THE PITSLOGO PRESS OF GEORGE HAY FORBES
SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Mr. J. B. Primrose comments, in his excellent article, 'The Pitsligo Press of George Hay Forbes',¹ that there is no easy way of knowing the total number of minor publications issuing from the Pitsligo Press. He points out that his own comprehensive list (which was completed under severe pressure of circumstances) 'does not pretend to be complete; doubtless there are copies of other prints hidden away in obscure places'. The present writer thought it might be worthwhile to search the pamphlet volumes of the Brechin Diocesan Library for Pitsligo Press imprints. One of the chief donors to that collection was Alexander Penrose Forbes (Bishop of Brechin, and brother of the printer-scholar), a man who might reasonably be expected to have copies of his brother's publications amongst his books. The investigation was later extended to St Ninian's Cathedral Library, Perth, which contains an extensive collection of theological literature, much of which formerly belonged to Charles Wordsworth, Bishop of St Andrews, G. H. Forbes's own superior and one of his chief theological opponents.

Ten items from the Pitsligo Press not listed by Primrose have been discovered. Of these only one, the 'new' edition of the 1862 Communion Office, is of any great significance. Three of the items, Lyon's Schism, the Crying Sin, Gordon's Pastoral, and the anonymous Soliloquy, although not listed by Primrose, are given by Erskine Beveridge as Pitsligo Press publications in his Bibliography of Works relating to Dunfermline and the West of Fife,² a neglected but useful work. In addition some miscellaneous notes have been added on books previously described by Primrose. The most interesting of these refer to the incomplete fifth volume of The Panoply, and the previously-unrecorded printing of the second fascicle of the first volume of The Works of St Gregory of Nyssa.

The present writer is grateful to Mr. J. Barker, the Librarian of the University Library, Dundee, and custodian of the Brechin Diocesan Library, for permission to work with the collection. He is equally obliged to the Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral for allowing him free access to the Cathedral Library,³ and to Mr D. MacArthur, the Librarian of St Andrews University, for access to the Forbes Library.


² Also issued as Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, v (1903).

³ The abbreviations used in the notes are: B.D.L.—The Brechin Diocesan Library; S.N.C.L.—St Ninian's Cathedral Library, Perth; B.M.—British Museum. It should perhaps be noted that the Forbes Library, formerly housed in Coates Hall, Edinburgh, is now under the care of St Andrews University Library.
ADDITIONS

1. [Within a frame of single rules with a cross at each corner] A | PASTORAL |
DELIVERED IN | S. ANDREWS, GLASGOW, | AT | EVENSONG OF THE |
17TH DECEMBER, A.D. 1854, | BEING | THE THIRD SUNDAY IN AD-
VENT, | AND | THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY | OF | HIS ORDINATION |
TO THE CHARGE, | BY | THE REV. J. F. S. GORDON, A.M. | (PUBLISHED |
BY REQUEST.) | [rule] | GLASGOW: | M. OGLE & SON, 1, EXCHANGE |
SQUARE; MORISON | KYLE, INGRAM ST.; DAVID ROBERTSON, 188, |
TRONGATE. | EDINBURGH: | R. LENDRUM & CO. & GRANT & SON. |
LONDON: | JOSEPH MASTERS, 33, ALDERSGATE STREET. | [rule] | 1855 |
Collation: 1-28 |
(Colophon on p. 31: BURNTISLAND: PRINTED AT THE PITSLIGO PRESS) |
Note: This is the only production of the Pitsligo Press giving the names of Glasgow |
publishers in the imprint. |
Copies: B.D.L.; S.N.C.L. 

2. SCHISM | THE CRYING SIN | OF THE | BRITISH ISLANDS. | BY |
THE | REV. C. J. LYON, M.A. | &c. &c. | [rule] | (Quotations: Dr. Johnson; |
Collation: 1822 |
Contents: Title, p. [1]; imprint, BURNTISLAND: PRINTED AT THE PIT-
Copies: B.D.L.; S.N.C.L. One S.N.C.L. copy is in flimsy, lavender-coloured paper |
covers. 

3. A | SOLILOQUY, | HUMBLY COMMUNICATED | BY | AN ADOPTED |
SON | OF THE | SCOTCH APOSTOLIC CHURCH. | [rule] | EDINBURGH: |
GRANT & SON. LENDRUM & CO. | [rule] | 1855. |
Collation: [1]6 (second leaf signed*, third leaf**) |
Contents: Title, unnumbered recto; blank, unnumbered verso; text, pp. [1] 2-12; |
blank, pp. [13-14]. (Colophon on p. 12: BURNTISLAND: PRINTED AT THE |
PITSLIGO PRESS.) |
Note: One of the B.D.L. copies has a manuscript note which describes the work as |
‘twelve pages of bad English and silly declamation’ and ascribes the pamphlet to |
T. Jonas. |
Copies: B.D.L. (2); S.N.C.L.
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Collation: [1]° (second leaf signed*, third leaf**)
Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; text, pp. [3] 4-10; blank, pp. [11-12].
Copy: S.N.C.L.


Collation: [1]°
Copy: S.N.C.L.

6. Proposals for publishing the Arbuthnot Missal. n.d. (probably 1857)
This four-page advertisement consists of two pages of descriptive text about the proposed edition and two pages of subscribers' names, of which there are sixty ordering sixty-eight copies. Twenty-eight of these subscribers ordered fine paper copies. The names include W. E. Gladstone, the Marquess of Lothian, Cosmo Innes, James Maidment and the Hon. G. F. Boyle. The Bishop of Brechin and G. H. Forbes are named as the publishers. The subscription list was to be closed on 31 August, 1857, and the leaflet was presumably printed before that date. There is no imprint but it is clearly Pitligo Press work.


Collation: [1]°, with a fold [ ]° wrapped round carrying title-page and a blank leaf at the end.
Note: Despite superficial similarities this is a completely different edition from the 'revised edition' issued from the Pitligo Press in the same year and listed by Primrose. This 'new' edition is not listed by Dowden and Eeles in their Bibliography of the Scottish Liturgy (1915, privately printed), nor by Bishop Dowden in The Scottish Communion Office 1764 (Oxford, 1922), Appendix C, 'Bibliography of the Scottish Communion Office', pp. 195-203. Forbes's versions of the office are of interest to liturgiologists where they differ from the 1764 office. The differences
between the 'new' and 'revised' versions of 1862 are chiefly in the wording of the rubrics, e.g. there is a page of additional instructions to the presbyter or celebrant on p. 19 of the 'revised' version which is omitted in the 'new' edition.

Copy: S.N.C.L.


Collation: a-b⁸ (second leaf of each quire signed *; third leaf signed **)

Contents: Text of Part I. 'To Holy Innocents' day' 64 pp.

Note: This is an offshoot of Forbes's work on the Arbuthnot Missal, and is, presumably, incomplete. The transcription of the title-page is taken from the characteristic blue wrappers and there is no separate title-page to the part. The wrapper is printed as follows: p. [1], title as above; p. [2], advertisement asking subscribers' names to be sent to the press at Burntisland; p. [3], advertisements of works published by J. Masters & Co.; p. [4], list of liturgical works printed at the Pitsligo Press.

Copy: There are several in the strong-box, Forbes Library.


This consists of two slips printed on one side only and was submitted to the Synod, 3 September 1863 (Synod minutes). The first slip contains the petition itself; the second the changes Forbes would wish to see incorporated in the 1863 Canons. The slips were obviously intended for circulation to the members of the Synod only.

Copy: S.N.C.L.


Collation: [1]* (third leaf signed *)


Copy: S.N.C.L.

CORRECTIONS

1. THE GOSPEL MESSENGER. 1853–1858.

Primrose describes the six yearly volumes as being 'uniform', pp. [i-iv], [1] 2-384. The B.D.L. copy of Volume I has four leaves of preliminary matter with the following contents:

Title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; contents, pp. [iii]-iv; Notice To Our readers, pp. [v] vi-vii; blank, p. [viii].
leaf signed **)"

The Missal, and is, pres- s taken from the charac- tr: the part. The wrapper is sent asking subscribers' ments of works published at the Pitsligo Press.

'St. Andrews, n.d. (1863) submitted to the Synod, s the petition itself; the in the 1863 Canons. The s of the Synod only.

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2. THE CHRISTIAN SACRIFICE IN THE EUCHARIST. 1844, 1851, 1854. Primrose describes Part I as having a green wrapper. On both B.D.L. and S.N.C.L. copies the wrapper of this part is blue-grey. It is not clear from Primrose's description of Part II that the advertisements on p. [iv] of the wrapper are of two Pitsligo Press books.

In the copy described by Primrose the leaf containing the 'Note on p. 145.' is inferentially numbered pp. [229-230]. In the British Museum copy this leaf is inserted between signatures 10 and 11, i.e. opposite p. 145. There are also 16 pages of publisher's advertisements bound in the volumes.

4. THE WORKS OF THOMAS RATTRAY, BISHOP OF DUNKELD. 1854-1881. (Unfinished.) Primrose's description of the 1854 edition (Part I) describes the volume as ending on p. 496. He points out that Part I in fact ends on p. 492 and that the title, a blank, and the first two pages of 'Correspondence connected with Bishop Rattray', are added to complete the sheet. The S.N.C.L. copy, bound in cloth, is unusual in that it includes in addition pp. 497-504 (i.e. signature 654) which are not normally found in copies of Part I. Their inclusion in this copy allows the part to end more sensibly at the end of a sentence instead of in the middle of one as is the case with copies of Part I which end on p. 496. This is probably a binder's variant.

I have not seen a copy of the 1860 reprint described by Primrose. The three copies of Part I in the B.D.L. collection are of the 1854 edition, including title-leaf, and have, in addition, a fawn-coloured paper wrapper dated 1860, giving a price (4/-) and the wording which Primrose says is found in the title of the 1860 edition. I would have hazarded a guess that there was no 1860 edition but that the sheets of the 1854 edition were re-issued in 1860 in this wrapper.

5. THE PANOPLY. 1855-1875.
There are a number of problems concerned with the issue of this periodical, particularly with regard to Volume III, the first volume of the revived series. There is also evidence that Forbes began to issue a fifth volume in 1875—a point not noted by Primrose.

a. Primrose gives the imprint for Volume I only. Volume II is missing in the B.D.L. set. The blue paper covers of the parts of Volume III give the following imprints:
Volume III, Number II. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSGLIGO PRESS. 1864.
Volume III, Number III. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSGLIGO PRESS. 1864.
Volume III, Number IV. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSGLIGO PRESS.
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EDINBURGH: EDMONSTONE & DOUGLAS. LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO. 1866.

Volume III, Number V. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSLIGO PRESS.
EDINBURGH: EDMONSTONE & DOUGLAS. LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO. 1866.

Volume III, Number VI. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSLIGO PRESS.
EDINBURGH: EDMONSTONE & DOUGLAS. LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO. 1868.

Volume III, Number VII. BURNTISLAND: AT THE PITSLIGO PRESS.

It will be seen from the above that the Aberdeen and Edinburgh booksellers named in the imprint of Volume I have disappeared. It will also be noted that Primrose is in error in dating Volume III, No. I, 1864. It actually appeared in 1866, and the reason for the two-year delay in the appearance of this part is explained in Forbes's correspondence and on the blue covers of Volume III, No. II. Forbes had issued in 1863 his *Doctrinal Errors and Practical Scandals of the English Prayer Book* (Primrose, p. 88); he had intended to publish the first thirty-two pages of this as the first number of Volume III of *The Panoply*, and the sheets are duly marked on the signature line as G. M. App. Vol. 3, as all the sheets of *The Panoply* are. He decided, however, that some revision was necessary before inclusion in an established periodical. A letter sent to Bishop Wordsworth on 13 April, 1869, included a submission and apology for his stand against Canon 29 of the 1863 *Canons*. Forbes says that he has made changes:

when revising my pamphlet on 'The Doctrinal Errors & Practical Scandals of the E.P.B.' for the beginning of the new series of the *Panoply*. For instance, that title no longer appears. If my Articles come to another edition, I shall revise them again, to see whether other expressions may not be softened down without affecting their main purport. (MS. S.N.C.I.)

Forbes also indicates the revision and delayed appearance of the sheets on the inside of the covers of Volume III, No. II.

The first number will consist of the letter to the Bishop of St. Andrews which the editor published last year, the first two sheets of which will be reprinted in a short while with a few alterations necessary to fit them for the more permanent shape they will now assume when quitting the mere pamphlet form to become part of a volume.

The bibliographical description of both the original and revised versions is the same: 1-29; pp. [1] 2-32, but close examination reveals differences in setting and minor differences in the text. One of the most important of the latter comes on p. 4, where the words, 'the disastrous changes' to 'excesses of Puritanism' are added in the revised version, and the words 'I need only add' to 'Church of Rome' are omitted.

b. The blue paper covers of the parts of Volume IV give information in the imprints not conveyed by Primrose's description. An additional London bookseller, C. J. Stewart, is named as a stockist of *The Panoply*, and Primrose's tentative date for No. VI, 'c. 1874', is confirmed.

c. On the covers of Part II, p. 54, a note is to be found an advertisement for a copy of the part itself. Collation: 1-384 (sheets 1-192); 'Saul' pp. 2-9; 'Saul' pp. 10-34; 'Saul' pp. 35-212. Note: The blue paper cover of Part II, p. 54, has the signature 1, presumably Volume II, No. II, with XII, 16, 20, and 21, thus the other parts thus reprinted with that signature. They were no. 21.

d. According to the annotations, Volumes I and II of 200 pages each, were divided into parts thus reprinted with one signature. They were no. 21.

6. THE WORKS OF VINTON

Primrose describes one volume of Vinton's *Miscellanea* as having been published in 1855. He notes: 'Some of the early numbers are finished.' He does not refer to the volume described below. The information is on a page, dated 1861, on v. 2 of the cover. In the British Museum copy, the book is tipped in between the covers of v. 1.

Collation: 11-228

Contents: De conditione

7. MISSALE AD URBANUS IV

Primrose points out that there is no copy of the British Museum copy of the *Missale ad Urbanus IV* in either the N.U.S. or C.U.S.

The arrangement is: i, xxi-xi, additions, intercalations, and cancellations; xxv, xxvi-xlxxii. This is followed by the blue paper cover and its cancellations 22-24, before it, and the blank page before it, and the blank page before it.

8. THE ARBUTHNOTS

There is a typographical error in the signatures 'kt' and 'cA', and the method of description is lacking. A mode of description from the fourth leaf that is missing.
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THE WORKS OF ST GREGORY OF NYSSA. 1855, 1861.
Prime 6. According to the advertisements on the cover of Volume IV, No. VI, parts of Volumes I and II of The Panoply were reprinted with revisions and alterations. The parts thus reprinted were: Volume I, signatures 1, 2, 14, 15, 17, and 21; Volume II, signature 1. They were offered at 6d. to subscribers to Volumes I and II.


Contents: Of the importance of our retaining the Scotch Communion Office.' pp. [i] 2-9; 'Saul' pp. 10-34; 'Katabole Kosmou' pp. 34-56.

Note: The blue paper cover of this part is an oddity in that it is, in fact, the cover of Volume II, No. II, with the volume and part numbers altered in ink to Volume V, Number I, presumably as an economy measure.

6. THE WORKS OF ST GREGORY OF NYSSA. 1855, 1861.

Primrose describes only the first part of the first volume of this work which appeared in 1855. He notes: 'Although two more parts were planned, the work was never finished.' He does not seem to have seen a copy of the second part of the first volume described below. The part is bound in blue paper covers, carrying a temporary title-page, dated 1861, on the front, and a page of advertisements on the back of the rear cover. In the B.D.L. copy there are also two leaves of advertisements of Pittsigo Press books tipped in between the cover and the text.

Collation: 1-34 (sheets marked on signature line).


7. MISSALE AD USUM SARUM. 1861-1883.

Primrose points out that copies bound privately show differences in arrangement. The British Museum copy arranges the preliminaries in a very different order from that in either the N.L.S. copy or the New College copy which are described by Primrose. The arrangement is: Half-title, general title, pars prima title, notice, preface, pp. [i] ii-xxiv, additions and corrections, directions for binding, remainder of preface, pp. [xxv] xxvi-1xxvii. This copy has both signature 8 and its cancellions 8a, signature 22 and its cancellions 22 bound in. Pars secunda is bound in after pars tertia instead of before it, and the blue paper covers of all four parts are included at the end of the volume.

8. THE ARBUTHNOTT MISSAL. 1864.

There is a typographical error in the collation given by Primrose for this work. The signatures 'k1' and '201' cannot describe sections of three leaves. Using Primrose's method of description they should be called k3 and 201. Using a more conservative mode of description they should be described as k4(-ko) and 201(-20o/4), as it is the fourth leaf that is missing.
9. PONTIFICAL OF DAVID DE BERNHAM. 1885.
Christopher Wordsworth makes the point in his Introduction to this work that Forbes has actually completed ‘six sheets’ of the text. These, presumably, correspond to signatures 1-6⁴ in Primrose’s collation, and this was the only part of the work actually printed at Burntisland.

10. ST. MATTHEW AN EXAMPLE FOR THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. 1853.
An unbound, unopened copy of this pamphlet (S.N.C.L.) permits a fuller description of its make-up than that given by Primrose.
Collation: [1][²] A fold [²] is inserted into the middle of the complete sheet.
Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; dedication, p. [3]; quotation, p. [4]; text, pp. [5]-18; blank, p. [19]; advertisements, p. [20].

11. 'JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED.' 1853.
Unbound copy in S.N.C.L.
Collation: [1][²]

Two unbound copies are in S.N.C.L. One of these copies is exactly as described by Primrose and is inscribed by the author: 'With the Rev. J. Alexander's best respects.' The second copy has been prepared in manuscript for a second edition, presumably by the author. There are extensive omissions and alterations in the text and the words ‘Second Edition with additions and Alterations’ have been inserted in manuscript on the title-page. No such second edition has come to my notice. There are copies in the B.D.L. and S.N.C.L. collections of a later pamphlet by Alexander which in its general appearance and the treatment of signatures is very similar to Pitslgo Press work although the Pitslgo imprint nowhere appears on it:
Collation: 1-3⁴ 4-5⁴ 6⁴
Contents: Title, p. [1]; quotation from 1838 Canons, p. [2]; text, pp. [3]-80.

13. SOME INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUNG PERSONS, BEFORE THEY
THE PITS LISLO PRESS OF GEORGE HAY FORBES

Copy: B.D.L.
Note: Primrose dates this 'c. 1855'. Examination of this copy reveals the date as 1854.

Collation: [1]⁶ (third leaf signed *)
Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; text, pp. [3] 4-10; advertisements, pp. [11-12].
Copy: S.N.C.L.
Note: Listed by Primrose but not described as he had presumably not seen a copy.

Collation: [1]⁶ (third leaf signed *)
Copy: S.N.C.L.
Note: Listed by Primrose but not described as he had presumably not seen a copy. It should also be noted that there is in the Forbes library an 1879 reprint of the 'revised' edition of Forbes's Communion Office. (Cf. Primrose, p. 87.)