

**REMINISCENCES OF
EDITORS, REPORTERS,
AND PRINTERS, DURING
THE LAST SIXTY YEARS**

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Reminiscences of Editors, Reporters, and Printers, During the Last Sixty Years by Andrew Aird

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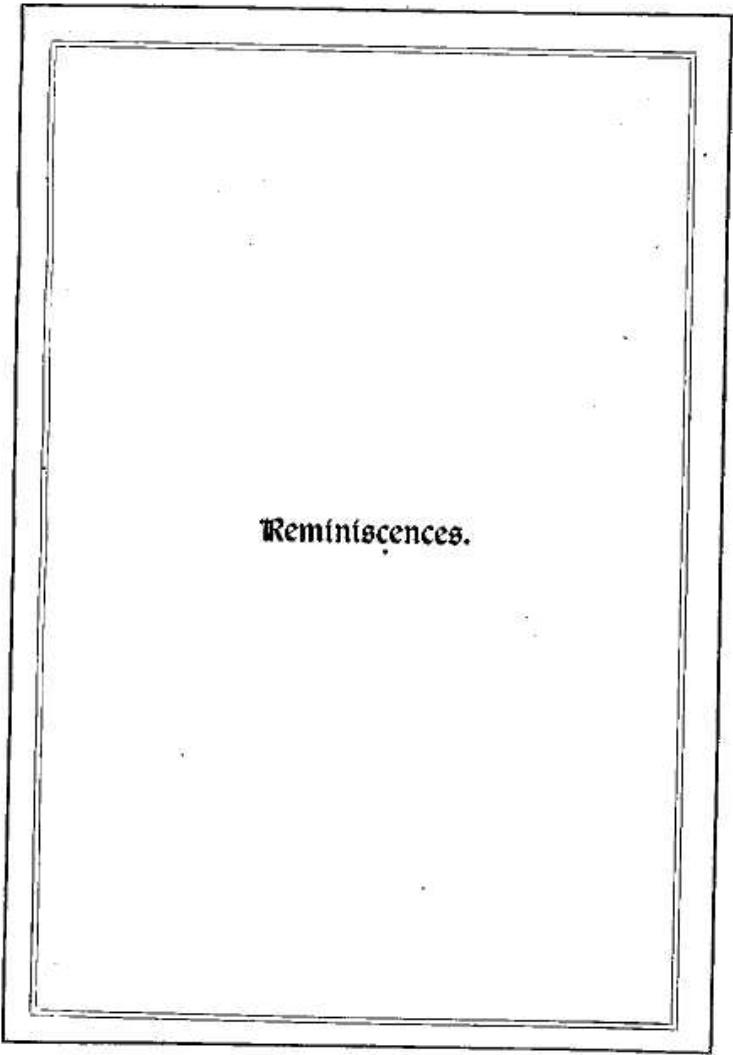
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ANDREW AIRD

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Reminiscences.

"The Past behind us lies,
A region calm, and changeless, and serene ;
Memory the lamp supplies,
By which we see whatever once hath been,"

Note.

THE substance of this Paper was delivered in November, 1890, as a Lecture before the Members of the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia. In issuing it in this form, advantage has been taken to amplify some of the details. These, it is hoped, may be found interesting to all, while among the older members of the profession they may revive memories. To the friends who so kindly sent particulars of departed members of the Fourth Estate I tender my grateful thanks.

A. A.

December, 1890.

" Oh wad some power the giftie gi'e us
To see oursel's as ithers see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion."

Reminiscences.

IT is now several years since some of my friends of the Fourth Estate pressed upon me to commit to paper my Reminiscences of Printers and Printing in Glasgow. I then respectfully declined their request. Since that time I have again and again been urged by them to put on record these memories, but could not see my way to comply with their wishes. These continued solicitations, combined with the fact that recently I was waited upon by deputations from the Glasgow Branch of the British Typographia to give a Lecture on the above subject, led me to consider the matter more favourably. As this branch had done its first year's work well, and was anxious to do still better the second year, I felt it both my duty and privilege to acquiesce, and encourage this worthy effort for the improvement of the rising generation of compositors and printers in Glasgow; and also to stimulate the endeavour being made to sustain the credit of our city by training skilled journeymen able to fill with honour any position in composing or machine room.

To make these Reminiscences of the last sixty years both interesting and worthy of recording, it would have greatly helped me had I kept a diary of the events to which I will more or less allude. Not being so privileged, I have therefore to depend upon what memory's storehouse will yield me, and

necessarily there will be failures in traversing so many incidents of bygone years.

Looking back to these far-away times, I can recall many connected with the Press whose names I shall but mention. Others, who bulked more largely in the eye of the public, can only be briefly noticed, for neither my time nor space will permit a full account of even them. At the risk of being deemed a little dry, I feel that it is necessary to name the various newspapers which arose in Glasgow—some to live a short existence, others to go on flourishing year by year—and connect therewith the various editors, sub-editors, and others with whom I was more or less familiar.

For the purposes of this Lecture I will divide my subject into the following branches :—

EDITORS.

REPORTERS.

READERS.

MASTER PRINTERS.

COMPOSITORS AND PRESS OR MACHINE MEN.



Editors.