

PRINTING IN AYR and KILMARNOCK



Carreen S Gardner

AANHS

The cover illustration shows a Columbian press, mentioned in the section on Kilmarnock printing. The border is Miller and Richard's Combination Border No. 13. Both come from Miller and Richard's Typefounders Catalogue for 1873.

PRINTING IN AYR and KILMARNOCK

Newspapers, Periodicals, Books and Pamphlets Printed from
about 1780 until 1920

by

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ALLAN LEACH
JOHN STRAWHORN

Hon. Editors

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PREFACE

The purpose of this piece of work is to provide a short account of printing in the two main towns of Ayrshire: Kilmarnock and Ayr, until around 1920. The nature of the available material led to the following choice of arrangement: within each of the towns the sub-divisions of newspapers; periodicals; books and pamphlets, preceded by a short narration of the beginnings of printing.

Generally, the intention is to place as many of the printers and their ventures in as accurate a sequence of the different kinds of work printed in the county as possible. This is the reason for the layout chosen, to keep all the periodicals printed in the one town together, and so on. Mainly, the information given is about the newspaper, book or periodical concerned, but where possible mention is made of the men and the companies behind.

It was decided to describe the newspapers and periodicals in narrative form and to supplement this with a bibliography for each town to give an idea of the variety of material printed in book and pamphlet form. In the bibliographies (and in the work as a whole) Kilmarnock precedes Ayr because that is where printing began and within each town the printers are arranged chronologically by their first-known works, and the books are arranged chronologically within this: Proctor order. Many of the books listed are printed by firms already mentioned in connection with printing newspapers or periodicals but, of course, those printed by independent printers have also been included. As these lists are probably incomplete it was considered unwise to draw too many conclusions from them as to the most productive period of any firm, or even as to the period within which a firm was printing books. It should serve only as an incomplete check-list of books and pamphlets printed in Kilmarnock and Ayr. As will be seen there is an imbalance at the beginning of both bibliographies due to the work done by Frances M. Thomson ' John Wilson: Ayrshire printer, publisher and bookseller ', in *The Bibliothek*, Vol. V No. 2 1967 pp 41-62. I am obliged to her for an almost complete list of the Wilson brothers work and for the bulk of my information on their activities.

One important fact which must be borne in mind is that for many of the firms mentioned in this study, the printing of books, newspapers or periodicals was not their whole work, it was often jobbing work which kept the firm going; this should be remembered to keep the picture of printing in Ayrshire in perspective.

One way in which the history of printing in the county could not be put into perspective, due to lack of time and space, was to include the necessary local and national history. Due to these limitations instead of being a complete historical account this dissertation is an analytical description of a topic which has been almost wholly neglected.

INTRODUCTION

Printing may have reached Scotland in the early sixteenth century from France with Chapman and Myllar but there is no record of a printing-press in Ayrshire until sometime in the 1780s. According to a Directory printed in 1832 by the Ayr printer William McCarter:

Printing was first introduced into Ayrshire in the 1780s, by a Mr McArthur, first in Kilmarnock, and Mr John Wilson, who succeeded the first printer, introduced the printing into Ayr in 1790 under the firm of John and Peter Wilson, Printers - There are now printing offices in Kilmarnock, Irvine and Beith who do business to a considerable extent.¹

This quotation serves to give an approximate date for the establishment of printing and also to name the first practitioners of the art in the county, as well as illustrating its growth in fifty years. Although to modern eyes this growth may not appear spectacular it is significant that small towns such as Irvine and Beith found it desirable to have their own printing offices.

However, the printing offices in Kilmarnock and Ayr served the bulk of the county due to their geographical situations and their positions of county town and next largest town; but what kind of a place was Ayrshire when printing began there?

Prior to the establishment of Peter McArthur's press in Kilmarnock in the 1780s there was no printing-press nearer to Ayrshire than Glasgow, and only one there, apart from the University press run by Messrs. Foulis.

The availability of literature was also rather restricted. one contemporary source says that there were no magazines available, except perhaps for the Edinburgh Magazine and no periodicals except for the British Critic.² This same writer remembers no reports of societies except those of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland which were occasionally seen in Ayrshire.

1. William McCarter *Ayrshire* (Ayr 1832) p 69.

2. Reverend John Mitchell *Memoirs of Ayrshire about 1780* ed by William Kirk Dickson. (Reprinted from the Miscellany of the Scottish History Society Vol VI 1939).

The Reverend John Mitchell also mentions the lack of newspapers. This was due to the risks and restraints surrounding such ventures at this time. - free expression of opinions was not favoured by many in high places and coupled with possible imprisonment there was the further deterrent of the newspaper stamp duty which from the original ½d per sheet in 1712 was successfully raised to 1d, 2½d (1798), 3½d (1804) and finally to 4d in 1811.³ This deterrent was not lifted until 1855 and partly explains why there were only two newspapers available in Ayrshire around 1780. These were the Glasgow Journal (established in 1741) and the Edinburgh Courant (established in 1718).

One conclusion to be drawn from the above facts, and the further knowledge that travel was slow and difficult, is that the inhabitants of Ayrshire could have only a very limited knowledge of affairs outside the county and little or no knowledge of foreign matters.

However, the inhabitants of Ayrshire cannot be taken as a group: there would be varying standards of education and intelligence and interest in the outside world. Although education varied slightly from place to place the Reverend John Mitchell gives a general picture:

Reading alone was taught to all, writing only to a considerable portion of the scholars, arithmetic to a few, Latin to a select portion, Greek seldom to any, and that very scantily, and mathematics, algebra, geometry, geography, history as distinct branches to none. Even reading was taught very inartificially, as well as imperfectly, and as school books were comparatively few, under great disadvantages.⁴

The picture that he paints of no proper school books, no blackboards, globes, maps or school libraries and often incompetent dominies is borne out by the First Statistical Account of Scotland: Ayrshire which covers the period until around 1791 but which makes more of the fact that the school buildings were often inadequate and that there was a severe lack of finance to pay the dominies' salaries and for school books.

As the Reverend John Mitchell describes it the general level of intelligence and information was not high. Outside of local news people were interested in the covenanting tradition, in stories of Bruce and

3. Annie I. Dunlop ed *The Royal Burgh of Ayr: 750 Years of History* (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1953) p 279.

4. Rev John Mitchell *Memories of Ayrshire about 1780* p273

Wallace, in memories of 1715 and 1745. At this period Ayrshire was a simple, rural society, almost completely self-sufficient. It was a religious society and where there are books mentioned in the homes of ordinary people at this time they are mainly religious works: the big Ha' Bible, a volume of sermons, Bunyan's Pilgrim ' s Progress; and perhaps Satan's Invisible World Discovered or one of the works of John Knox.

From this general description of the background against which printing began in Ayrshire it can be seen that the inhabitants lacked easy access to printed material of any kind. However, through time, aided by social factors such as increased literacy, prosperity and travel opportunities, which must be taken for granted in this study, Ayrshire develops a thriving printing trade which helps the inhabitants of the county become more aware of the outside world and become more involved in it.

NEWSPAPERS PRINTED IN KILMARNOCK

Beginning of Printing

Kilmarnock is the town where printing was first begun in Ayrshire but the only authority available containing information on this is William McCarter's *Ayrshire*¹ which states 'Printing was first introduced into Ayrshire in the 1780s by a Mr McArthur, first in Kilmarnock, and Mr John Wilson who succeeded the first printer ..' Thus, these are the first two important names. It appears that Peter McArthur was mainly a jobbing printer and that his career was short; as a result, there are few of his works to be found. Frances M. Thompson discovered two pamphlets printed by him one of which has the imprint '*Kilmarnock; printed by Peter McArthur, for J. Wilson Bookseller, 1780*' which helps to establish more firmly a possible date for the beginning of printing in Ayrshire than does McCarter's vague 'in the 1780s.'

Kilmarnock's (and Ayrshire's) second printer John Wilson, according to McCarter '... succeeded the first printer . . .' but it is not clear if he means that Wilson took over McArthur's press and types. There is no proof available for this, but it does seem likely according to the evidence given by Farquhar McKenzie in 'John Wilson, 1759-1821'² where he states that 'as a bookseller with premises in the Foregate, it could have been more convenient to print there rather than for Wilson to install his press three floors up in a separate building.' He thus also postulates the theory that it was here that McArthur began printing in Ayrshire.

The earliest work yet found printed by Wilson is dated 1783 and between then and 1790 he printed at least nineteen works in Kilmarnock with the imprint 'J. Wilson, Kilmarnock.' In the earliest years he seems to have printed few works of any consequence. although one local historian considered that 'the circumstance of a printing office being then required shows distinctly the progressive state of the inhabitants at the period.'³ Undoubtedly the most famous work printed by Wilson in Kilmarnock was the first edition of the poems of Robert Burns in July 1786. It seems likely

1. W. McCarter, *Ayrshire* (Ayr 1832) p 69.

2. F. McKenzie 'John Wilson, 1759-1821,' *Burns Chronicle* (1973) p 1-5.

3. Archibald McKay *History of Kilmarnock* 2nd Ed. (Kilmarnock 1858) p 182

that they worked well together because although Burns ardently desired to see his work in 'guid black print' • he wanted it done properly and Walter Chapman, Wilson's press-man, stated that Burns frequently visited the print shop to oversee the printing of his poems - quite a rare occurrence in those days. ⁴ Opinions about this edition of Burns may be conflicting but need not be mutually exclusive; these range from the first really beautiful work that he (Wilson) produced (W. Craibbe Angus) to the more realistic 'poorly printed on poor paper' (John D. Ross. ⁵) In a sense both are correct - on the one hand it is a satisfactory example of an ordinary eighteenth century printer's art when care had been taken in the production - there was a variety of clear cut type, ornaments were used and the page had a pleasing appearance due to balanced and generous margins. On the other hand, the work was produced on a cheap plan and was never intended as the collector's piece it has become.

Now, perhaps due to the success of the Burns edition the Wilson press began to produce a lot more material. As can be seen from the bibliography, between 1783 and 1786 only two other works were produced while after 1786 comes the bulk of the material printed in Kilmarnock by John Wilson. This varies from poems by other local authors to sermons Latin syntax and classical works. It is interesting to note that the type and ornaments of the *Kilmarnock Burns* continued to be used in these works. The press really seems to be getting underway in this period, when suddenly in 1790, for some unexplained reason, Wilson moved his press and cases to Ayr. It is perhaps a tribute to John Wilson's business acumen that during all this time the bookshop in Kilmarnock had been kept on. Even when the press was moved to Ayr the bookshop was continued in Kilmarnock managed by John Wilson while his brother Peter was in charge of the printing in Ayr. Thus, the Wilsons' connection with printing in Kilmarnock was severed but it continues in the story of printing in Ayr.

The very beginnings of printing in Kilmarnock have now been covered and after this brief introduction the first single topic to be tackled is newspapers printed in Kilmarnock.

The first of these was the *Kilmarnock Chronicle* whose first issue came out in January 1831. It was established by James Paterson (author of *History of the County of Ayr*) after he had served his apprenticeship in

4. F. McKenzie 'John Wilson, 1759-1821' *Burns Chronicle* (1973) p 1.

5. F McKenzie• John Wilson, 1759-1821' *Burns Chronicle* (1973) p 2.

Ayr and it advocated popular principles, or, to put it more precisely, was a Radical newspaper. According to Archibald McKay.⁶ It was 'conducted with considerable ability' although it had little public support. There was also internal trouble because his intending partners resiled and he was helped for a time by Hugh Craig, later a prominent Chartist, and by John Brown, a Kilmarnock solicitor. It is thus not surprising that the *Chronicle* ceased publication in January 1832; more surprising is the fact that James Paterson revived it on 3 April of the same year. William McCarter⁷ comments poetically on this: '*The Kilmarnock Chronicle*, like a steamer after stopping at port for repair and ammunition, has now set sail, and proceeds on her voyage with renewed energy determined, wind and weather permitting, to baffle all moderate opposition. Unfortunately, this imagery and optimism were in vain because the *Chronicle* lasted only until the autumn when James Paterson began another venture. It is of interest to note that during the *Chronicle's* lifetime James Paterson was the first to introduce an iron printing press (a Columbian) into Ayrshire.

James Paterson's next venture could be called a newspaper but he himself called it an 'election print.'⁸ This was *The Reporter* which first appeared in September 1832. Like the *Chronicle* it too was printed and published by James Paterson and its main concerns were the election issues and the men standing for election in the first election for the first member of Parliament for the County of Ayr under the Reform Act. It was nicknamed '*The Wee Cannon*' by the public due to the noise and effect of its report; to further this image the block printers of the town cut the shape of a cannon in wood and presented it to the office so that the front page of each copy showed a cannon firing. It appeared every Saturday and was issued by a veteran of Wellington's army; it created more of a sensation (and found its way into some of the other burghs) because it was quick to expose or hold up to ridicule any slips its opponents might make, in fact it was openly hostile to them. Paterson says, 'It became the recognized organ of the non-electors, and every Saturday the public were on tip-toe to learn whose fortune it was to be placed on the pillory,'⁹ It is just possible that it affected the result of the election because Sir John

6. *History of Kilmarnock* 4th ed. (Kilmarnock, 1880) P243.

7. McCarter, *Ayrshire* p 75

8. *Auto biographical Reminiscences* (Glasgow, 1871) p 101.

9. Paterson *Auto Biographical Reminiscences* p 102

Dunlop won. Because it was an 'election print', it ran only until the elections which were held on 24 and 25 December 1832 and the last edition of *The Reporter* appeared on the last of these dates. From what has been said previously the impression may have been given that this was a free newspaper, but that is not the case. The first issue stated clearly what its policy on price would be: that the first issue would sell for ½d but that as the number of pages increased so would the cost, although it promised that this would not exceed 2d. This was to be the case - the first issue had only four pages while the last issue (number fourteen) had fifteen pages and sold for 2d.

The next real newspaper to appear in Kilmarnock was in February 1833 and it was printed at the same press at the unsuccessful *Chronicle*. This was the *Ayrshire Reformer and Kilmarnock Gazette*. This was another Radical publication edited by Dr. John Taylor of Ayr. This newspaper appeared on Saturdays for a time but despite Dr. Taylor being talented, well informed and very interested in its management, it did not survive very long. Nowadays it is only notable as Dr. Taylor's stepping-stone towards the *Glasgow Liberator and Chartism*.

Almost exactly one year later, on Thursday 1st February 1834 the *Kilmarnock Journal* was established. This newspaper was published for most of its life by H. Crawford and Son, printers and booksellers in the town, until 1851 when it was published by Matthew Wilson another printer in Kilmarnock and during this time it always appeared on Thursdays. It was started by a joint-stock company for the advocacy of Reform principles,¹⁰ but later in Peel's heyday the Journal's politics were moderately Conservative. It has been said that in its latter days it reverted to Liberalism, but if so it must have been very near the end because in 1855 it was still Conservative. In its twenty-three years it was usually managed by able editors; first of these was John Donald Carrick, author of a life of Sir William Wallace and original editor of *The Laird of Logan* and *Whistlebinkie* to both of which he personally contributed. His successors were John Leighton, John Beaton, William Wallace Fyfe, John Willox, Matthew Wilson, Alexander Campbell, J. C. Paterson, James Paterson (the publisher of Kilmarnock's first broadsheet) and W. C. Paterson, most of whom added to the literature of the county in other ways too. In July 1855 when J. C. Paterson became sole proprietor he greatly enlarged the paper and improved it in other ways: instead of

10. McKay *History of Kilmarnock*, 4th ed. p 244

appearing weekly on a Thursday it began to be issued on Friday afternoons with a second edition on Saturday afternoons. However, the *Journal* did not get enough custom in its new form to be profitable and was discontinued on 8 May 1857.

Although the *Journal* lasted so long its position was always insecure - maximum circulation was only 400. This may be explained by Ayr's advantage as the county town and as a well-established press-centre as well as by the *Journal's* own uncertain politics. Its troubles were also probably linked to the fact that it had ten editors in twenty- three years, but whether this was cause or effect is not clear. At least one of them, J. D. Carrick had known greater freedom when he worked on The Scots Times and he did not appreciate being supervised by the Kilmarnock Committee of Management, so it is possible that some of the other editors felt the same restrictions.

The *Journal* was the longest-running newspaper in Kilmarnock so far and during its lifetime few other news- papers were printed in the town. Its first rival appeared when the Radicals of the town established the *Ayrshire Examiner* as their own newspaper in July 1838. It seems to have been ably run by John R. Robertson but ceased publication in November 1839 due to lack of support - the same fate which had come to all newspapers supporting popular politics in Kilmarnock. An interesting point is that this was the first Scottish Chartist newspaper outside Glasgow and also that it was published by James Quigley later of The Scotsman. It has been suggested that the *Examiner's* excessive Chartism had some connection with the *Journal's* becoming more Conservative and this seems quite possible.

Another rival to the *Journal* was the *Kilmarnock Herald* which was issued from 20 September 1844 to 19 May 1848 by James Mathie, a bookseller and printer in the town. It too was liberal in principle and again mention is made of its being established to balance the *Journal's* Conservatism. That it was fairly well supported seems possible from the fact that from the beginning it had two editions - the first at nine o'clock on a Friday morning, and the second at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. In its time it had two successive editors - Alexander Russell, who later went on to The Scotsman and John Gibson editor of Pictures in Print.

Yet another rival to the *Journal* appeared in January 1854 in the form of another *Kilmarnock Chronicle* established by James Miller, a local

printer and bookseller. Again, this was a newspaper with liberal principles and was said by Archibald McKay to have most ability in discussing political, social and literary topics. In June 1855 it changed from being a large weekly to being a small paper appearing thrice weekly (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings) but it ceased publication on the twenty seventh number of the new series. It had only two editors - J. C. Paterson and Peter Handreth. The Scottish Newspaper Directory says it had a zeal for 'extended franchise and free trade' and a manner 'not particularly friendly to the Established clergy.'

The *Kilmarnock Journal* was still appearing when Kilmarnock's next newspaper came into being. This was the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* which was begun in November 1856 by James McKie a prominent town printer and book-seller who was also the editor. It ran various series of articles apart from giving news - examples of these are one on Burns, one on local printers and their works and one on 'The Ayrshire Pulpit' - sketches of the clergy in the county and reports of their sermons, there were plans to make these into a volume, but this does not seem to have been done. Its main problem was that it was highly priced costing 2d per issue so with the advent of the penny press it was more or less put out of business by the next newspaper to be established in the town.

The *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* was discontinued in October 1865 by which time the *Kilmarnock Journal* had been finished for several years and the *Kilmarnock Standard* and *Ayrshire Weekly News* had been appearing since 20 June 1863. This newspaper was to outlive all its contemporaries and became the longest running newspaper in the town's history. It was founded by Thomas Stevenson who had served his apprenticeship in the Kilmarnock printing works of James McKie and who had been an efficient reporter on the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* until he left to go into business for himself as a printer and bookseller, but he continued to be interested in newspapers.

The leading article in the first issue stated the reasons for establishing the *Standard* and its aims:

It has been a matter of surprise to many that no sustained effort should have been made since the repeal of Stamp Duty to establish a cheap journal in Kilmarnock: and when we consider that it is the largest and most populous town in the south-west of Scotland and that it is moreover a place of very considerable and

ever-increasing commercial importance, forming a convenient centre to the various country towns and villages lying along the lines of rail which intersect the district we are led to the conclusion at which many have arrived that Kilmarnock is as fair a field for a penny newspaper as could be found in the county.

This same article stated that the newspaper would be independent in politics and that the aim would be to do justice to all parties, but it was made clear that the *Standard* would be on the side of progress - 'without pledging ourselves to any political party we will strive to keep pace with advancing civilisation and growing intelligence'. Thomas Stevenson went on to outline his aims in a prospectus:

What is wanted is a print which will supply a weekly budget of local intelligence and an epitome of contemporaneous history and which will also identify itself with the district, take a lively interest in every question affecting the well-being of the community and be a fair value for the prices asked. We have reason to believe that in due time our highest expectations will be realised.

Thomas Stevenson's hopes were to be fully realised; the *Standard* met with unprecedented success in the town, perhaps partly due to the statement that it would not take any political stance.

In the early days the *Kilmarnock Standard* carried little local news, but rather, performed the functions of a national newspaper with news stories from all over Scotland, England, Europe and the Empire. America was not forgotten either and the *Standard* kept its readers well informed on events in the Civil War there especially - the issue for 23 July 1863 quoted dispatches as published in *the New York Herald* about the Battle of Gettysburg, in full gory detail. In 1864 it began to report Town Council Meetings but apart from these reports and presbytery and police reports there was little local news while foreign events were most fully reported - the reunification of America and the Franco-Prussian War being just two examples. The police reports were presented in lurid and colourful detail and libel laws seem to have been non-existent as far as the *Standard* was concerned. For example, there was the story of the well-known local citizen whose body had been found one morning 'in a district of low repute'. He had been beaten up and subsequently had died of his injuries, the *Standard* blandly informed its readers that the victim had been 'a worthy, respectable and well-known citizen but it was known that on occasion he was prone to taking a drink and consorting with lowly company'.

From the 1870s on the *Kilmarnock Standard* tended to review world events less than before and became more of a local paper giving more space to town and surrounding country issues of the kind covered by most local news-papers, although the headlines continued to comment on events beyond the burgh boundary such as the issue for 1 September 1888 when the leader dealt with the foundation of the Scottish Labour Party. From 1890 onwards, the *Standard* became visibly more local although again during the Boer War it devoted much space to accounts of battles, campaigns and other news, but after this it seems to have accepted its role as being to convey mainly local news.

The actual format of the newspaper changed very little over the years. It never changed to tabloid size, it never had news on the front page and the same type was retained for the title-piece at the top of the front page, the style of which ('music-hall' characters), through time, became quite rare. In the early days the type was very small and there was no attempt to provide headlines in the manner to which we are accustomed today. But through time typographical developments helped make the pages more attractive and easier to read, with the advent of photographs the pages changed still more and the use of language changed from the long, ponderous sentences of the first issue.

Thomas Stevenson was succeeded as proprietor and editor by George Dunlop who remained in this position for thirty years. He was a native of Kilmarnock and had worked in the printing works of Brown in King Street and in James McKie's printing office. For several years he had been the Kilmarnock correspondent for the *Ayr Advertiser* until the 1860s when he obtained a post on the editorial staff of the *Standard*. In 1878 he joined forces with James Rose in taking over the business. When Rose withdrew Dunlop got a new partner in William Drennan who had previously been connected with the printing and bookselling business of his stepfather James McKie. This began a new partnership and gave the firm a new name, which was to continue long after the 1920s - Dunlop and Drennan. George Dunlop was quite a famous journalist and was devoted to the paper - he insisted on high standards of integrity and accuracy, thus increasing the paper's reputation. Apart from the newspaper his other great interests were his private library, which he built up containing many rare volumes and manuscripts; and Burns - he was a famous Burns scholar. His son George R. Dunlop followed in to the business where he remained until his death. He was succeeded by John

P. Dickson who had previously been with the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald* but who in 1882 joined the *Standard* where he was Chief reporter for seventeen years. During his reign, from 1909 onwards there were changes and material improvements in the paper and methods of production were revolutionised.

There was little serious competition to the *Standard* in the late nineteenth century although it did not have the newspaper field all to itself. On 22 August 1868 the *Kilmarnock Advertiser and Ayrshire Review* was established. It was printed and published by Hugh Henry but ceased publication on 12 December of the same year. Another newspaper to appear was the resurrected *Kilmarnock Herald* in the early 1880s. In 1882 it was published by James M. Smith in a Company and in 1884 by J. C. Matson. There is mentioned in a local directory for 1895 a *Kilmarnock Herald and North Ayrshire Gazette* but no other information has been discovered. By this time the *Standard's* full name had become the *Kilmarnock Standard and Ayrshire Advertising Leader*.

PERIODICALS PRINTED IN KILMARNOCK

Despite Kilmarnock having a printing press as far back as 1780 it is of interest to note how long it was before a periodical publication of any kind was under taken; it is perhaps even more interesting to note that several periodicals, as opposed to newspapers, actually appeared before a newspaper.

The first periodical to be started in the town was the *Ayrshire Miscellany or Kilmarnock Literary Expositor* which appeared weekly at a cost of 2d per issue from Friday 8 August 1817 to February 11 January 1822. The author was James Thomson and it was printed by H. Crawford. During this period there was little other periodical literature available in the county and it was not until 1832 that the brothers Chambers and others began to publish cheap periodicals, so the *Miscellany* was widely read in the county. It may have been humble from a literary point of view but there is no doubt it satisfied a need in the county at this period. In the introduction.¹ James Thomson explains the layout and function of the periodical.

The pages of the *Miscellany* will be chiefly devoted to original pieces in poetry and prose yet it will occasionally contain miscellaneous extracts from new publications, and authors of celebrity. The original compositions will be chiefly by the author himself; yet he will most gratefully take advantage of the talents of correspondents who may honour him with their literary efforts.

For reasons that are very evident, the pieces will be all anonymous but, in order to gratify the anxiety of some readers and rescue from oblivion unknown merit the names of the writers will be published in an index at the end of the year.

A decided preference will be given to correspondents in Ayrshire: and_ as far as the author has it in his power, the *Miscellany* will be faithful collation of the principal events, commercial, literary, and agriculture, in the county. The most marked attention (I had almost

1. *The Ayrshire Miscellany or Kilmarnock Literary Expositor* Vol. 1, No. 1, (1817), pp iv-vi

said partiality) will be shown to correspondents in Kilmarnock. . . but the work will be far above all that is doggerel in rhyme, or hackneyed, or puerile, in prosaic composition ... he (the author) commences the task of endeavouring to instruct and delight his fellow countrymen.

This then more or less sums up what the *Miscellany* succeeded in doing - it contained the works, in poetry and prose, of local writers and matters of local interest, such as markets, accidents, deaths, etc. and in this way served, to some extent the functions of the non-existent newspaper. One point that should be noted is that there is no evidence of the index to writers which James Thomson said could be incorporated at the end of each year, so all the works are either anonymous or pseudonymous.

The 'next' periodical to appear on the Kilmarnock scene actually appeared in the same month and year as the *Miscellany* but did not last so long. This was the *Coila Repository and Kilmarnock Monthly Magazine* which was printed and published by J Mennons. It was sold to booksellers in Kilmarnock, Ayr, Irvine, Saltcoats, Beith and Glasgow. There is no reason given for its demise, but it seems reasonable to assume that despite the apparent wide geographical scope it did not have the wide audience as might be at first be supposed or perhaps due to competition from the more frequent *Miscellany*. Despite lasting only one year the *Monthly Magazine* contained much varied information. Each issue began with an article on biography, sometimes the biography of an actual person such as the Abbe Edgeworth (Confessor to Louis XVI of France) or an article along the lines of 'Thoughts on Character' (September 1817) Then followed varied articles, perhaps travel notes on the customs and peoples of Holland, China or Persia, or essays on moral subjects such as those on 'self-denial' and 'Gratitude'; there were articles (both fiction and history) translated from French, letters to the Editor, humorous pieces, poetry on various subjects and folk-lore. Each issue contained a 'Foreign Compendium' giving paragraphs of news from various countries and a 'British Compendium' which (depending on their availability) contained births, marriages and deaths, accounts of markets, abstracts from criminal trials, some local news and some general British news. This

periodical too, apart from being a literary magazine, performed some functions of a newspaper. It was more of general interest

Than the *Miscellany* and this should have appealed to a wide audience, so its demise is even more inexplicable.

The third periodical to appear in Kilmarnock was the *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* which appeared monthly from November 1820 to June 1821, a total of only eight issues. This magazine contained essays such as that on 'Virtue and Talents'² or 'On Elephants'³, moral tales along the lines of 'The Condemned Criminal'⁴ and pieces of original poetry such as 'The Trials of Dijon: A Tale'⁵ Each issue also contained little homilies entitled 'Cornucopia: little things have their value' which may have interested its readers. Here is a typical example entitled 'A Question.'

A father who had three sons, in whose company he was walking, when an old enemy of his came running out of an ambush, and, inflicted a severe wound upon him, before any of the bystanders could interfere. The eldest son pursued the assassin; the second bound up his father's wound; and the third swooned away. Query. . which of the three sons loved the father most? (As no answer was provided in this or any later issue the question seems to have been to provoke either personal thought or friendly discussion.)

Apart from these features each issue had a 'Monthly Register' which contained much varied and interesting information - how to make a briquette or how to counteract the effect of intoxicating liquors or how to preserve eggs, or on to the anticipated arrival of Cleopatra's needle in London with a short history of the column. The 'Monthly Register' also gave some quite useless information such as the comparative swiftness of different animals - horse, carrier-pigeon and whale as well as some very useful figures on New South Wales and Glasgow. It also had a deaths column where most of the entries were local, but it seems that if there was an interesting death elsewhere the *Kilmarnock Mirror* included it:-

2. *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* Vol. 1, No. 1 (1820) p 1.

3. *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* Vol. 1, No. 4 (1821) p 130.

4. *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* Vol.,1 No. 3 (1821) p 97.

5. *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* Vol. 1, No. 5 (1821) p 170

Lately, at Simon Burn, Northumberland, in her 78th year, Mrs Mary Kirksop, widow, who since the month of December 1812, had been tapped for the dropsy 192 times, having undergone the operation every fort- night, or thereabouts, from that period till the week previous to her death. The water drawn from her averaged ten quarts at each operation, amounting in the whole to 1920 quarts, or 450 gallons.⁶

Thus, it is evident once again that this periodical also had to some extent, the role of newspaper and perhaps because of this it avoided politics completely.

Following the *Kilmarnock Mirror* came the *Improvisator: An Ayrshire Journal of Literature and the Fine Arts* which appeared from 16 August to 11 October 1833. It cost 3d per issue and for this contained contributions u as the following: 'Account of a Concert by Paganini (p93), Song to a Kilmarnock Bonnet' (p96), 'Song to the Canary Bird ' (p34). In the handwritten contents list to the bound volume James McKie, who both printed and published it. says 'The *Improvisator* in five numbers, all that was issued of the publication, contains some excellent productions both in prose and poetry', although he was perhaps slightly biased. The *Improvisator* was succeeded by a periodical of a very different sort; this was The Popular Instructor, a weekly magazine which ran from Saturday 5 January 1839 to Saturday 13 April 1839 - fifteen numbers in all, each costing 1d. It is of interest to note that this periodical was edited by John R. Robertson and was printed and published by James Quigley during the lifetime of their ill-fated chartist newspaper the Ayrshire Examiner and that The Popular Instructor was published and printed at the Ayrshire Examiner Office. James McKie wrote on the fly-leaf of the bound volume of this work · The editor of this work I knew very well - a curious genius - somewhat eccentric - it is entirely written by himself and is done with some power and vigour¹⁷ Again, Robertson's Chartism is very evident because from the first issue onwards it was aimed at 'the working men of Ayrshire' and their political and educational organisations. The editor stated his aims emphatically on the front page of the first issue.

6. *Kilmarnock Mirror and Literary Gleaner* Vol.,1 No. 2 (1820) p 80

7. McKie's copy is in the Dick Institute Library, Kilmarnock

In order to assist them (the organisations) and you in this most praise-worthy task - this attempt to get by your own endeavours, that knowledge which mis-government, and the effects of mis-government, have hitherto kept from you, I intend to use the facilities which I possess, in consequence of my political connection with the County, to lay before you, weekly, a certain quantity of useful information upon subjects with which every one of you ought to be thoroughly acquainted.

Thus, The Popular Instructor, as its name suggests, was in fact a work for the education of working men, with the aim always in mind of working-class reform through educating adults rather than children.

There were regular articles under specific headings, such as; Political Science: (Centralisation versus Localisation), 'Phrenolog':(The Reflecting Faculties)' and 'Political Economy: (The Producing Classes)'. Quotations from the works of Andrew Smith were a regular feature as were articles on 'Physiology'; there was also the occasional 'Political Biography' one of which compared George III (a man in a powerful position by birth and who 'made a bungled job of it') and Benjamin Franklin (who 'commenced business as a journeyman printer and founded the American Republic'). From this it can be seen that this periodical, unlike any of the others, was purely instructive and also that it asserted a political position, so it is thus important. Apart from using the periodical for general educational articles the author occasionally, as in the last issue, used it to express his own views on how to improve the lot of the working man. John R. Robertson passionately believed in the right of every man to take part in a system of public instruction and he went on to outline how this could be done - by the people appointing a Minister of Public Instruction and also by removing all the erroneous ideas people had about the subjects in which working men should be educated. Unfortunately, due to increasing political engagements the editor could not devote as much time to the periodical as he wished so he decided it should be discontinued which was a pity because it would have been interesting to see how it would have developed

in the hands of the 'eccentric' John R. Robertson.

Following this unusual journal came the *Ayrshire Inspirer* on 19 October of the same year, 1839, and continued until 21 December 1839 - a total of only ten issues printed and published by James McKie and costing 1d each. He began to print and publish this periodical only one week after setting up in business as a printer. It consisted almost solely of poetry contributed by the literary and political circle of Kilmarnock and the surrounding area ranging indeed from Kilmaurs to Dairy, from Irvine to Mauchline. Among these contributors were Archibald McKay the local historian and Marion Paul Aird a local poet. Its early popularity was shown by the fact that one thousand copies of the earlier numbers were printed and sold, and this naturally comments on the general accept- ability of the contributions. Perhaps a selection of titles of some of the articles appearing in The *Inspirer* will give a better impression of the journal. 'Burns and Byron compared as poets'⁸, 'Acoustics'⁹, 'The Elopement'¹⁰, 'Remarks on the character of Robert Burns '¹¹. Thus, the main point about this periodical is its short life and its local contributors, usually original works or articles on literary subjects.

There now follows quite a large jump in time before the next periodical appears in Kilmarnock in 1877. Perhaps significantly this is what could be called the 'boom' time in newspapers with several being established in this period. Also, in this period the 'annuals' appeared, but these will be discussed later, it is enough to indicate their presence at this point.

The first periodical to appear after this gap was The *Thistle: An Ayrshire Monthly Magazine Scientific Instructive, Satirical and Amusing Articles* in September 1877. It lasted until August 1878 and contained poetry, cartoons of local eminent men and articles generally fulfilling the promises of the subtitle - perhaps an example of some titles will give an idea of the topics covered:- 'Strasburgh after the

8. *Ayrshire Inspirer* Vol. 1, No. 9 (1839).

9. *Ayrshire Inspirer* Vol. 1, No. 8 (1839)

10. *Ayrshire Inspirer* Vol. 1, No. 7 (1839).

11. *Ayrshire Inspirer* Vol. 1. No. 6 (1839).

Franco-German War', 'The West of Scotland Protectant Association and Roman Catholic Nurses', 'Rembrandt', 'Italian Medical Periodicals', 'The Prophecies of Izekiel', 'The Robber Chief of La Plata', and 'Feminine Diplomacy, or The Dinner Party: A Tale of Modern Life'. It was printed and published by Alfred Charles Jones of Duke Street and sold for 3d per issue. It did not set out to be a literary or cultural magazine but to provide a variety of light reading and entertainment and in that it succeeded.

The next journal to be printed in Kilmarnock poses rather a problem because it was more of an election print than a periodical. This was *The Watchman* which appeared monthly from August 1879 until the election in 1880. It was printed by John Guthrie and cost only ½d; its aim was to promote Liberal politics in the Burgh and on the top of the front page it stated it was circulated in Kilmarnock burghs, Dumbarton, Port Glasgow, Renfrew and Rutherglen. It is not now of any real importance, except to illustrate yet another kind of journal printed in the town.

Again, there is somewhat of a gap before the arrival of a successor to *The Watchman* and it came in August 1893 in the form of *Auld Killie: A Monthly Magazine*. This was published for the proprietors by D. Brown and Company and cost 1d per issue until it ceased publication in September 1898. The magazine's aims were given a prominent piece on the front page of the first issue '... we do not contemplate confining ourselves to topics of amusement, our utmost endeavour will be to produce, once a month, a collection of interesting articles and short notes, which we trust will suit the palate of the 19th century Kilmarnockarian'.

On the whole it did not live up to its rather snobbish aims and the contents are mainly in a lighter vein. Draughts was given a conspicuous place in the early days with outlines of games, problems, solutions and news of forth-coming tournaments but it was gradually displaced with news of bowling, angling and football. There were regular articles on fashion for the ladies, occasional articles on agriculture; fiction, poetry, accounts of local club meetings, obituaries, short amusing anecdotes, a self-explanatory column entitled 'Town Talk' and short descriptive sketches of local

magnates - character sketches illustrated with portraits appeared in each issue. Not to be forgotten was the '*Auld Killie Club*', an open discussion column for social and literary questions but it was clearly stated in the first issue that 'no matter containing the slightest allusion to political affairs will be inserted'. This policy may have been adhered to in that particular column, but it did not prevent the periodical's own correspondents from lampooning the local council - both visually and verbally - in almost every issue. An interesting point to note now is the vast increase in advertisements. compared to the previous periodicals which had contained none. This comes too late to be attributed to the repeal of the Advertisement Tax in mid-century, so it is perhaps only due to the idea of such a periodical being a successful commercial venture as well as performing a literary function of sorts or to the realisation that these periodicals were a good advertising medium.

The last periodical to be included in this survey is the *St. Marnock: The Ayrshire Monthly Magazine* which was issued from October 1898 to October 1900 on the last Thursday of each month at the cost of 1d per issue. It was printed by A. N. Wallace for the proprietor and as edited by William Munro. There is little really to be said about it except that it is very similar to *Auld Killie* - in the first issue the editor said 'It is extremely pleasant to announce that those pens that have been associated with the editor during the past twelve months on another monthly, have agreed to follow his fortunes and assist him in embellishing these papers' which confirms the similarity; despite the statement that new features had been added the aim remained almost the same too 'to bring edification and amusement to every home'. Many of the same contributors are present e.g. 'Rota' on cycling and 'Mala prop' on local council business; there is even a series called 'Our Townsmen' along the same lines as the series in *Auld Killie* on eminent local men and a ladies column.

It was meant really only to provide some local news on affairs and characters, light reading plus anecdotes; there was the occasional travel article, recipe and regular football reports. It

succeeds in its aims but provides no good- quality literature - like *Auld Killie, St. Marnock* is just too 'couthy' for modern tastes but probably appealed to the Kilmarnockarians of the late nineteenth century - or else why should virtually the same periodical survive for seven years.

It has been interesting to mark the various stages in the development of the periodical in Kilmarnock. It seems to divide into three stages -the early, purely literary efforts; the politically oriented periodicals, and then periodicals of more general interest with some focus on local affairs - there was almost always some section relating to local news and where this was so it has been indicated. The various periodicals had differing aims and this too has been mentioned.

Annals

Earlier, reference was made to the 'annuals' printed in Kilmarnock. As the name suggests there were volumes which appeared at yearly intervals and because of this it has been decided to add the few which were printed in Kilmarnock to this section on periodical publications.

The original venture in this field was the *Kilmarnock Annual and Western Literary Album* which first appeared in 1835. It was published by William Hutchinson but no printer's name is given and the editor is not named either. There was optimism that this would be the fore-runner of many subsequent volumes, but this optimism was unfounded, because, despite a plea for 'charitable judgement' in the Preface, this was the only volume ever to appear. It contained a variety of material in poetry and prose but little of high quality. The lack of originality in the poetry comes through in the titles of some of the works - 'The captive's last sigh' (p 92-95), or 'A farewell' (p36). or 'Hugh and Ellenore' (p122). It is interesting that none of the works is signed, - normally an initial is given, sometimes an obvious pseudonym and sometimes a work is completely anonymous.

The next attempt to provide Kilmarnock with an annual publication

was undertaken by James McKie. At this time James McKie was resident in Saltcoats but kept in touch with the literary circle in Kilmarnock and found that they wanted another periodical along the same lines as the *Inspirer*. The opinion was that there would be plenty of contributions and James McKie offered to sell, at retail price, any publication issued in Kilmarnock, in the Saltcoats area but Mr Robert Crawford' then the presiding genius of the literary world of Kilmarnock ¹² could not be persuaded to take part in such a scheme so it was dropped. Sometime later it was proposed to publish an ' annual ' and James McKie stood by his previous offer - he eventually undertook the complete publishing and ' pushing ' of the work. As he had no printing house in Saltcoats he arranged with Messrs. H. Crawford in Kilmarnock to print it. This was the *Ayrshire Wreath* which appeared in March 1843. The editors were John Cameron and Robert Crawford and the subtitle aptly describes the work 'a collection of original pieces in Prose and verse, chiefly by native authors on subjects relating to Ayrshire'; this description is furthered by the fact that Lord Eglinton, before allowing the book to be dedicated to him stipulated that there should be 'nothing political ¹² in it.

Besides the local contributors there were articles by John Montgomery, the Reverend Hamilton Paul, Robert Gilfillan, Joseph Train and Diana Veader. The main local authors were Miss Marion Aird, John Cameron, Archibald McKay, the Reverend David Landsborough, Archibald Crawford, John Ramsay and others. The volume contained 216 pages which James McKie considered to be well printed on good paper and it was bound in embossed leather with gilt edges. The edition contained one thousand copies in that style and these sold for 3/- each.

As arranged in the closing pages of the above volume early in December 1843 there appeared the *Ayrshire Wreath* for 1844 with the same subtitle. This new edition was slightly different - it had several engravings spaced out through the work and was slightly larger, having 240 pages. Many of the same contributors were present as were the same editors and printers.

12. Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of Saturday, 26 December 1863; Printed in *County Sketches* by James McKie (1864) as ' Periodical and other Literature of Ayrshire.'

The *Ayrshire Wreath* again appeared in 1845 with more or less the same contributors again. James McKie thought that the volume was well printed but that the paper had a bluish tinge which did not make this volume look as well as the others. Still, it was 248 pages long - and twenty of these contained the names of the fifteen hundred subscribers. Despite the rise in subscribers from the previous two volumes this edition did not pay as well and McKie's explanation is that • it was too far pushed - pushed too extensively and expensively'.¹³

At the close of this volume McKie intimated that he was moving back to Kilmarnock and that the *Ayrshire Wreath* for 1846 would be issued from there. But he decided instead to publish late in 1845 a volume of poetry by Miss Aird - *The Home of the Heart* - because he thought it contained her best work. Publication of this was very successful but there was no further appearance of the *Ayrshire Wreath* until 1855. The contents were similar to the previous volumes, although many of the previous contributors do not appear and as a whole the authors are more local than before.

This then was to be the last appearance of an annual of this kind in Kilmarnock for a considerable period, but again, it was an interesting aspect of the material printed in the town.

13. McKie, *County Sketches: Periodical and other literature of Ayrshire*.

THE WORK OF JAMES MCKIE

One name which has occurred with more regularity than any other in this account of newspapers and printing in Kilmarnock, and will appear again in the bibliography of works, is that of James McKie - one of the most prolific and important printers in nineteenth century Kilmarnock. Because of this it is felt necessary to give a short outline of his work as a whole.

He began business in September 1839 at 39 King Street and in the next week he began his penny weekly periodical, the *Ayrshire Inspire*. Apart from this the first job of any size undertaken by the firm was to print *Certain Facts and Fallacies in the Prevailing Systems of the Physical Education of Children*: the substance of lectures delivered before the public of West Kilbride in 1839 by John Hall, in a pamphlet of thirty two pages. Shortly after this he moved to Saltcoats whence he directed publication of the *Ayrshire Wreath* until his return to Kilmarnock in 1845.

In 1846 the firm started to print and publish a series of school books compiled by Matthew Wilson, a teacher, called the *Ayrshire Series of School books* which were progressive lessons in prose and verse, adapted to the various capacities of children and containing exercises in spelling, etc. Schools welcomed this series and it was still in print in 1863, although widely extended and modified. In 1847 there was an addition to the Series in the form of *The Ayrshire Reciter* which was a selection of abstracts from the best authors adapted for reading and recitation. It is interesting to note that it contained instructions on how to modulate the voice and the best manner in which the various pieces should be read. This first Edition was soon sold out, but the book was never reprinted. Also, in 1847 James McKie opened a branch of his business in Dalry which, after carrying on successfully for several years he sold to his half brother, Daniel Brown, who handled it well and extended it.

From the 1840s on the firm printed a variety of books and pamphlets as well as doing jobbing work, such as posters, advertisements etc. The works ranged from theology, poetry and songs, to catalogues of libraries and recollections of Syria and Palestine. Apart from the *Ayrshire Wreaths* and *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* the next major work printed by James McKie came in 1858 – *The History of Kilmarnock* by Archibald

McKay, the second edition. The first edition was printed in 1848 by Matthew Wilson, 2 King Street, Kilmarnock.

The second edition was printed on very thick paper, so made a huge volume and it seems that Archibald McKay was particular about the actual printing of his work, overseeing it personally. This work had been out of print for some time and there was a great demand for it. The price to subscribers was 5/6d, but latterly copies brought as high as half-a-guinea. We have ourselves even sold them at more money'.¹⁴

The firm continued to print the normal kind of work for the period: a lot of local poetry, some local history and, of course, its school books. However, it was as a Burns printer and publisher that James McKie achieved his chief distinction. He had always admired Burns and had collected many editions of his works. He even printed a catalogue of works connected with Burns which he owned, with a supplement of those he would like to own in 1861 under the title of *Biblioteca Burnsiana* which in turn was to be a supplement to a work entitled *A Catalogue of Title Pages and Imprints of the Books in the Private Library of James McKie* which appeared in 1867. This was a fairly comprehensive list of books and pamphlets printed in and connected with Ayrshire. Being interested in Burns he appreciated the growing value of the first edition of the *Poems* and the growing number of applications which could not be supplied. This gave him the idea of producing a facsimile which appeared in 1866. He was fortunate in securing types cast from the identical matrices which had been used for the original edition by John Wilson and which were still at the founders in Edinburgh; in paper, type and binding the facsimile was complete and perfect. The issue was restricted to 600 copies for home buyers and 600 copies for America, all of which were quickly sold. In 1869 he printed and published in uniform style three volumes, which, with the facsimile, made the works complete. This was also successful and encouraged him to issue a completely revised and annotated popular edition of the works. He got William Scott Douglas of Edinburgh as editor and the result was in 1871 the publication of two handsome volumes at half-a-guinea, of which 2,000 copies were quickly sold. In 1876 there was a second issue with important additions and improvements. Previously,

14. McKie, *County Sketches: Periodical and other Literature of Ayrshire*

in 1874, he published and printed *The Burns Calendar*, a veritable storehouse of facts and quotations from the poems. In the post script to this book there is a 'Valedictory Address' on the occasion of his stepson's becoming his partner, Mr William Drennan. This partnership lasted only until 1879 when it was amicably dissolved, and William Drennan became a partner in the *Kilmarnock Standard*. However, in 1875 McKie and Drennan printed and issued the *Manual of Religious Belief* written by William Burness, the poet's father. The last of McKie's Burns publications was the *Bibliography* in 1881, an elaborate list of all the editions of Bum's works, contributions to Burns literature known to exist and the locales of Burns manuscripts and other relics. James McKie died in 1891 and he was succeeded by Messrs David Brown and Company.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS PRINTED IN KILMARNOCK

By J. Wilson

BINNING, Hugh *and others*. Faithfull witness-bearing exemplified. 1783.

ERSKINE, John. An attempt to promote the frequent dispensing of the Lord's Supper. 1783.

ANSON, George. Voyage round the world. 2 vols. 1785.

MILTON. John. Paradise Lost. 1785.

FRASER, Rev. James. Sermons on sacramental occasions. To which are prefixed two prefaces by the Reverend Mr. John Russel and the Reverend Mr James Robertson. 1785.

BURNS, Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Dialect. 1786.

CAMPBELL, George. Poems. on several occasions. 1787.

DALRYMPLE William. Family worship explained and recommended. 1787.

DICKSON, David. Truth's victory over error. 1787.

NEPOS Cornelius. Excellentium imperatorum vitae. 1787.

RUSSELL Rev. John. The reasons of Our Lord's agony in the garden. 1787.

DALRYMPLE William. For the use of Lord's day schools. Two Scripture Catechisms. 2nd edition. 1788.

FLAVEL John. A token for mourners; or The advice of Christ to a distressed mother bewailing the death of her dear and only son-. 178.8

LAPRAIK John. Poems, on several occasions. 1788.

MARSHALL Walter. The gospel-mystery of sanctification opened. 1788.

PEEBLES William. The great things which the Lord hath done for this nation, illustrated and improved. 1788.

RAMSAY Allan. The tea-table miscellany. 2 vols. in one. 17th edition. 1788.

ROBERTSON John. Britain the chosen nation. 1788.

SILLAR David. Poems. 1789.

VIRGIL Bucolica, Georgica et Aeneis. 1789.

DUN, John. Sermons, in two volumes. 1790.

MAIR John. An introduction to Latin syntax. 11th edition. 1790.

By H. and S. Crawford

-- Articles of agreement among the members of the Kilmarnock Union Society --. 1805.

- Collection of the dying testimonies of some holy and pious Christians who lived in Scotland before and after the Revolution -. 1806.

SHIRRA Rev. Robert. A death-bed dialogue: being a series of conversations. 1806.

CRAW William. Naval poetical journal: in twelve letters. 1807.

-- The present state of religion, in Scotland, discovered; and the sentiments and characters of the professors of it pointed out, in answer to objections that have been advanced - - 1807.

RODGER Hugh. Plain and easy tables for finding the new and full moons with eclipses etc with rules and examples. 1808.

RODGER Hugh. A small treatise on astronomy. 1808.

-- An alarm into a secure generation or, a short historical relation of some of the most strange and remarkable appearances of comets. fiery meteors, Bloody signs, ships of war, armies of foot and horsemen fighting etc. that have been seen since the birth of our Saviour --. 1809.

CRAW William. Poetical epistles. 1809.

-- Humble pleadings; or, a representation of grievances for the consideration of the Reformed Presbytery - - 1809.

By H. Crawford

-- Catalogue of the Kilmarnock Library. 1811.

-- The works of the late reverend and pious Mr Thomas Gouge - - 1815.

MORLEY Rev. T. Happy recluse. 1815.

-- Account of the proceedings of the public meeting of the burghesses and inhabitants of the town of Kilmarnock held on the 7th of December. 1816. for the purpose of deliberating on the most

proper method of remedying the present distresses of the country. With a full report of the speeches on that occasion. 1816.

THOMSON Rev. William. The New Testament, translated from the Greek -- A harmony. 3 vols. 1816.

CAMPBELL Hugh. The wanderer in Ayrshire. 1817.

WILSON John The foot-race: a poem. With a number of songs. 1818.

-- Authentic narrative on the trial and execution of John Baird and Andrew Hardie, at Stirling, 8th September 1820. 1820.

-- A catalogue of H. Crawford's Circulating Library, Kilmarnock 1820.

-- The Ayrshire melodist. or the music's delight. 1821.

JONES, Andrew. The black book of conscience --.1822.

-- Heads of a Bill to amend an Act made in the 43rd year of the reign of his late Majesty George III for making better provision for the parochial schoolmasters, and for making further regulations for the better government of the parish schools in Scotland. 1824.

McMILLAN John. Original poetical works. 1824.

TORFOOT Laird of. Narrative of the Battles of Drumclog and Bothwell Bridge. 1825.

-- A descriptive and historical sketch of curling; also rules, practical directions, songs, toasts and a glossary--. 1828.

-- Names of paupers in the town and Parish of Kilmarnock: statement of their weekly allowances and yearly rents; and abstract of the income and expenditure of the Kirk Session for the year 1827. 1828.

-- Birmah: a descriptive rhyme of the events in the late war. 1829.

-- The book of song; containing 33 fashionable songs and catches -. 1830.

-- Laws of the Kilmarnock Merchant's Society. n.d.

McCRORIE David. Superficial or, flat measure, ready cast up; adapted to the meanest capacity, by a new set of tables -- n.d.

PHILANTHROPIST. Religious courtship: or, the advantage --of the marriage state. n.d.

By H. Crawford and Son

RAMSAY John. Poems. 1836.

-- Correspondence with the clergymen of the Low Church, Kilmarnock, respecting the rights of the Kirk Session and the obligations on a Communicant with the Church of Scotland. 1837.

RAMSAY John. Poems. 1837

-- Speech of an old sailor, on the impressment of seamen in time of war: spoken at a soiree and addressed chiefly to the ladies. 1838.

RAMSAY John. Eglinton Park meeting and other poems. 3rd edition 1840

BROWN David A catechism of English grammar for the use of junior students. 1841.

-- The Ayrshire Wreath: a collection of original pieces 1843 (March)

- The Ayrshire Wreath [second collection] . 1843.

DUNLOP James. The village lord A poem. 1843.

McKAY Archibald Recreations of leisure hours, a collection of pieces in prose and verse. 1844.

-- Regulations and catalogue of books of the MacKinlay Library 1844.

-- The Ayrshire Wreath. 1845.

MUCKARSIE John. The children's catechism. or a help to the more easy understanding of the doctrines taught in the Confession of Faith. and larger and shorter catechisms. n.d.

WATTS I. 28 divine songs for the use of children - - .n.d.

WILLISON Rev. John. The mother's catechism for the young child - n.d.

By Mathie and Lochore

KENNEDY John. Miscellaneous poems --To which is added a great collection of anecdotes and bon mots. 1819.

By James Paterson

A NATIVE OF AYRSHIRE. Drouthy Tam: or, the drucken squad; a tale. 2nd edition. 1828.

BROWN William. The autobiography or narrative of a soldier. 1829.

-- The juvenile scrap-book: consisting of selections, in prose and verse. 1829.

MATHIAS Joseph. Life and travels of Joseph Mathias. 1833.

TAYLOR John Case of duel and statement of the conduct of T. F. Kenned, y Esq. of Dunure, M.P. towards one of his opponents at the last election for the Ayr District of Burghs. 2nd edition. 1833.

By James Mathie

BOWIE Adam. The measurer' s vade mecum, and farmer 's ready reckoner. 1831.

OSBORNE William. An introduction to arithmetic. 1834.

ROBERTSON D. The sin of teaching the fear of God by the laws of men - - 1835.

-- Report of the Kilmarnock Benevolent Society for 1845-46: with the regulations list of subscribers and the names of office bearers- - . 1846.

AN AYRSHIRE RADICAL REFORMER. A would-be M .P.'s soliloquy on the loss of his election. 1852.

RUSSELL Neill Nuir. Life and remains of. 1852.

-- The Kilmarnock and Riccarton Post Office Directory for 1855-56. With an appendix. Compiled by the letter-carriers. 1855.

- Correspondence in the case of Buchan v Mathie. n.d.

By James McKie

As mentioned earlier McKie had no press in Saltcoats, yet in his own catalogue of his Library the first two items on this list are in fact shown as printed by him in Saltcoats. They are, however, included here to complete the record of McKie's publications.

HALL John. Certain facts and fallacies in the prevailing systems

- of the physical education of children - - Saltcoats, 1840
- Catalogue of books in the circulating library of James McKie, bookseller binder, printer, and stationer, Saltcoats. Saltcoats 1841.'
- AIRD Marion Paul. The home of the heart. 1845.
- RITCHIE David. Extract from a sermon preached in Neilston Church, on June 23, 1844 - -. 1845.
- List of rate-payers in the town and parish of Kilmarnock; with the sums charged on means and substance for half-years, ending Lammas 1846. 1846.
- WILSON M. The Ayrshire primer. 1846. (Ayrshire series of school books: No. 1).
- WILSON M. Sequel to the Ayrshire primer. 1846. (Ayrshire series of school books: No. 2)
- WILSON M. Easy progressive lessons in prose and verse, adapted to the capacities of children and fitted for carrying out an improved system of education; with various exercises in spelling, etc. 1846. (Ayrshire series of school books: No. 3)
- NAIRN Rev. Charles. Natural theology, illustrated by geology --. 1847.
- WILSON M. The Ayrshire reciter. 1847. (Ayrshire series of school books: No. 4).
- MAGUIRE Rev. T. Instructions on the blessed rosary for the benefit of all true Christians. 1849.
- FISHER Rev. M. A help to family prayer - -. 1850.
- LOCHEAD M. Poems and songs. 1852.
- THOMSON Robert R. A selection of poems; for the use of reading classes. Part first. 1852.
- AIRD Marion Paul. Heart histories. 1853.
- The Bible's lamentation: a poem - - 1854.
 - Contract of co-partnary and regulations of the Newmilns and Greenholm Gas Light Company --.1853.
 - Rules of the Farmer's Mutual Assurance Society for Cattle. 1854.
 - The Ayrshire Wreath. 1855.

- Names of the paupers on permanent roll, with a statement of their monthly and weekly allowances, and those in receipt of allowances for rent, in the Parish of Kilmarnock, at 31st December, 1854. 1855.
 - Rules and regulations to be observed by the members of Fairlie Colliery Friendly Society - -. 1855.
 - Rules of the Farmer's Mutual Assurance Association, for Loudon, Galston, etc., etc. - -. 1855.
- CRAIG Hugh. Ayrshire aspirations in verse and prose. 1856.
- LOGAN William. Genealogy of the Knoxes of Kilbirnie 1856.
- PATTERSON J. Shadows of the past. 1856.
- A plea for parish schools, with remarks on the Lord Advocate's Bill. 1856.
- JONAS Rev. Edward James. Recollections of Syria and Palestine. 1857.
- Articles of the Annandale Colliers' Friendly Yearly Society. 1858.
 - Catalogue of the books belonging to Fenwick U.P. Church Library. 1858.
- McKAY Archibald. The history of Kilmarnock 2nd edition. Revised and enlarged. 1858
- Rules of the Holmes Colliery Library. 1858.
- PALMER G. The young scholar's thick book. 1858
- Regulations of, and catalogue of books in, the Catrina United Public Library. 1858.
 - Rules of the Caprington Colliery Benevolent Society. 1858.
 - Fourth annual report of the Ayrshire Temperance Union - - 1859.
 - Regulations of the Parochial Board burying-ground of the Parish of West Kilbride. 1859.
 - The Revivals in Ireland and Ayrshire, with notices of some striking cases of conversion - - 1859.
 - The Revivals in Ireland. By an eye-witness- - 1859.
 - The sound of the Revival Trumpet: an appeal to believers. 1859.
 - Tenth annual report of the Kilmarnock Sabbath School

Union. 1859.

AIRD Marion Paul. Sun and shade. 1860.

-- Catalogue of books in the Tarbolton Library. 1860.

HOWIE James. A dialogue between Riccarton Rab and Galston Jock on the right of way; with letters to the editor of the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post*. 1860.

TODD A. B. Burns, or The ploughman bard; a centenary poem. 1860.

-- A tour to the Clyde lochs and watering places. 1860.

-- Catalogue of the Shaw Library of the Kilmarnock Athenaeum, with rules and regulations. 1861.

GREGORY James Smith. Digest of the census of 1861, in the district of Kilmarnock. With registration statistics. 1861.

-- General and special rules for the guidance of managers and workmen employed at Holmes and Galston Collieries--. 1861.

HOWIE James. An historical account of the town of Ayr for the last fifty years. 1861.

McKAY Archibald. Ingle-side lilts and other poems. 1861.

PATTERSON John. Shadows of the past: sketches of Scottish life. 1861.

-- Biographical sketch of the late Thomas Morton, Esq. - - . 1862. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 22nd March 1862).

-- Kilmarnock Horticultural and Floricultural Society: schedule of prizes for 1862.

-- Rules of the Hurlford Bowling Club, and laws of the game. 1862.

-- A day on the Clyde with the 'Iona.' 1863. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 19th September 1863).

AIRD Marion Paul. The home of the heart. 1863.

-- An excursion to Belfast, via Ardrossan, per s.s. 'Lancefield '. 1864. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 27th August 1864).

-- An excursion to Lochgoin Reservoir, on Wednesday, 13th July 1864. 1864. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post*

- of 23rd July 1864).
- Periodical and other literature of Ayrshire. 1864. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 26th December 1863; article 22nd).
 - A run round Galloway. 1864. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 6th August 1864).
 - May Fair Saturday: a visit to Tarbolton. 1865. (Extracted from the *Kilmarnock Weekly Post* of 20th May, 1865).
- MCKIE James. *Bibliotheca Burnsiana: life and works of Burns, title pages and imprints of the various editions in the private library of James McKie, prior to 1866.*
- Rules and regulations of the Caledonian Foundry Workmen's Yearly Society, 1866.
- BURNS Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786. (Facsimile edition: 1867. Also 50 copies on large paper).*
- BURNS Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786. (American facsimile edition: 1868).*
- DICKIE James E. *Post Office Kilmarnock Directory for 1868*
- BURNS, Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect, poems as they appeared in the early Edinburgh editions. Edited by James McKie .1869. Also 30 copies on large paper.*
- BURNS Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect: posthumous poems. Edited by James McKie. 1869. Also 30 copies on large paper.*
- BURNS Robert. *Songs, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1869. Also 30 copies on large paper.*
- Reports by the different institutions in connection with the Winton Place E.U. Church, for the year ending November 5th 1869.
- THOMSON Rev. John. *Lectures on Oecumenical or Romish Councils, and the Dark Ages --. 1869.*
- BURNS Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786. (American facsimile edition; 1870).*
- BURNS Robert. *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786. (American facsimile edition; 1870: printed for John Brown and Company; Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A.)*

- BURNS Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786.
(American facsimile edition; 1780: printed for J. Campbell,
Toronto).
- BURNS Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. 1786.
(American facsimile edition; 1870: printed for R.
Worthington, Montreal).
- General and special rules for Bonnington Colliery--. 187.1
- GREGORY James Smith. Digest of the census of 1871, in the
parish of Kilmarnock with registrations statistics. 1871
- Catalogue of the Tarbolton Parish Church Library --.1872.
- RITCHIE Rev. David. ' At an hour when ye think not ': a sermon.
1872.
- AITKEN Andrew Poems. 1873.
- GIBSON James. Burns calendar: manual of Burnsiana,
bibliography and record of relics. 1874.
- Annual report of the High Church, Kilmarnock. 1880.
- GIBSON James. Bibliography of Robert Burns; with biographical
and bibliographical notes, and sketches of Burns clubs,
monuments and statues. 1881.
- KIRKWOOD Rev. J. Troon and Dundonald: with their
surroundings. 3rd edition. 1881.
- HYSLOP John. The dream of a masque: and other poems. 1882.
- KILMARNOCK BURNS MONUMENT. Catalogue of the McKie
Burnsiana Library; with list of subscribers for the purchase
thereof. 1883.
- HASTINGS Lady Flora. Story of the Lady Flora Hastings. 1884.
Reprinted from Ayrshire Notes and Queries in the
Kilmarnock Standard).
- BURNS Robert. Complete poetical works; revised by William
Scott Douglas. Also contains an ode to R. B. by Colin Rae-
Brown. 1886. 2 vols. (Kilmarnock centenary edition).
- BURNS Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect.
1786.{Centenary reprint 1886. 120 copies) .
- RAE-BROWN Colin Ode to the memory of Robert Burns. 7th
Edition. 1886.
- A few days at the south end of the Island of Arran. n.d.

KILMARNOCK WATER COMPANY. Rules to be observed with respect to the supply of water and the apparatus allowed to be used. n.d.

PATRICK Mary. A story of three little maidens. n.d

By Wliriam Muir

-- Awful thunderstorm and flood at Galston, 8th August, 1846.
Pamphlet published for the behoof of the sufferers. 1846.

-- The Kilmarnock and Riccarton Post Office Directory for 1846-47 - - . 1846.

BUCHANAN Rev. W. The Kllmaurs Church Case: in a letter to his parishioners. 1847.

By Matthew Wlison

AITKEN James. Report on the necessity of erecting a fever hospital in Kilmarnock--. 1848.

McKAY Archibald. A history of Kilmarnock. 1848.

GIBSON John. Pictures in print: being recollections in rhyme and pencillings in verse. 1851.

McKAY Archibald An account of the flood that occurred in Kilmarnock on the morning of Wednesday, 14th of July, 1852; with a table showing the heights to which the water rose in the principal streets. 1852.

-- Laws of the Kilmarnock Horticultural and Floricultural Society - - 1858.

SMITH Alexander. National education: a popular lecture. 1858.

-- Rules of the Kilmarnock Property Investment Society, on the permanent principle --. 1859.

-- School hymns and songs, designed for practice in the English class of the Kilmarnock Academy. n.d.

By the *Journal Office*

KILMARNOCK BOWLING CLUB. Rules of the Club and laws of the game. 1855.

-- Catalogue of books in the circulating library of Archibald McKay, Bookseller, 116 Kings Street, Kilmarnock. 1856

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By T. Stevenson, *Standard Office*

ADAMSON Archibald R. Rambles round Kilmarnock. 1865.

SAMSON John. Poems and songs. 1866.

STEVENSON John. The Lord's **side**, an address to a Sabbath school normal class, and adapted to young men and women generally. 1866.

-- Annual report of the Kilmarnock Ragged and Industrial Certified School, for the year 1870 --.1871.

ADAMSON Archibald R. Rambles round Kilmarnock. 1875.

-- Valuation roll of the Parish of Kilmarnock Year 1874-75. n.d

By Smith Brothers

-- Eleventh report of the Kilmarnock Sabbath School Union. 1860.

McKAY Archibald. The History of Kilmarnock. 1864.

ANDREW C. High U.F. Church, Kilmarnock: notes of life and work (1843- 1906). 1906

By McKie and Drennan

DOUGLAS William Scott. In Ayrshire: descriptive picture of the county of Ayr: Part 1, district of Cunningham. 1874.

McKAY, Archibald. Burns and his Kilmarnock friends: in prose and verse. 1874.

BURNES William. Manual of religious belief; composed by the poet's father for the instruction of his children. 1875

-- Catalogue with rules and regulations of Lochwinnoch Public Library --. 1875.

-- Protest and appeal by the Reverend T. Martin, against a school being built in Low Glencairn Street, with petition by ratepayers and parents. 1875.

BURNS Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect; with notes by William Scott Douglas, also a notice for the movement for the erection of the statue. People's Statue Edition, 1877.

MUNRO Robert. Mental energy --.1877.

RAMSAY John. Gleanings in the gloamin'. 1877.

LAMBERTON William Poems and songs of an Ayrshire Volunteer. 1878.

By Dunlop and Drennan, *Standard Office*

ADAMSON Archibald R. Rambles round Kilmarnock. With an account of the Burns Monument and Kay Park inauguration. 2nd edition. 1879.

ADAMSON Archibald R. Rambles through the land of Burns. 1879.

-- The Kilmarnock Certified Industrial School -- report by the managers for the year 1880 --.1881.

WYLIE William Howie. The Ayrshire Museum. 1891.

DICK Robert. Tales and poems. 1892.

MACINTOSH John. Ayrshire nights' entertainments, history, antiquities, etc. 1894

STURROCK John. Horae ontologicae: the foundations of materialism examined. 1894.

BURNS MEMORIAL AND COTTAGE HOMES. Burns centenary celebrations; laying of foundation stone, 23rd July, 1896. Reprinted from the *Kilmarnock Standard*.

MACKIE David. Ayrshire village sketches and poems. 1896.

STEIN Helen. (Helen J. Steven, later Mrs Crawford). Tarbolton: its history and associations. 1897.

STEVEN Helen J. Auchinleck: its history and associations. 1898.

STEVEN Helen J. Sorn Parish: its history and associations. 1898.

STEVEN Helen J. The Cumnock's Old and New: their history and associations. 1899.

McCAW Robert. Outposts and convoys: with the Ayrshire volunteers in South Africa. 1901.

GAIRDNER C. D. Autobiography. 1902.

ROSE George. List of the birds of Ayrshire, 1907. From the Annals of the Glenfield Ramblers.

ROBERTSON William. Ayrshire: its history and historic families. 2 vols.1908.

WARRICK John. Address on the occasion of the semi-jubilee of

his ministry, March 17th, 1908. 1908.
KILMARNOCK EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. A fifty
years record. 1910.
FULTON John. Gleanings from the Session Records of Kilbirnie.
n.d. LANDSBOROUGH, Rev. David. Contributions to local
history. n.d.

By Alfred Chas. Jonas

Jonas' Kilmarnock Directory for 1879 - - 1879

By D. Brown and Company

SNEDDON D. *Comp.* Burns holograph manuscripts in the
Kilmarnock Monument Museum; with notes. 1889.
SINTON John. Burns, excise officer and poet. 2nd edition. 1895.
BURNS Robert. The poetical works. Edited by William Colt
Douglas. 10th edition. 1896. 2 vols. in one. (Kilmarnock
edition).
BURNS Robert. The poems and songs of Robert Burns Revised
by D'. McNaught. 1897. (People's edition)
LETHAM Miss E. H. (Robert Stewart) Burns and Tarbolton. 1900.
BURNS Robert. The poetical works. Edited by William Scott
Douglas 11th edition .1903. 2 vols. in one. (Kilmarnock
edition).
BURNS Robert. The poetical works of Robert Burns. Arranged
and revised by W. Scott Douglas and D. McNaught.
1903. (The People's edition)
BURNS Robert. Poems, chiefly in the Scottish dialect.
1786. (D. Naught's facsimile edition; 1909).

By the Standard printing works

McKAY Archibald. The history of Kilmarnock with a memoir of
the author. 5th edition. 1909.
FAIRLIE Rev. J. Kirkwood. Matthew Fowlds, centenarian weaver,
1806- 1907: and other Fenwick worthies. 1910.
HEWAT Rev. K. The monk of Ayr who became the protestant

leader: John Willock. 1912.

HUNTER John Kelso. Retrospect of an artist's life. 1912.

LYON Thomas M. In kilt and khaki: glimpses of the Glasgow Highlanders. 1915.

LYON Thomas M. More adventures in kilt and khaki. 1917.

By the *Herald* printing works

-- Kilmarnock Post Office Directory: 1913-14-15. 1913

NEWSPAPERS PRINTED IN AYR

The Beginnings of Printing In Ayr

Printing was begun in Ayr by John Wilson in 1790 when he removed his press and cases from Kilmarnock for some reason unknown to us now. Perhaps he felt it would be more advantageous to be situated in the county town, although the population of Ayr burgh at this time was only around 4000 compared to Kilmarnock burgh which was around 6000. However, the prestige of Ayr may have had something to do with it as it was increasing its reputation as a social centre and watering -place for the Scottish gentry. Despite this John Wilson maintained his shop in Kilmarnock and looked after it himself leaving his brother Peter in charge of the printing office at 23 High Street, Ayr.

The only work on the Wilson brothers' printing is by Frances M. Thomson who states that in 1790 one work was printed in Ayr with the imprint 'Wilson' · and in 1791 four were printed in Ayr two with the imprint · 'J. Wilson' and two with 'J. & P. Wilson'¹ She also says that from 1791 to 1810 when Peter Wilson died, all the works have the imprint 'J. & P. Wilson' and were printed in Ayr. Altogether it seems as if the Wilson brothers printed around seventy works in Ayr between 1790 and 1810. These were a mixture of religious works, poetry, school works and some editions of Latin authors Wilson printed books for other booksellers too, mainly local, but also in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Stirling and even as far away as Newcastle and London. From extant copies it seems that the normal format was octavo or duodecimo, these works were untrimmed and appeared in paper bindings common to the period; no information is available on the sizes of the editions produced.

Frances M. Thomson also found evidence that the press printed a variety of material apart from books.¹ She found much of her information on this in the case-book in which it was the normal practise for each compositor to enter a weekly record of the work done by him. The only copy of this available to Miss Thomson covered the

1. Frances M Thom son • John Wilson. 'an Ayrshire Printer, Publisher and Bookseller.' *The Bibliothek* No. 2 (1967) pp 41-61

period 5 March 1803 - 18 April 1806 from which she was able and to get a good idea of the number of composers employed of the work done by the firm in this period. Each entry is signed and this shows that in the period covered seven different composers were employed: from 5 March to 19 July 1803 there were two composers; from then until 6 August 1803 there were three, after which date the fourth appeared; the fifth began his entries on 15 October 1803. From then there were always five, except for the period 13 April - 2 November 1805 when there were six.¹ Perhaps as expected the case-book reveals that the bulk of the compositor's work was of a jobbing nature - notices, play bills etc - the steady flow of which a small printer relied on to keep his business going. Also entered were records of the setting of sheets of works, and opposite each item is listed a sum of money, probably the cost of the compositor's work.

Apart from doing all this the most important work undertaken by the Wilson brothers in Ayr was the establishment of Ayrshire's first newspaper, the *Ayr Advertiser* in 1803. (The spelling was changed to *Ayr* in 1839). This, their biggest project, was probably stimulated by the early success of the *Greenock Advertiser* which had been established in 1802. The first issue appeared on 5 August 1803 and thereafter it appeared weekly on Thursdays under the supervision of Peter Wilson (It is interesting to note from the case-book that it is around this period that the number of composers rises from two to five). The brothers hoped that the *Advertiser* would become the county newspaper as at this time there was no other newspaper produced within the county. However, it was not well patronised to begin with . . . it had a hard struggle to maintain its existence and was more than once on the eve of being abandoned, but patience and perseverance overcame all difficulties, and it ultimately realised a fortune to both brothers.²

The brothers' aims and determination to keep the newspaper going can be seen from this notice inserted in the *Ayr Advertiser* of 26 July 1804:

1. *Frances M Thomson • John Wilson. an Ayrshire Printer, Publisher and Bookseller.* *The Bibliothek No. 2 (1967) pp 41-61*
2. J. Gibson *Bibliography of Robert Burns (Kilmarnock 1831) p 300.*

At the expiry of the first year of the *Air Advertiser*, which this number completes, the conductors of it would be wanting in gratitude, were they not to offer their acknowledgements to their subscribers, and those who have befriended their undertaking - unsolicited by any party, uninfluenced by any patronage, and only under the conviction that this great and opulent county ought to possess the circulating medium of a newspaper, the proposers of it submitted their plans with deference and doubt to the Public. - The interest of the Public was what they had resolved to study, and the confidence that was reposed in their professions, imposed that duty more powerfully upon them. Situated as Airshire is at the extremity of the empire, they could not reckon on the paper finding its way, except partially beyond its limits and where the facilities of the Posts put it in their power to convey intelligence as early as their contemporaries. Hitherto they have to congratulate themselves on a growing circulation through every town in the County, where the Posts go direct from Air to Kilmarnock.

The expenses attending their establishment have far exceeded their computation; and although they have now a more numerous list of subscribers than they originally imagined they could have had, yet it holds out no immediate prospect of profit:- However, they are determined to persevere, and if they are fortunate enough to render their endeavours worthy of the continued countenance of the Public, an establishment which they have every reason to think, is pretty generally admitted to be useful in the County, shall not be given up, without the most absolute conviction that it cannot be supported .. .'

Time passed, and the *Air Advertiser* slowly prospered. In 1810 John Wilson moved from Kilmarnock to Ayr and also in 1810 Peter sold his share of the business to the Reverend Hamilton Paul for £600 and the firm became Wilson and Paul.

The issue of the *Advertiser* for 26 April 1810 was the first printed by the new firm and the back page contained the notice of Peter's retiral followed by an intimation of the new partnership. Two months later it contained the report of Peter's death in Gibraltar where he had gone for health reasons. (28 June 1810). When Peter had retired the Reverend Paul (later a biographer of Burns and a poet of sorts himself) had become editor and he regularly contributed to the paper until 1816 when he was appointed to the parish of Broughton, Glenholm and Kelbucho.

In this period, apart from printing the newspaper the firm printed very few books, only twelve having been traced, mainly religious works and poetry.

The Reverend Hamilton Paul sold his share of the business in 1816, valued at £2,500, to two local printers McCormick and Carnie, and the firm's name now changed to Wilson, McCormick and Carnie. The first issue of the *Advertiser* with this new imprint was that of 2 January 1817. Bluff Adam Carnie was editor from 1816 until 1833 and during this period there appeared the first rival to the *Ayr Advertiser*: the *Ayr and Wigtownshire Courier*, which will be discussed later.

During this period John Wilson died in Ayr on 5 May 1821. From his obituary it appears he was a man of considerable standing in Ayr and Kilmarnock, and through him the *Advertiser* was well established and had gained a reputation for honesty and integrity - it was in fact quite a valuable property because of this, and also because it chose to follow a safe policy down the main current of reform. After his death there was a law-suit between his executors, J McCubbin and others and McCormick and Carnie over Wilson's share in the newspaper because the co-proprietors claimed full ownership to the exclusion of Wilson's heirs. By a deed of settlement John had authorised his executors:

... to dispose of his share of the copy-right or goodwill of the newspaper, either by public or private sale, and to make the first offer to the suspenders (i.e. McCormick and Carnie). They refused to purchase it and presented a bill

of suspension and interdict against a sale maintaining that there was no such vested right in the person of John Wilson as could be transmitted to his heirs in that although his representatives might have a share in the copy-right of these newspapers which had been already published. yet they had none in those which were not in existence; and that were the sale allowed to proceed a stranger might be obtruded on them, detrimental to the interest of the company.

McCormick and Carnie lost their case and it was ruled that: the copy-right or goodwill of the newspaper is a valuable privilege or property, transmissible *inter vivos*, or to heirs; and ... like the other rights of the deceased in the dissolved company, it must be sold for the behoof of his representatives.³

This established an important precedent and also increased the value of all newspaper property. As a result, McCormick and Carnie seem to have bought Wilson's share because the firm continued as McCormick and Carnie, printing a few books as well as the newspaper.

It is at the end of this period that the Conservative *Ayr Observer* appeared on the scene, its first issue appearing in May 1832 and by 1833 when Thomas MacMillan Gemmell (an Edinburgh advocate and McCormick's brother-in-law) succeeded Carnie as joint proprietor of the *Advertiser* their rivalry was well-established. T. M. Gemmell was editor until 1853 but considered himself 'responsible counsellor' until 1880. In his years as editor he impressed his personality on the paper to the extent of doubling circulation in six years - from 600 in 1837 to 1200 in 1843 and by 1853 it was 2100. In 1850 when McCormick retired the name was changed to T. M. Gemmell and Son. Gemmell became sole proprietor and remained so until his death in 1889. With Gemmell's death the era of the proprietor/editor ended and the proprietary rights passed in

3. Court of Session Papers No. 590 (1822) pp 541-542.

succession to his son and subsequently to the latter's nephew, T. C. Dunlop. Editor from 1889 until 1903 was Hugh L. Allan, who had also been a compositor and reporter on the paper. His successor was Thomas Kay who aimed in the tradition of Allan ... to continue the spirit of the new journalism with some of the characteristics and traditions of the old . . .'

In early years the politics of the *Advertiser* were indistinct its main aim was to become established as the county newspaper and to make no enemies. This determination led to comments such as the following on the election of 1812: 'We hope that friendly intercourse will never be interrupted by political rivalry.' This attitude continued for some time but by the late 1820s the *Advertiser* was safely following the main current of reform: it had become liberal in outlook. This trend was to be continued in the 1830s and 1840s as the Tory *Ayr Observer* captured the old landed families for its readers, making the *Advertiser* rely more and more on the middle and lower classes in the Ayrshire towns where it had no real rival and as a result it became markedly more liberal. Encouraged by its new audience and by the progressive liberalism of the Member of Parliament for Ayr Burghs, Lord James Stuart, it moved towards advocating Free Trade. These liberal attitudes lasted until the 1880s when there was the split over Home Rule for Ireland and the *Advertiser* identified itself with the Liberal Unionists and gradually moved towards Conservatism where it remained.

The layout of the newspaper itself was soon established and standardised in the first issues and remained almost unchanged for fifty years. To begin with the *Advertiser* was a four-page folio around twenty inches by fourteen, headed *Air Advertiser or West Country Journal*: it had five columns per page with the red Government 3f d stamp on the front page of each copy. At this time the paper sold for 6d, the paper used cost 1d per copy, so wages and production costs in the early days had to be set from the remaining 1½d per copy. The price naturally varied according to the stamp duty increasing or decreasing in

accordance with the Government tax.

The front page contained advertisements and public notices, the middle pages contained the national and foreign news of the past week as well as a synopsis of reports in the *London Gazette*. The third page contained also statistical reports., births and deaths, shipping news, grain markets, Lloyds Lists and one column devoted to Scot land. The back page contained more advertisements, editorial comment, agriculture and local news. Three small wood-blocks were often used to illustrate the advertisements, a dog, a horse and a sailing ship (which was modified to suit the changing times). The average price of 6d per copy was too much for the ordinary working man of the period but the newspaper was read in inns and passed around a group of people. Apart from the stamp duty the advertisement tax curbed the early newspapers' chances of growth - more advertisements meant more readers which in turn meant more advertisements.

In 1832 there was the first of several successive enlargements, but the greatest technical advance came in 1852 when T. M. Gemmell announced: -

Having fitted up on our premises one of the largest-sized, double-acting printing machines driven by steam-power, we have now the pleasure of redeeming our promise to the public by today enlarging the *Ayr Advertiser* to the size of *The Times*.⁴

This brought a new format : the front and back pages now carried advertisements; page two was given over to literature; foreign and agricultural news appeared on page three; editorial comment on the outstanding events of the past week came on page four; page five had local news and news of south-west Scotland with statistics and markets; pages six and seven contained national news under the headings • England,' • Ireland,' and • Scotland,' plus shipping news and occasional sports reports. In the same editorial as mentioned earlier

4. *Ayr Advertiser* (26 August 1852).

Gemmell gave as his reason for this expansion: . . .

the inadequacy of space during a rush of advertisements for general and local intelligence, agricultural information, literature and extracts from leading journals.

He went to this considerable expenditure in the hope of increased circulation and to keep pace with 'the spirit of the age.' The *Advertiser* retained this layout right through the period concerned.

The function of the *Ayr Advertiser* did not remain stable all these years either. When the Wilsons first started it, there was an obvious public demand for news so the *Advertiser* reported national and foreign news at some length: verbatim reports of proceedings in Parliament, reports of the Napoleonic Wars, including the great battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo; it reported on the national need for reform and on unemployment. However, the prosperity of the 1850s brought changes which affected the provincial press - Gladstone's budgets and the abolition of advertisement duty. Even more significant was 1860 when Gladstone abolished stamp duty. Taken together, it meant that there were less difficulties and fewer restraints in setting up new newspapers and also more chance of success with them due to all-round lower costs. This, plus the 'electric telegraph' and professional reporting ended the careers of the provincial newspapers as 'national' newspapers. As the great penny dailies appeared with their reports of national and foreign news being published day by day the provincial weeklies like the *Advertiser* had to devote more and more of their space to local news - but for fifty years the *Ayr Advertiser* had held its own with the *Glasgow Herald* in providing national news for south-west Scotland.

Although the bulk of the newspaper, until at least the last quarter of the nineteenth century dealt with national and foreign news, the *Ayr Advertiser* also recorded and discussed local affairs from its first issue, but after 1860 local affairs were given prominence. Agriculture, of course, was of great importance to the county and at first the *Advertiser* followed

the normal pattern of copying its columns on this topic from other sources, but it broke with this practice when it was realised that Ayrshire was a pioneering agricultural community and the *Advertiser* became the spokesman of experimental farming in Ayrshire. Perhaps the most important correspondent here was James Drennan of Auchinlee, who for forty years in the latter half of the nineteenth century reported experiments and improvements in tillage, breeding, farm implements and especially in potato culture. The great nineteenth century controversy was over the corn laws - free trade or protection in agriculture - and while most other provincial newspapers favoured protection the *Advertiser*, although liberal in politics at this time, was discreetly neutral. As a local newspaper the *Advertiser* dealt with the other usual topics: Burns, of course; growth of transport in the shire; the many other changes in town and county; music and drama, not only in Ayr and district but also in Glasgow and Edinburgh; the growing interest in sport; local politics and local affairs generally. This did not mean a change from a national to a parochial outlook, but to a more intensely local outlook where national politics and events were seen in relation to local circumstances

Since the *Ayr Advertiser* was the longest-running newspaper in Ayr in the period until 1920 its history has been given in detail first and connections between it and the other newspapers will be drawn when discussing the other papers. This is because the *Advertiser* was the background against which all the other newspapers appeared, and their chances of success were really influenced by it. There were possibly nine other newspapers printed in Ayr in this period and their lifespans vary from two years to 77 years.

The first rival to the *Advertiser*, as mentioned earlier, was the *Ayr and Wigtownshire Courier*, a Tory newspaper founded in 1818 by Maxwell Dick, a bookseller, who later was also connected with printing in Irvine, and the Reverend Alexander Cuthill, one of the ministers of the Auld Kirk in Ayr. This

newspaper did not pose a very serious threat to the *Advertiser* as it was an unsuccessful venture. Despite a company being formed to keep it going the *Advertiser* managed to fend it off and it ceased publication some time in 1825. After this Conservatism had no spokesman until the 1830s.

The next newspaper to appear on the scene in Ayr was the *Ayr Observer*, established in May 1832, which provided the next Conservative rival to the more liberal *Advertiser* and was welcomed thus:

It has been a matter of astonishment that a county such as Ayrshire, rising in wealth and commercial consequence has not been able, successfully, to maintain two newspapers. This desideratum is now likely to be supplied, and if properly encouraged, the county, if saddled with double advertisements will have the satisfaction of at least hearing two sides of a story.⁵

The *Observer* started as a weekly, appearing every Tuesday but its beginnings were not quite so smooth as they might have been. In the early days there were several changes of management and it was not until the imprint of John Dick appeared that there was a feeling of permanence about the paper. Before John Dick, John Forster Fraser and 'other proprietors' (including a proprietary of shareholders) had been in control. In this period too, there had been a succession of editors which led to the paper's lacking continued individuality. These included the Reverend N. Cuthill and James Paterson, editor of *Historic Families of Ayrshire*, who took over in 1839. He states in his *Autobiographical Reminiscences* (1871) that at this time. the *Ayr Observer* was 'low,' but according to the statistics, things had improved since 1834 when the circulation was 50, because in 1839 the circulation was 800. Paterson remained as editor until 1846 and under him the *Observer* avoided all local disputes but took pride in the way it reported the splendid local occasions including the Eglinton

5. Mccarter. *Ayrshire*, p 84

Tournament in 1839 and the Burns Festival in 1844. During these years the *Observer* Toryism was less uncompromising, although it held to protection in 1846.

John Dick next had control of the newspaper and under his management it became more successful and firmly established; by 1853 the circulation had risen to 1100. Among Dick's editors were Scott Henderson, who later ran the Edinburgh Evening Courant; and a Mr Glen who, it seems, was brilliant but erratic, and able but interfering. and the *Observer* did not improve in his hands. (He was probably asked to resign and left for Glasgow). He was succeeded in 1857 by the Reverend William Buchanan, formerly minister of Kilmaurs and later of the Courant and Dumfries Herald. He appears to have been a fighting editor and someone once said of him: 'I am not aware of any controversy in which he was ever engaged in which he did not come off first or have the honours easy: One inducement to his accepting the post as editor was that he could get some revenge on T. M. Gemmell of the *Advertiser* who had made a slighting reference to Buchanan's connection with Kilmaurs. From his first appearance every issue of the *Observer* attacked the *Advertiser*, which made no reply although it normally fought back. and this in turn seems to have made the attacks more bitter. In the 1850s the Ayrshire press was far from peace-loving and Mr Buchanan attacked other people too; under the name of 'Cruise' he undertook to tame the fiercest of Ayrshire's Liberal leaders and the picture he drew (in words) and circulated was remembered for many years. He could also be very humorous, and he often added humour to his attacks which may have amused his readers but did not comfort his victims. To add to the distinction of the newspaper at this time he got the active assistance of the Reverend Robert Wallace, afterwards editor of *The Scotsman* and one of Edinburgh's members of Parliament; and a Mr Prain, a master at the Academy was an able contributor as was Ebenezer Smith, known as one of 'Burns' successors.' With such writers the

Observer was able to hold its own with the *Advertiser* which at this time had contributions from the Reverend M. Walker of Ochiltree and James Drennan of Auchinlee.

In politics the *Observer* remained Conservative but there was no real dispute with the *Advertiser* until A. H. S. Crawford, the liberal member of Parliament for Ayr Burghs introduced a Bill in 1854 to assimilate English and Scottish procedure in the law affecting debtors. The *Observer* (28 March 1854) held with the Scottish Rights Association that the proposal was 'an invasion of the nationality of Scotland,' while the *Advertiser* supported Crawford, apparently for personal as well as political reasons.

John Dick was succeeded as proprietor by W. M. Dick but there was still keen rivalry between the two newspapers. In the latter part of the nineteenth century the fortunes of the *Observer* declined, and from being bi-weekly it reverted to appearing weekly on Tuesdays and in March 1909 it was bought out by T. M. Gemmell and Son, owners of the *Advertiser*; with the *Observer's* circulation around 2,000 at this time and the *Advertiser's* around 4,000 it was a case of making one stronger at the expense of the other.

However, during this period there were other newspapers trying to get custom and communicate their news and views. In 1842 the *Western Watchman* appeared. This was a Free Church newspaper - a forerunner of the Disruption - founded and edited by William Anderson, author of *The Scottish Nation*. Both the *Advertiser* and the *Observer* were hostile to this venture and the rift between them was lessened by their mutual dislike of the *Watchman*; personalities must have entered into it because there was at least one challenge to a duel.

This newspaper was established because Free Church supporters felt entitled to a paper of their own as neither of the existing ones was pronouncedly religious enough. A contemporary reference gives an idea of how this was received:

Politics are bad enough and I presume that as long as

people have political leanings, papers will be tainted with the leanings of those who conduct them; but surely, we might be spared the infliction of having denominational newspapers.

The *Watchman* did not last long in Ayr and is said to have been killed off by its rival's ridicule of the Free Church accepting 'blood money' from sympathisers in the slave states of America. Despite an uphill fight for survival it failed in 1846 and all those connected with it suffered heavy losses.

The next newspaper to be printed in Ayr came about because it was felt by some people that the *Advertiser* was not Radical enough. This was the *Ayrshire Express*, established in March 1857, which appeared weekly on Saturdays. For a time, it was edited by Robert Howie Smith, who had been sacked from the *Advertiser* for lampooning innocent people, but editorial responsibility did little to curb his style. The fortunes of the *Express* were never very stable and the imprint was changed from Alexander Grant, to Smith and Grant and later to the *Ayrshire Express* company Ltd.; in 1868 the publishers were Grant and McIlwraith and in 1870 William McIlwraith appeared as the sole proprietor. Despite this the *Express* was successful for a time; Robert H. Smith was a fighting journalist and he had the support of the young members of the extreme liberal party who were willing to contribute to the paper.

Strangely enough, the papers at opposite extremes were the most 'friendly' for a time until the week Robert H. Smith became drunk and the Reverend Buchanan wrote his leader for him. The next morning the *Express* appeared with a Conservative leader denouncing the Radical government. Radical supporters in Ayr were horrified, many subscriptions were stopped and after this the rivalry was triangular rather than two-sided. The *Express* came out of this quite well though because the next week the Tory leader was justified with extenuating circumstances adduced which toned down the bitterness of the previous week's diatribe; the next week it was toned down even further and the liberal government

had come ' more in line · with the views of the *Express* leader and in under a month the *Express* was back to normal. Some of the readers of the paper came to believe that the independence of the *Express* had caused a beneficial change in their party. From then on, the editors of the *Observer* and the *Express* attacked each other viciously in print until both left Ayr - one for Edinburgh and one for London.

This ill-feeling was not modified by the *Observer* proprietors establishing a Friday evening newspaper, the *Western Argus* in the 1860s. This was a penny paper which was uncommon at the time and it soon had an extensive circulation in Ayrshire and Galloway.

Also, at this time there was a newspaper called the *Ayrshire Courier* about which the only facts discovered were that it was appearing around 1870 and was published by W Mcilwraith of Newmarket Street. It appeared on Tuesdays.

At this point there were five newspapers competing for readers and this situation was not practicable in a town the size of Ayr, which by this time had a population of around 19000. Thus, on 1 April 1871 the *Express* and *Courier* amalgamated under W. Lymburn who was the publisher. The first issue not only announced the change in management but also to some extent in the purpose and aim of the paper. It stated, the *Express* will now cease to be a party organ ... We believe we shall be providing our readers with a newspaper in the strictest sense of the word.' With the change the price was reduced to one penny.

In June 1872 there was further amalgamation between the *Argus* and the *Express*, still under the imprint of W. Lymburn. It was claimed in the first issue that:

the circulation of the *Argus*, already much larger than that of any other paper in the south-western counties of Scotland, combined with that of the *Express* - the well-established county-paper - presents an unequalled medium to advertisers desirous of publicity among all classes of the community. In fact, no announcement can

be fully brought before the inhabitants of Ayrshire unless published in its columns.

The *Ayrshire Argus and Express* seems to have passed into the control of J. M. Ferguson a few years later and appeared on Saturdays while the *Observer* had become bi-weekly appearing on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A special edition of the *Argus and Express* was produced for Dumfries and Galloway called the *Dumfries and Galloway Review* with offices in Dumfries and Newton Stewart. After some years these were all merged with the *Observer* which was still issued twice weekly but now incorporated all the agencies and correspondents. However, as mentioned earlier, this was not enough to save it.

Two other newspapers which are barely documented appeared in the 1860s - even their dates are uncertain. One of them was the *Ayrshire Weekly News*, a Conservative paper which was printed in Ardrossan in 1859 but some time in that year was moved to Ayr by its owner Samuel Irvine when it appeared weekly on Saturdays. However, it is not clear how long it lasted.

The other short-lived and mysterious newspaper printed around this time in Ayr was the *Ayrshire Times* which was mentioned by James Paterson in the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald* (8 December 1860) where he says it has a good circulation in Ayr and Kilmarnock. Unfortunately, this appears to be all the information available on this newspaper.

The last newspaper to appear in Ayr (before 1920) was the *Ayrshire Post*. This appeared in 1887 as the avowed organ of the liberal party in Ayr and was issued weekly on Fridays. Its beginnings too were not auspicious - the press which the publishers had ordered was unsuitable but with a good show of co-operation the proprietors of both the *Advertiser* and the *Observer* offered assistance and the first issue of the *Ayrshire Post* was printed in the *Observer* printing works. It was published by William Robertson and W. Lymburn, later by Robertson and Company and then by Robertson and McBain. The *Post* struggled on but became too much for the then

proprietors so a number of prominent liberals in the town got together to form the Ayrshire Post Ltd. in 1890 and from then on it became more successful, this success causing hardship to the *Observer*.

This then is an account of the newspapers printed in Ayr from 1803 to 1920. As can be seen, life in the provincial press could be quite startling at times. The newspapers produced in Ayr during this period were varied covering the political spectrum and even on occasion having a religious policy. The instability of many provincial newspapers has been shown as has the keen rivalry between the different editors. The only conclusion which can be reached is that for a newspaper to last any length of time it must be adaptable - the Ayr Advertiser being a prime example of this.

PERIODICALS PRINTED IN AYR

It was some time after the establishment of a newspaper in Ayr before the first periodical appeared: this was the *Juvenile and Uterary Miscellany*, Unfortunately, a complete file was not available for study, but only one issue has been seen, that of 14 May 1822, the second in the series. It seems likely that the first issue was on 7 May, and that it too was printed by D. Mccarter of Ayr. This second issue contained a variety of topics such as modern poetry, astronomy, an account of Laplanders and reindeer, contributions by readers, a section called 'miscellaneous' with an article on the swarming of bees and two original anecdotes, followed by 'markets' which gave in great detail the crops and foodstuffs sold there and at what cost for a stated quantity.

The second periodical appeared on Friday 17 December 1824. This was the *Ayr Correspondent* and it continued to appear until 11 March 1825. Throughout its thirteen issues it cost 1½d and was printed by J. F. Fraser of Ayr, eventually, it was sold in seven towns in the county: Girvan, Kilmarnock, Maybole, Troon, Catrine, Irvine and Stewarton so it can be seen that it had the county well covered. Unfortunately, none of the issues outlines the aims of this periodical because the editor felt that this had already been done in the prospectus which was perhaps a rather short-sighted view to take of such a matter.¹

Each issue usually began with a story, one or two of which were continued over more than one issue. One of these serials was 'Retribution - a Tale' which ran in issues one to four; but mainly the stories were fairly short running only to a few pages such as 'The Mirk Monanday in Ayr.'² There were usually contributions of poetry and again one or two of these appeared in serial form, the longest of which was: 'Whether is it more prudent to marry an old maid, or a widow' in four separate

1. Note. This has not been found.
2. *Ayr Correspondent* Vol. 1, No. 8 (1825). pp 85-89.

parts. An occasional feature was 'Literature' which sometimes reviewed recent works in some depth, as it did with *Queen Hynde* a poem in six books by James Hogg;³ or as it did with *Highways and Byeways*, a three volume work by a Mr Gratton, merely gave a line or two of comment by the reviewer, followed by a long quotation from the work itself.⁴ Apart from these articles and contributions the *Correspondent* always contained sports, anecdotes and epigrams which sometimes preceded its regular weekly section on local news containing births, marriages, deaths and other newsworthy events as well as a double column giving the prices of various provisions in Kilmarnock and Ayr. Another of the subdivisions in this section was entitled 'To Correspondents' which the editor used to give an indication of some of the forthcoming features, or of the contributions not thought suitable for inclusion.

The last issue contained a short notice on the back page which is of interest:

The first quarter of the *Ayr Correspondent* being completed by the publication of the present number, the former conductor and printer declines taking any further concern in this miscellany. The *Correspondent* will, in future be printed under *entirely* new management, but the next number cannot be published till this day a fortnight.⁵

This notice is interesting because it gives no real reason for the *Correspondent's* finishing and also because, despite the optimism about its reappearance it was never issued again.

There are several similarities between the *Correspondent* and the next periodical to be printed in the town. This was the *Ayrshire Independent and Uterary Gleaner* which appeared in March, 1825 one week after the *Correspondent* ceased publication, printed by the same press of J. F. Fraser. Its main purpose was given in a short paragraph on the back of the first

3. *Ayr Correspondent* Vol 1, No 8 (1825) pp 85-89

4. *Ayr Correspondent* Vol. 1, No. 4 (1825) pp 42-44.

5. *Ayr Correspondent* Vol. 1, No. 13 (1825) p 152.

issue • ..• it may be stated that extracts from new works of general interest, will constitute the principal feature of this publication - other matters will occasionally be introduced, but only a limited space can be afforded for such subjects and this may be seen as a hangover from the 'Literature' column in the *Correspondent*. Although the bulk of the space is kept for articles from other publications the *Ayrshire Independent* kept a piece too for short amusing epigrams and anecdotes as well as a section laid out in exactly the same manner as the *Correspondent*, containing local news, the prices of provisions in Ayr and Kilmarnock, births, marriages and deaths, and a subsection headed 'To Correspondents.' However, this format did not make the *Ayrshire Independent and Literary Gleaner* any more successful than its predecessor, because it appeared for four issues only.

Next to appear on the periodical scene in Ayr was *The Ayrshire Magnet* subtitled 'a collection of literary and miscellaneous articles original and select' which lasted from January 1826 until August 1826, beginning volume two in July 1826. It was printed by D. Macarter, Glasgow and Edinburgh being its outlets.

The *Magnet's* aims were stated on the first page of the first issue - 'to furnish instruction and amusement,' and there too it cleared up its position as regarding politics 'we are influenced by no party motives, but profess ourselves the friends and promoters of truth.'⁶ The plan of the magazine as laid out in the first issue was that there should be five main sections as follows and examples are cited to show how closely this plan was adhered to

- I An original essay or tale will be given in each number and from the many circumstances and events 'of olden times' connected with Ayrshire, we expect to bring forward a rich fund of instruction and amusement.

6. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) pp 97-100.

7. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (January 1826) pp 1-2.

'Poor Rosie, a Tale'⁷ and 'Helen Campbell. a Tale.'⁸

II Biography - we intend under this head, to give notices from time to time of the most remarkable characters that have figured in our country, and particularly, those belonging to this county.⁶

Provided by articles such as:

To the Memory of Wallace⁹ and 'The late William Moore'¹⁰

III Localities. Antiquities connected with Ayrshire and suggested improvements, will always meet with a ready reception on our pages.⁶

Among the articles falling into this category is a:

Copy of the Deed of Settlement of Giles Blair Lady Row, who lived in Carrick, in the county of Ayr, executed on 31 August 1530.¹¹ and a short series called 'Village Sketches' which covered some of the history and geography of Ochiltree, Catrine and Beith.

IV Science and the useful arts - here we will present to our readers multum in parvo - notices of whatever appear to be useful in the various departments of life, and this we trust, will not be the least interesting part of our miscellany.⁶

Under this heading come the various articles entitled:

'Agriculture'¹²

'Effectually to destroy bed-bugs'¹³

7. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (January 1826) pp 1-2

8. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (March 1826) pp. 61-64

6. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) pp 97-100.

9. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (January 1826) pp 19-20.

10. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (August 1826) pp 44-48.

11. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) pp 110-114.

12. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 June 1826) pp 126-127.

13. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 March 1826) p 71.

- To prevent the smoking of a lamp'¹⁴
and an occasional mention of:
- Gardener's Calendar '¹⁵ as well as
- ' Brief astronomical notices for May 1826 '¹⁶

The last section into which the contents are divided in the plan is:

- V Poetry - we kindly invite our poetical friends to come forward and adorn the pages of the *Magnet*. We hope this department will be ably supplied, as we are inclined to suppose there is still many a sweet minstrel in Ayrshire, although the strains of the darling now have long ceased to re-echo along 'the banks and braes o' bonny Doon.' We will not deny a place to a select piece, provided it possesses merit or some other circumstance that renders it interesting.⁶

The editor's optimism was apparently well-founded and despite its conditions the *Magnet* is liberally sprinkled with poems such as

Verses composed upon a sick bed' by William Ochiltree¹⁷ and 'To a young lady in Ayr- by Gulielmus.¹⁸ and the anonymous 'The blighted Rosebud.'¹⁹

Apart from these subjects enumerated in the plan for the periodical, a regular feature was Printers Pye- containing a variety of short anecdotes. sometimes amusing and Sometimes more in character. The *Magnet* also occasionally did r v1e s one of which was of the *Poems and Songs* by R. Hettrick.²⁰ The next review was not of a local author and came under the heading 'Literature.' This was *William Douglas on the Scottish Exiles* a historical novel.²¹ However, as can be seen both of these were fairly lengthy, going into detail and giving quotations. There were occasionally letters to

14. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (April 1826) p 96.
 15. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (February 1826) p 24.
 16. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) p 116.
 6. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) pp 97-100.
 17. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (February 1826) p 48.
 18. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (January 1826) p 13.
 19. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (June 1826) pp 139-140.

20. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (May 1826) pp 100-104.

21. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 1 (June 1826) pp 132-137.

the editor on various subjects and infrequent articles with an educational or moral slant such as: Hebrew, Greek and Roman proper names derived from the English'²² and 'On Emulation.'²³

From the examples cited it can be seen that the *Magnet's* editors stuck ably to their plan and were even able to supplement it and add to the variety of their contributions many of which, incidentally, were from local people.

As far as can be ascertained the next periodical to be established in Ayr was *The Ayr Monthly Herald*. The original issue of this has not been available for consultation although almost every issue has been available since number 314 of January 1868 and up until number 633 of August 1894. Thus, by deduction, this periodical seems to have begun in December 1841. However, in January 1868 it was printed at the Ayr Advertiser Office where it was always printed until November 1887 when it was printed at the *Argus and Express* Office but only until March 1889 when it was printed at the Observer office. Despite these changes in printer the publishers remained the same: the Ayr, Newton, Wallacetown and St. Quivox Religious Tract Society, and the fact that the *Herald* is more in the nature of a regularly issued religious tract makes its position among Journals slightly doubtful, although here it will be considered as a purely religious periodical. Apart from those issues containing the annual reports of the Society each issue began with a text followed by one or two tales to illustrate the point of the text. The following are examples of some titles: 'The Dying Frenchman; or, Come Jesus into my heart'²⁴ • 'Fatal depravity'²⁵; • 'The stormy night; or, perseverance.'²⁶ Each issue was only four pages long and normally just the one topic was covered in each issue. There was no price on each single copy. instead it seems to have been paid for by annual subscription.

The date of the first issue of the next periodical to be printed in Ayr is quite clear, but not so obvious is the date of its last issue. This was *The Mustard Blister*. a monthly journal. costing 1d which

22. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol.1 (January 1826) pp31-33.

23. *The Ayrshire Magnet* Vol. 2 (July 1826) pp 9-13.

24. *The Ayr Monthly Herald* January 1879.

25. *The Ayr Monthly Herald* July 1889.

26. *The Ayr Monthly Herald* July 1891

began in February 1850, but it is not certain when it ceased publication as it has no entry in *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*. The copies consulted in the Carnegie Public Library, Ayr did not run consecutively and the latest was for August 1850 but this may not be the positive final date. However, it was printed by J. Connell in Ayr and was edited by 'M.B.' who was not identified. Each issue had only four pages which contained letters to the editor, notices to correspondents and sometimes a piece of poetry. The main part of each number began on the front page with a quotation and this was followed by an article relevant to it and to affairs in the town or county. It was made clear by the editor that anonymous contributions were not wanted and in reply to a query from a correspondent on the question of its politics *The Mustard Blister* replied: 'We know nothing of such - they are beneath our notice,- followed by the quotation, - Let universal freedom lead the way- all those who do not follow, go astray'²⁷ which seems to put *The Mustard Blister's* attitude in a nutshell.

Following the *Mustard Blister*, but at some distance of time, came a different category of periodicals altogether. These were not intended for sale or distribution to the general public but were, instead, journals for specific groups of people within certain organisations. Their content too was not of a general or literary nature but was aimed at helping to fulfil the objects of the organisation concerned, to some extent and also to carry news about that organisation to its members. Thus, it is obvious that these periodicals had a completely different purpose from any of the previous ones mentioned.

The *Scottish Women's Temperance News*, subtitled '*the organ of the Scottish Christian Union. British Women's Temperance Association*' was printed and published by the *Ayrshire Post Ltd.* for the proprietors of the *British Women's Temperance News*. It appeared monthly and the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* says it was established in 1897 but gives no month. It contained a variety of topics connected with the movement both at home and abroad as well as an occasional article of general interest to women, perhaps cookery, education or hygiene plus a story every month.

The religious part of the movement was quite strongly stressed with 'Topics for Prayer' given prominence in each issue.

This was followed by *The Recorder*, a monthly record of the proceedings of the Ayrshire Constabulary Mutual Improvement Society and began in 1903. This continued for some time but only until April 1904 was a printer's name actually given. Ferguson and Company, Observer Printing Works. This journal cost 3d per issue and its purpose was to enable members of the Society in the more remote stations to obtain:

. . as full a record of the proceedings of the Society as possible. Space will be set apart for the insertion of any item of interest which the members are asked to contribute, barring, of course, anything dealing with the discipline or administration of the force.²⁸

The cover of each issue consisted of a photograph of an eminent local policeman or some person connected with the force. Inside were reports of the Society's meetings at various towns in the county, news about transfers and police news generally; articles on how the police stood in regard to certain laws and similar topics. There were contributions of 'memoirs' from older policemen and on new techniques for the modern crime fighter. *The Recorder* contained all of the articles to be expected in a periodical of this kind.

The last periodical in this section is the *Ayr Union Jack Club Quarterly* which ran from 31 October 1914 until 31 October 1961. It contained news of the Ayrshire Regiments with photographs of men and officers. It also had articles on the histories of regiments, poems and songs, reports of reuniting campaigns, the club's financial statements, reports of sporting events between regiments and outside clubs as well as a little war news. Considering that it was a military club's news quarterly it too contained all the expected items.

This then is an account of the periodicals printed in Ayr. It is possibly incomplete, but this is due partly to a great dearth of secondary information and partly to the files of the various periodicals being incomplete or in very poor condition. One of

28. *The Recorder* Vol. 1 No. 1 (November 1903) p 2.

the periodicals mentioned here, *The Mustard Blister*, is not even mentioned in the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*. However, from the examples cited above it can be seen that the magazines were established for a variety of reasons and normally they contained suitable material through which they fulfilled their aims.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS PRINTED IN AYR

By John Wilson, Air

DALRYMPLE Rev. William. A sequel to the life of Christ. 1791
NEPOS, Cornelius, Excellentium imperatorum vitae. Aeris.
1791

By J. & P. Wilson, Air

MILTON John. Paradise Lost: a poem. 1791.
TARBOLTON UNIVERSAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY. Regulations of the
new erected society. 1791.
DALRYMPLE, Rev. William. The Acts of the Apostles made easy
1792 or 1793.
GROSVENOR Benjamin. The mourner. 9th edition. 1792.
LITTLE JANET. The poetical works. 1792.
WHITEFIELD Rev. George. Fifteen sermons. 1792.
ALLAN Joseph. The saint's pocket -book. 10th edition. 1793.
ASH Simeon. Religious covenanting directed. 1793.
GRANT David. Sermons, doctrinal and practical ... 1793.
HARVEY John. The life of Robert Bruce. 1793.
HENRY The Minstrel. (William Hamilton). The history of Sir
William Wallace: to which is annexed the life of Robert
Bruce, by John Harvey. 1793.
T HOMSON William. A Scripture of defence of Christ's supreme
divinity. 1793.
AIR UNION SOCIETY. Articles and regulations. 1794.
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