wrote—

Sons of England, none or never,  
Arm you bravely for the fight!  
Lead our men should not set for ever!  
God in Heaven defend the right!

It would be interesting to know if that was the last occasion on which the venerable appeal was made.

## A GREAT LIBERAL VICTORY.

In November came the elections, with their great Liberal victories. For the first time for more than half a century a Liberal was returned by North Shropshire electors in the person of Mr Bickersteth for the Newport division, but in the other new constituency partly carved out of the old "North Shropshire," Oswestry, Mr Jephson, after a splendid fight, was defeated by Mr Leighton. In Shrewsbury also the Conservatives won, but there were only two Tory members for the county which had returned the Twelve Apostles. Shropshire was left, under the new Distribution Bill, with only five members, and of these three were Liberals.

In Montgomeryshire Mr Rendel gained a great victory, but the rejoicing of the Liberals was dashed a little by the success of Mr Pryce-Jones in the Breconshire. In the Denbigh Boroughs Sir Robert Cunliffe was defeated by Mr Kynyon, but for the first time in political history, we may say, a Sir Watkin was defeated, and Mr Osborne Morgan was returned for West Denbighshire. From the whole of Wales only three Conservatives were sent up to St. Stephen's.

No wonder Mr Stanley Leighton, in a letter to a Prince of Wales meeting, wrote that "the year was closing very much." He said his own inimitable and—

The Ministerialists are . . . . .  
The Liberals are . . . . .  
The revolutionary Radicals are . . . . .  
The irreconcilable Irish are . . . . .



CAMBRIAN RAILWAY STATION, OSWESTRY.

## LORD SALISBURY IN WALES.

The preparations for the election, although it was not to take place until the end of the year, soon began to claim a large space in the columns of the "Advertiser." The Conservatives had determined upon a general attack on the Principality, then almost entirely represented by Liberals, and in August Lord Salisbury delivered

## A TRANSFORMATION SCENE.

Little did the honourable gentleman foresee that before a few years were over some of these revolutionary Radicals would be politically his bosom friends, and one of them among the chief of his leaders! In 1895, as most of our readers will remember, the great Liberal victories of 1885 were reversed, and Shropshire once more sent up only



PUBLISHING OFFICE AT THE CROSS, OSWESTRY.

speeches at Wrexham and Welshpool, when he made a statement that excited some comment at the time, that "Indies were always Liberals," though he was kind enough to add that the reverse was not true.

## ELECTION LITERATURE.

Of the election literature of the time the following, written for the "Advertiser" by one of its

Tory or "Unionist" members to Parliament, two of the new "Unionists" being the old "Liberals."

## MR CHAMBERLAIN'S BIOGRAPHY

## IN BRIEF.

Here, except for a few notes strictly connected with the "Advertiser," which we append, we may bring our general survey to a close, having reached a time well





MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE.  
In front of Lord Rendel's Villa at Cannes. The Group also includes Lord Rendel and Mr. H. N. Gladstone  
(Taken by Numa Blanc, Cannes, during Mr Gladstone's last visit, 1897-8.)

within the recollection of the majority of our readers; but we may briefly mention the general election of 1892, after which the Liberals returned to power, and of 1895, when they sustained an overwhelming defeat. Among the cartoons of the last election, one, reprinted in the "Advertiser"

#### THE OSWESTRY QUINCENTENARY.

The 500th anniversary of the incorporation of the borough of Oswestry, which was celebrated in the summer of 1898, is too remarkable to be passed over with no mention in the history of the "Ad-

vertiser." It was added that a similar honour was recently conferred on Mr Wynne Corrie, who was Mayor of the borough four times in succession.

#### MR. GLADSTONE.

One other event, although it is quite recent, cannot be omitted, the death of Mr Gladstone in May, 1898. Mr Gladstone was the neighbour of many of our readers, and some of his speeches, as we have recorded, were delivered in the "Advertiser" district. Several weeks of his last winter were spent at Cannes with Lord Rendel, the former member for Montgomeryshire, who had been raised to the peerage in 1894.

OUR OFFICES: OSWESTRY, SHREWSBURY, WREXHAM, AND NEWTOWN.  
Among our illustrations, in addition to views of the publishing office at the Cross, and the printing works in Oswald-road, Oswestry, we give



#### THE SHREWSBURY OFFICE.

from the "Westminster Gazette," was excellent, and especially interesting to many of our readers because some of Mr Chamberlain's notable speeches as a Radical, as we have shown, had been delivered in Wales. The cartoon represented the right hon. gentleman engaged in altering the legend under a portrait of Lord Salisbury by changing "Lord Salisbury is a ——" to "Lord Salisbury is a angel." It was Mr Chamberlain's political biography in brief.

#### A PROTEST AGAINST COERCION.

In December, 1897, and January, 1898, we published a Protest against Coercion in Ireland signed by a very large number of clergymen of all denominations, including the Church of England, in Shropshire and Wales. The Protest was forwarded to Mr Gladstone, who sent the following reply to the Editor of the "Advertiser":

Sir,—I have received with pleasure the address you have sent me signed by so many ministers of religion, and it gave me particular satisfaction to observe that in contemplating the present Ministerial policy in Ireland they do not forget to notice its fatal tendency to compromise law and order in that country, both by the still example it sets and by the agitation and estrangement it causes to breed in the people.—Your very faithful servant,  
W. E. GLADSTONE.  
Florence, Jan. 24, 1898.

#### FURTHER ENLARGEMENT AND NEW MACHINERY.

In 1898 gas was adopted as the motive power for the "Advertiser" machinery, in place of steam. On the 1st of January, 1899, its fortieth anniversary, the "Advertiser" was printed in new type and once more enlarged, to the size in which it has since appeared. In December, 1899, the publishing office, which had been on the Bailey Head since the foundation of the paper, was removed to the Cross. It may be interesting to add that the site of the Bailey Head office was at one time called Cotes's Corner, from the election of 1832, when Cotes was the Liberal candidate; and that the Albion Press, from which the "Advertiser" was first printed—the first press of the kind introduced into Oswestry—gave a name to one of the streets of the town, Albion Hill, at the top of which the office was situated. In 1894 the first of two linotype machines now in use was set up in the office. The linotype is one of the most remarkable inventions of an age of inventions, and nothing can exceed the skill with which the machinery is devised to convert molten lead into a line of type.

In the same year the installation of the Prince of Wales as Chancellor of the Welsh University, at Aberystwyth, when his Royal Highness and the Princess were the guests of Lady Londonderry at Plas Machynlleth, and Mr Gladstone attended at Aberystwyth to receive the degree of Doctor of Laws; and the Archaeological Exhibition at Shrewsbury in 1896. Many of the illustrations were produced from photographs taken by Mr Booth of the "Advertiser" office, and some of the blocks were produced by the publishers.

#### THE "ADVERTIZER" STAFF—LENGTH OF SERVICE.

If the "Advertiser" is Liberal, its staff, in one respect at any rate, can be described as conservative. To mention only those who have been connected with the paper for about a quarter of a century or more, the Editor, alas, can count his forty years as one on the "Advertiser"; the first introduction of the sub-editor, Mr Pugh, to the office was in 1872; the reader, Mr Williams, came in 1864; Mr Robert Thomas, of the publishing office, in 1867; and of the composing and printing staff at the Caxton Works, the following to the record:—Mr Richards, 1864; Mr Love, 1867; Mr T. Jones, 1866; Mr Bockett, 1868; Mr Wray ("Advertiser" foreman), 1871; Mr Roberts, 1872; Mr Rance, 1873; Mr J. J. Davies (general foreman), 1874; Mr Thomas, 1874. Mr Denison, 1874. A change in the staff, except through death or the lapse of apprenticeship, is almost a thing unknown; and only two members of the staff have died in the last twenty-five years.

#### THANKS!

It may be allowed to conclude with a word of thanks to the large number of those, at the office and outside, who have helped to make the "Advertiser" a success. The length of service, already mentioned, is a sufficient testimony to the character and loyalty of the staff; and all through the wide district of the "Advertiser" we have to express the deepest obligation to a large number of regular correspondents, and to others, in all ranks and belonging to all parties, clerical and lay, who fill our columns week by week with contributions which have proved eminently acceptable to the public. To them and to our faithful readers let us, with this word of thanks, wish many happy new years, on the beginning of the second half-century of the "Advertiser."

#### THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

The Editor's letter box is a revelation of human vanity which he is not always cruel enough to expose to the public gaze. Thus, many years ago we received from a minister of religion a glowing account of his own good deeds in Montgomeryshire. We committed it to the waste-paper basket. Not deterred by his first failure, he wrote again, and, again ignored, he begged the help of a number of his correspondents. All in vain! The readers of the "Advertiser" never heard of his beneficence.

*Mr Gladstone's article is a  
pleasure to me. I am  
glad to see so much of the  
meeting of our district as  
was made during the  
winter in Wales.*  
O. S. S.

#### MR. GLADSTONE'S AUTOGRAPH.

#### HIS OWN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF.

Another time the paid agent of a Society, a certain "Dr.," according to his own description, sent us, in his own handwriting, a report of a lecture delivered by himself at Newtown. The report never met the public eye, but we may give extracts from it here as a specimen of the lengths to which vanity and egotism will go. The "doctor" requested us to correct his English, but we prefer not to touch the original. The lecture was able, eloquent and suggestive, and certainly on lines different from what one is accustomed to hear at Temperance meetings. In withering and sarcastic language the lecturer exposed some of the fallacies of the present Licensing System, and the supposed reasons for the existence of the Liquor Traffic and its influence on the Moral, Social and Commercial Condition of our Country. The Statistical part of the lecture was most interesting. He has a marvellous way of dealing with facts and placing them in such a form that cannot fail to impress his audience with the importance of the subject. He concluded his most eloquent lecture by an appeal to the Christian Church. His speech both to the head and heart of his audience. His lecture will be long remembered. The South Wales Press speaks of him as one of the most able platform speakers at the present day, and those who had the pleasure of hearing him on Wednesday can bear testimony to such an opinion.

#### A PREDICTION.

To the prediction of approaching failure for the paper which refuses the help of the prophet



CAXTON PRESS-PRINTING AND PUBLISHING OFFICE.



all editors are accustomed; but the following is a gem—  
"Sir, I wish to know why the Editor of the *Oswestry Advertiser* could not insert a letter on the Oswestry Scientific Association, but could insert some doggerel verses, from which not only rhyme but also reason had evidently 'gone away'."  
I hope to suggest that the fairness and impartiality which has hitherto characterized the *Advertiser* in its dealings with the public is becoming a thing of the past. If this be the case the fate of the *Advertiser* is sealed.

We will not expose ourselves to the risk of being placed in the same category with the writer of the report given above by printing extracts from other too flattering letters received from political friends and opponents, and particularly from clergy of the Church of England.



BRYNTYSILIO, THE RESIDENCE OF SIR THEODORE MARTIN,  
Visited by the Queen in 1889.



PLAS MACHYNLLETH.  
Where the Prince and Princess of Wales stayed, in 1890.

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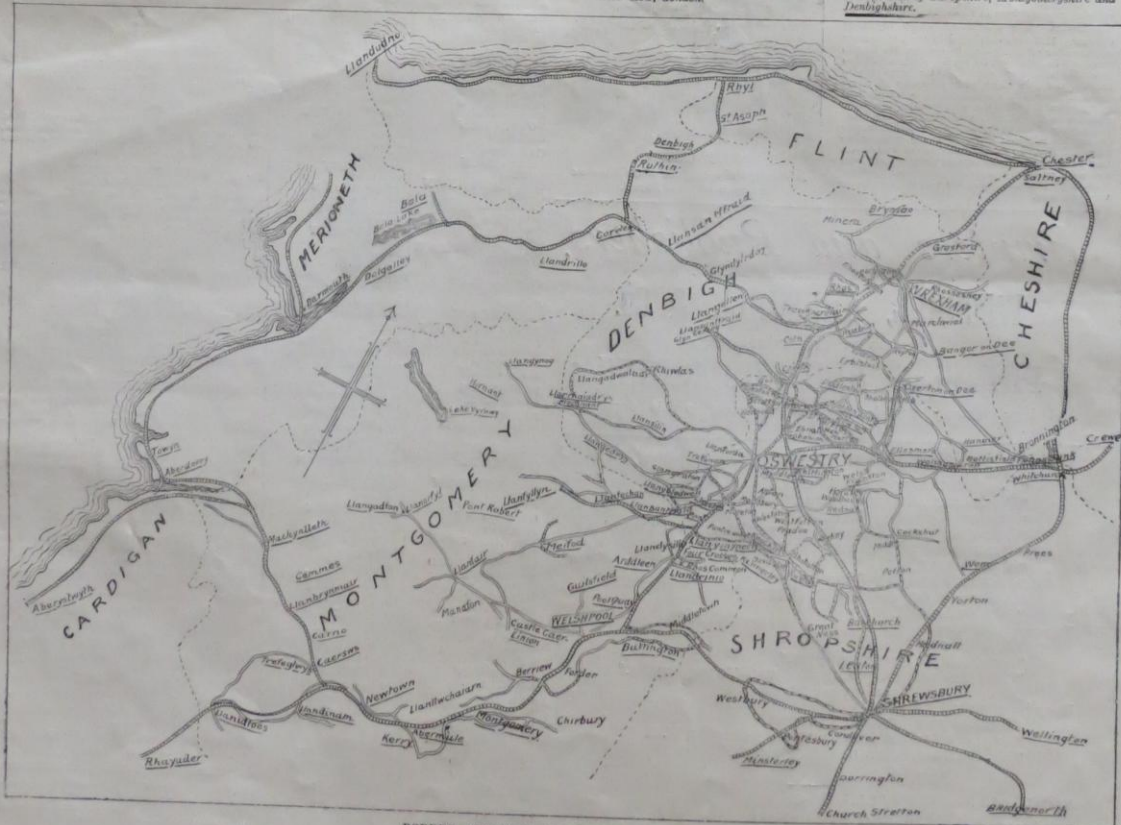
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\* The *Border Counties Advertiser* has a large circulation in its extensive district, and is the ONLY paper seen by many of the Inhabitants of a considerable portion of Shropshire, Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire.



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## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Our portraits are of those only who are deceased. The following are from photographs taken by Mr. J. Macleay of Oswestry:—Sir W. W. Wynne, Mr. Charles Wynne, Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, Mr. C. C. Cole, Mr. Thomas Sevin, Mr. Thomas Minshall and Mr. Asher Roberts. The views of Llyllyd Mansion, the Cambrian Railway Station, and the group of the Reporting Staff are also from photographs by Mr. Macleay. A bit of old Welshpool is from a photograph by Mr. Albert Turner, Welshpool. Mr. David Davies is from a photograph by Mr. Beethoven, Baker-street, London. Mr. Clement from a photograph supplied by Mr. R. L. Bartlett, summer to Mr. Laing, Shrewsbury, Bishop How from a photograph by

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*Mr. Charles Dickens presents his compliments to the Editor of Oswald's Mt., and begs to thank him, with great cordiality, for the first number of that magazine, and for the pleasure Mr. Dickens has had in the generous sympathy of the reviewer of his books. Nothing can be more gratifying when there is such approval, from one such ground.*

*London & Chesham Terrace  
Edinburgh & London 1847.*

CHARLES DICKENS'S AUTOGRAPH.

THE PRECURSOR OF  
THE  
"ADVERTIZER."

A few of our readers may possess the "Advertiser" published in October, 1847, and second issue. The "Advertiser" was established in January, 1848. Mr. Shirley Brooks contributed an article to the first number of the magazine, on "The Museum Club Dinner to Leigh Hunt." In the second number appeared a review of the Works of Charles Dickens, which drew forth the reply reproduced here in facsimile; and a tale by Mr. Brooks, "The Chameleon," which began in February, 1848, was concluded in the last number in December of that year. In closing, Mr. Brooks wrote:—"We have thus concluded a tale which has been the means of renewing, for some twelve months, our association with a locality of which we shall never think without feelings of pleasure and gratitude. If our contributing this little romance to the literature of Oswestry has been, in however slight a degree, an acceptable tribute to any kind friends there, in whose memory we may still live, we are more proud of that result than of the most chosen success we may have been fortunate enough to attain elsewhere." "The History of Oswestry" also ran through nearly the whole volume.

MR. R. G. JEBB.  
In his uniform as Captain of the Elmsmere Volunteers. See Page 4.

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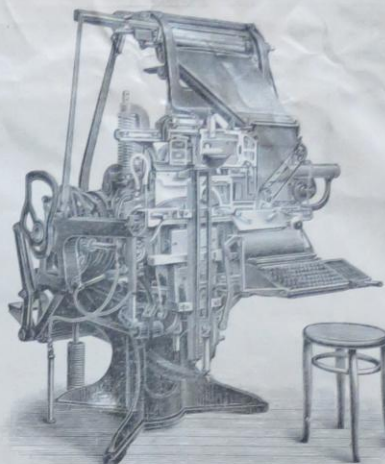
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