



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 his own employer and 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 late Mr. Edward Power 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 than local recognition, many considerable orders coming from London and the Midlands.

In 1873 Mr. Bellows again found larger premises necessary, this time removing 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 erecting the new office he discovered the remains of the old Roman wall of the city, a magnificent piece of masonry, the solidity and fine construction of which impress everyone who is privileged to see it. The wall, in fact, serves 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 eastern side. The premises now in actual use cover an area of about 1760 square yards, having a depth of 191 feet in King Street, and a frontage in Eastgate Street of 83 feet. The number of hands employed in recent years has ranged from seventy-five to one hundred.

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 belting and shafting, 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 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 with machine tools, stereotyping and type-casting rooms, composing room, and a large book-binding room. The Firm casts much of its own type, makes its own machine rollers 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 largely employed, the women and 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 aimed at.

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 by 2½ inches, and weighed 4½ ounces, 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 a 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 work of its kind ever printed in Great Britain. The dictionary, revised and enlarged since its first appearance and provided with well executed maps, has now reached a sale of between seventy and eighty thousand copies.

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

L. A. SMART, GLOUCESTER,

Printer, Manufacturing Stationer, Account Book Maker, Bookbinder, etc.

IN referring to the publishing and allied trades in Gloucestershire mention should be made of the very up-to-date printing works carried on by the Firm of L. A. Smart, at 77-78, Northgate Street. Although this business was established in 1850, it is interesting to know that the family name has been identified with the bookbinding industry in Gloucester for a much longer period, dating from the early part of last century, and was associated with the introduction of the first ruling machine ever used in the city.

The premises now occupied by L. A. Smart are much more commodious than the front exterior would indicate, extending back to a considerable depth, and including a number of separate departments. The various workrooms are well-lighted, and are thoroughly sanitary and comfortable, and are noticeable by reason of their unusual cleanliness and order. In all of the departments the mechanical equipment is of the very best description, including the latest letterpress machines, account book ruling and binding machinery, cutting machines, and every appliance required in 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 from the fact that every machine in the works 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 skilled 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.—their most pronounced success has been achieved. They also issue the following publications:—"Smart's A B C Railway Time Tables" for Gloucester and Cheltenham, "Smart's Gloucester Directory," "The 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 district.

Mr. R. A. Smart (the present actual 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' Specialities."

FOR considerably over half-a-century there have been manufactured in Gloucester several celebrated proprietary articles, known everywhere throughout Great Britain as "Jones's Specialities." These specialities are "Jones's Waterproof Composition" for softening and preserving leather, "Jones's Gloucestershire Specific for Foot-

rot" in sheep, "Jones's Digestive Sauce," and "Jones's Cure All" for sprains, etc., in man or beast. All of these articles are prepared after private formulæ invented by the late Mr. John Milton Jones.

The management of the business is now in the hands of Mr. E. L. Jones, son of the late 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 has the consistency of butter, 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 the still more valuable endorsement of some of the largest leather factors and manufacturers in the kingdom. The writer was recently shown a list of orders from all parts of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the purchasers including the Army and Navy Stores and other of the largest dealers in London. Many of the largest purchasers have been such for a number of years, having found no other preparation so efficient and economical. It should be added that the Gloucester Corporation have used the composition for several decades.

"Jones's Gloucestershire Specific for Footrot" in sheep, corns in horses' feet, and low in 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 specific is put up in glass-stoppered bottles in liquid form, the liquid form being more penetrating and efficacious than paste. During the most trying seasons—of which the past season was an example—the remedy has fully justified the most sanguine expectations, effecting complete cures where other remedies had failed. Messrs. Jones's letter files contain scores of unsolicited testimonials from the largest and best-known farms in the entire kingdom, and they are constantly in receipt of orders from new patrons of whom they had never heard, but who speak of the specific as having been recommended to them.

"Jones's Cure All for Man or Beast" is an embrocation, and will be found to give immediate relief in cases of cuts, sprains, bruises, sore throat, stiffness, corns, etc. If they knew what this wonderful oil would do, no family would be without a bottle of it.

"Jones's Digestive Sauce" is, as the name implies, an appetising 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 Worcestershire or other sauce in the market, no matter how widely they may be advertised. The "Digestive Sauce" is prepared from 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 the cheapest. The proprietor has made no attempt to compete in price with cheaper articles, as to do so would necessarily be to lessen its quality. He has, however, enjoyed the patronage of many of the best families in the country, orders being received from the most remote places, as well as the larger cities and towns in England and Ireland, and this without extensive advertising, and by merit only.