

**JOHN BLACKIE, THE
BRIDGETON
COLPORTEUR, A MEMOIR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649618514

John Blackie, the Bridgeton Colporteur, a Memoir by John Blackie & William Gillies

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN BLACKIE & WILLIAM GILLIES

**JOHN BLACKIE, THE
BRIDGETON
COLPORTEUR, A MEMOIR**



*JOHN BLACKIE,
The Bridgeton Colporteur*

JOHN BLACKIE
THE BRIDGETON COLPORTEUR

A Memoir

BY HIS SON, THE REV. JOHN BLACKIE

EDITED BY THE

REV. WILLIAM GILLIES

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.



Edinburgh

RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

1881

210. p. 8.

WHEN Mr Blackie, "the Bridgeton Colporteur," died, a desire was in many quarters expressed that some record of his useful life should be prepared as an encouragement and an incentive to other Christian workers, more especially Sabbath-School Teachers, City Missionaries, Evangelists, Colporteurs, and others, with whom he most associated. No one who knew Mr Blackie could be surprised at this. He had become very widely known, he was greatly beloved, and his labours had made a deep impression on all with whom he came into contact. The reader will find ample evidence of this in the following memoir, and he will learn how much may be done by a genuine, loving, Christian man of the old-fashioned, God-fearing type, who abounded in prayer, put his hand willingly to any Christian work to which he seemed to be called, and toiled with unaffected simplicity and unflagging zeal in the Master's service from day to day, or rather night and day. With the gravest concern for souls, his was the true, the bright-faced piety, which, as Cowper tells us, is "cheerful as the day," which weeps, it may be, and "heaves a pitying groan for others' woes, but smiles upon her own." And hence much of his power.

The writer of the memoir speaks fittingly for himself in this sketch of his father's life. Four years ago his health gave way, when he had the near prospect of a settlement as a minister of the Free Church. This illness terminated fatally, when the first sheets of the volume were passing through the press; and considering the circumstances in which he prepared it, we are rather surprised than otherwise that its defects should be so few. We trust that it will answer the purpose for which many have desired to have it.

WILLIAM GILLIES.

March 1881.

NOTE BY DR SOMERVILLE.

I HAVE been requested to write a prefatory note to the memoir of the late Mr John Blackie, prepared by his son, the Rev. John Blackie, who, with a hand trembling under serious indisposition, has lovingly traced these reminiscences of a revered father. Mr Blackie was possessed of valuable qualities. Intelligently evangelical in his views, he maintained a consistent and guileless walk for a long succession of years. He yielded a bright example to his own family. As an office-bearer he proved the watchful friend of those under his care, and as a well known resident in a populous locality he exercised a beneficial influence, alike by the genuineness of his religious character and his occupation as Colporteur of Christian publications. He had a vigorous understanding, and was distinguished for a freshness and quaintness of utterance which imparted interest to what he said, while the steadiness of his affection and his transparent sincerity endeared him to many.

Such a man's life, useful during its continuance, may now in this brief record of it, prove of service to his brother Colporteurs, as well as to those classes of society among whom he was accustomed to move.

I entertained for Mr Blackie, during an extended acquaintanceship, an unaltering esteem.

A. N. SOMERVILLE, D.D.

GLASGOW.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.—BIRTH AND EARLIER YEARS.

THE royal preacher declares that of making books there is no end. Every man may be said to write his own life, although his autobiography is not printed, put into circulation, or read by others. Some of the best of lives, like beautiful flowers, bloom, cast forth their sweetest odours, and pass away unobserved. Who would not like to have heard more about the poor, wise man that, by his wisdom, delivered the city which was besieged by the great king? Yet no one remembered that same poor man (Ecclesiastes ix. 13-17). Very likely that poor, wise man, having done all this, thought he had done no more than it was his duty to do, and was ready to exclaim, "unprofitable servant!" Had the subject of the following memoir ever been told that some of the things he had said and done should be collected and printed in a book, he would have vehemently protested against such an idea. From a deep-seated sense of his own unworthiness, he ever chose the lowest seat, and when it was said to him, "Friend, go up higher," he always spoke and acted as still the occupant of the lowest. It was only, therefore, at the earnest desire of some of his oldest and best friends, who had been long associated with him in the Lord's work, and in obedience

2 *John Blackie, the Bridgeton Colporteur.*

to the unanimous wish of the Glasgow colporteurs, that some memorials should be printed and put into circulation of one so dearly beloved and so greatly esteemed as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, that this task—or rather labour of love—has been undertaken. From the many tributes to his memory which have been received, some of which will be found in their places throughout the succeeding pages, it will be seen that other and abler hands might have been found both ready and willing to engage in such a work. But as the subject of this memoir had few letters or papers that would have helped towards the end in view, the task naturally fell to the present writer. He has to request the reader kindly to bear in mind that the book has been written during a time of much bodily weakness, and that it is the work of a devoted son, in affectionate remembrance of one of the best of fathers. He, therefore, asks that the silken mantle of charity be cast over all its defects. Of this, however, the reader can rest assured, that what he reads is a narrative of facts. The book has been written with the aim of forming something in the way of a handbook, that may encourage and stimulate the lay missionary, the colporteur, the Sabbath-school teacher, and the Christian worker, however humble or obscure their spheres of labour may be, by showing "that those who sow in tears will reap in joy," and that "he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

John Blackie was born on the 19th November 1810, at Maryhill, a village near Glasgow. His father,