JohN Bellows, GLOUCESTER, Printer, Wholesale Stationer and Account Book Maker.

The printing business carried on under the above title was established in 1858 by the late Mr. John Bellows, in a small shop at the top of Commercial Road. For some time he was assisted by an employee, working long hours at the case. In five years the concern had grown to the extent of furnishing employment to sixteen hands, when the concern of the new establishment in Westgate Street was taken over, and the staff of employees doubled. By this time the quality of the work had gained a much more local recognition, many considerable orders coming from London and the Midlands.

In 1873 Mr. Bellows again found larger premises necessary, and he removed to Eastgate House, erecting the present building on what were the gardens in the rear of the house. It is interesting to note that in the course of examination of the building and of the grounds, many of the oaks of the remote wall of the city, a magnificent piece of masonry, the solidity and fine construction of which impress everyone who is familiar with the city. This, in its time, has been used as part of the foundation of the printing office.

In 1886 an addition to the establishment was made, a large building of three floors being erected on the south side of the premises. The actual use of an area of about 1700 square yards, having a depth of 191 feet in King Street, and a frontage in Eastgate Street of 63 feet. The building was designed by Mr. J. H. Turner, City Architect, and has ranged from seventy-five to one hundred feet.

The main machine room, excellently lighted from the roof, is 130 feet long by forty feet wide, with a central height of 35 feet. In spite of the large amount of machinery (both letterpress and litho) a noticeable feature is the absence of bulging and shifting, the bulk of these being kept beneath the floor. Adjoining this main machine room is the extension made in 1886, this building being 120 by 30 feet in size, with rooms twice twelve feet high on each of its three floors.

The many separate departments in these works include type store-rooms, a fitting shop well equipped for proof-setting, letterpress and type-casting rooms, composing room, and a large book-binding room. The Firm, cast sets much of its own wood type, and a large number of presses and does on the premises a great deal of the work which is only profitable in a large establishment. In the binding department female labour is employed, and young women girls using a separate entrance to the building.

From the date of the establishment of the business until the present time a high standard of printing has been maintained.

Probably Mr. Bellows' greatest typographical achievement was the issue of his Pocket Dictionary of the French and English Languages. Its compilation involved the arduous labour of seven years. The first edition, brought out in the early seventies, measured but 4½ inches, and was sold for a halfpenny, yet, through the minuteness of type used, nearly half a million words or word-signs were to be found within its pages. The dictionary was printed on pale primrose paper made specially for the work; and in point of compilation and arrangement of accuracy of composition and of press work, has been described by competent critics as the best of its kind ever published in Great Britain. The dictionary, revised and enlarged since it first appeared and provided with well executed maps, has now reached a sale of over 200,000 copies.

In the spring of 1902, shortly before his death, Mr. Bellows transferred his business to his son, Messrs. Max and William Bellows, who are the present owners.

L. A. SMART, GLOUCESTER, Printer, Manufacturing Stationer, Account Book Maker, Bookbinder, etc.

Referring to the publishing and allied trades in Gloucester since 1861, it is interesting to know that the founder has been identified with the bookbinding industry in Gloucester for a much longer period, dating from the early sixties, when he was in fact connected with the introduction of the first ruling machine ever used in the city.

The premises now occupied by L. A. Smart are the largest in the town, and the front elevation of the premises would indicate, extending back to a considerable depth, and including a number of separate departments. The various workrooms are well lighted and highly comfortable, and are noticeable by reason of their unusual cleanliness and order. In all of the departments the mechanical equipment is of the very latest type, including the latest letterpress machines, account book ruling and binding machinery, cutting machines, and every appliance required for the rapid and economical production of high-class work. But perhaps the best idea of the up-to-date character of the equipment may be gained by the fact that one third of the plant has been installed within the past four years—and every machine, by the way, is of the very best English manufacture. It is also worth noting that a large proportion of the firm's operatives were apprenticed in the works.

It would be superfluous to enumerate the kinds of printing and incidental work executed by this Firm. It is enough to say that it ranges from the finest art work down to the ordinary posters and handbills and the largest to the smallest account books. It may be proper to add, however, that in the higher forms of printing and bookbinding—such as fine illustrated catalogues, special account book work, etc.—some of the most pronounced success has been achieved. They also issue the following publications:—"Smart's A B C Railway Table Tablets," for Gloucester and Cheltenham, "How to Write -" - Many's "Sharpness Tide Tables," etc. These useful publications are not only well edited, but their marked typographical excellence forms a very effective advertisement for the publisher. It is not too much to say, indeed, that for originality of design and careful mechanical execution the works are second to none in the city or the district.

Mr. R. A. Smart (the present acting manager) has practically learnt and studied every department of the business, and developed the works to their present complete and modern character. During the past ten years the business has, under his vigorous direction, shown a particularly rapid growth, the Firm now being favoured with the patronage of almost every important manufacturing and business concern in the city, and there is reason to anticipate a continued expansion in every department.

JOHN MILTON JONES & CO., GLOUCESTER.

Manufacturers of the "Jones' Specialties.

H ereover half a century there have been manufactured in Gloucester the highest class of printing and bookbinding articles, known everywhere throughout Great Britain as "Jones' Specialties." These specialties are "Jones' Waterproof Composition," for softening and preserving leather; and "Jones' Gloucestershire Specific for Foot-rot" in sheep, "Jones' Digestive Sauce," and "Jones' Cure All" for sprains, etc., or in man or beast. All of these articles are prepared after private formulae invented by the late Mr. John Milton Jones.

The management of the business is now in the hands of his sons, L. W. Milton Jones and Mr. J. Milton Jones, and under his personal care and attention the commodities are made. It is needless to say that only the very best materials are used in the manufacture of these goods.

The "Waterproof Composition" is neatly put up in tins, each tin being wrapped in foil. The composition is in the shape of a tablet, and is made in black, brown or tan colours, and may be used with excellent effect on any kind of leather, from the lightest kid to the heaviest harness leather. It not only makes the leather absolutely and permanently waterproof, but softens and preserves it as well, its use being, therefore, economical. The composition has received several medals and awards at various agricultural shows, and has gained still more valuable endorsement of some of the leading leather factors and manufacturers in the country. It is now sent to the Army and Navy representatives of the largest dealers in London. Many of the largest purchasers have been such for a number of years, having found no other preparations so efficient and economical. It should be noted that the Gloucester Corporation have used the composition for several decades.

"Jones' Gloucestershire Specific for Foot-rot" in sheep, cows, horses and cattle, is an equally meritorious article, as may be seen from the number and standing of the breeders and others who have used it. This specialty is put up in tablets of various sizes, and in liquid form, the liquid form being more practising and efficacious than paste. During the most trying seasons—of which the past season was an example—the remedies which have justified the most sanguine expectations, effecting complete cures where other remedies had failed. Messrs. Jones' letter files contain scores of unsolicited testimonials from famous and well-known farms in the entire kingdom, and they are constantly in receipt of orders from new parties who have used the specialties, but who speak of the specific as having been recommended to them.

"Jones' Cure All for Man or Beast" is an embrocation—of which many of the most distin- guished cases are thought to be of considerable particular interest—of which the most remarkable has been the case of a man who had suffered for years from sore throat, stiffness, corns, etc. If they knew what this wonderful oil would do, no family would be without a bottle of it.

"Jones' Digestive Sauce," is, as the name implies, an appointing table relish, used with meats, fish, gravies, soups, etc. It is not too much to say that in point of flavour, piquancy and body it is not surpassed by any Worcester- shire or other sauce in the market, no matter how widely they may be advertised. The recipe is a secret one, and the choicest ingredients obtainable, and after blending is thoroughly matured and ripened before it is allowed to leave the premises. It is put up in neat glass-stoppered bottles. It should be added that the sauce is prepared in one quality only, and for one class of patrons only—those who want the best, as the best is always made. The Company has made no attempt to compete in price with cheaper articles, as to do so would necessarily be to lessen its quality. He is, however, prepared to supply his well-known specialties to every family in the country, orders being received from the most remote places, as well as the largest cities of the towns in England and Ireland, and this without excessive advertising, and by merit only.

Industrial Gloucestershire 1904

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