

# Printer AND Publisher.

Vol. I.—No. 7

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1892

\$2.00 per year

## THE "TIMES" AND MR. BUCKLE

PRINTER AND PUBLISHER is very much indebted to *Paper and Press*, Philadelphia, for this sketch. It was the first paper to publish a portrait of Mr. Buckle.

MUCH as one may dislike the politics and the ponderosity of the *Times*, there is no getting away from the fact that it stands at the head of the British press. As a matter of fact, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that it has far and away more influence than any other newspaper in the English-speaking world. It is not the oldest English daily; it is not the most widely circulated; it is not the most read, and on political and social questions it is out of touch with the majority of Englishmen, but in spite of all these negations it stands alone, the real, tangible representative of "John Bullism." It has destroyed ministries; it has almost made and wrecked nations and dynasties; it has shaken the whole commercial fabric of Great Britain.

The history of the *Times* is in reality the most important and the most interesting chapter in the history of English journalism of the past century. Its genesis, so to speak, takes us right back to the times when Samuel Johnson was Literary Dictator of England, to the days of John Wilkes, of Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Edmund Burke, the French Revolution, and the American War of Independence. From the topmost row of one of my book-shelves I take down one volume of many which possesses a permanent and peculiar interest to all students of typography. It is a book "Printed at the Logographic Press," at the latter part of the last century, and that press was the

property of John Walter the First. There were in all likelihood plenty of previous "John Walters," and the earliest recorded member of the family may have come over with the herd of other thieves and parasites who followed William the Conqueror, but it is with John Walter I that the history of the family begins, and he, born in 1739, learnt the art, or trade, of bookselling and publishing from the famous Robert Dodsley. In due course, he started in business for

himself at Charing Cross, and in or about 1783 he began business in Printing House Square as a printer, his "specialty" being termed "logography," of which he was patentee and "part contriver" the real inventor being Henry Johnson, a compositor in his employ. The process, it is almost superfluous to explain, consisted in the use of metal castings of complete words instead of separate letters, by which it was believed both time and trouble would be saved. Although the process was in use for some years its failure was inevitable, the necessity of crowding his founts with vast numbers of words that were rarely used, and of keeping a sufficient store of those most in demand, was

embarrassing, and a modification of the system was quickly followed by its complete abandonment.

The first number of the *Times* appeared under the title of the *Daily Universal Register*, on January 1, 1785, and was for eighteen months printed "logographically," and for some time longer in the modified form of that process. The new paper was to be published punctually every morning at six o'clock. Three years afterwards, i. e., on January 1, 1788, christened his paper the *Times and Daily Universal*



GEORGE LAING BUCKLE  
Editor the London "Times"