

BRITISH WORKMAN



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CELEBRATED SHOEMAKERS.

ROBERT BLOMFIELD, the celebrated poet, was born at Horington, near Bury St. Edmunds, in 1766. When eleven years of age he was employed as a farmer's boy, and shortly afterwards was apprenticed to a shoemaker in London. With no advantages of education and with no assistance or stimulus, beyond the reading of a newspaper, and a few borrowed books of poetry, of which his favourite was Thomson's "Seasons," he composed his beautiful rural poem, "The Farmer's Boy," in a poor garret in Bell Alley, Coleman St. This poem was so popular that within 3 years after its publication in 1800, more than 26,000 copies were sold.

Prior to the death of this amiable man, which took place at Sheffield, Bedfordshire, in 1833, he had attained a world-wide fame as one of England's best poets.

Crispin, the talented editor of the "Quarterly Review," was originally a poor shoemaker. When an apprentice, he had, it is stated, but one book in the world, a treatise on Algebra. Of paper, ink, slate, or pencil, he was utterly destitute, nor had he a penny to buy any.

The truth of the old saying, "Where there is a will, there will be found a way," was never more fully exemplified than in the case of Gifford. Night after night did the enthusiastic shoemaker's apprentice pursue his mathematical studies, and using leather *clippings* (which he beat out, so as to secure a smooth surface), in lieu of a slate or paper; and on these his noble son of Crispin contrived to work out his Algebraic Problems. Notwithstanding sundry scoldings from his master, and the gruff order, "Mind your Cobbling," Gifford went on, reaching step after step in the ladder of knowledge, until he gained a position in the literary world which secured for him the friendship of the nobles of our land. He died in 1836.

BENEDICT BARDOLPH, one of the learned men of the sixteenth century, worked for several years of his life as a shoemaker.

THOMAS SHILLITO, of Hitchin, who gained access to nearly every crowned head in Europe, and whose faithful remonstrance with George the Fourth, stayed that monarch in some of his wrong doings, was a working shoemaker. The memoir of this extraordinary man, a member of the Society of Friends, is one of the most remarkable illustrations on record of the influence possessed by a pious working man.

WINKELMAN, one of the most distinguished writers on classic antiquities, and the fine arts, that modern times have produced, was the son of a shoemaker.

LACKINGTON, the once celebrated bookseller of Finsbury Square, London, and proprietor of the Temple of Minerva there, who by his industry and perseverance realized profits of full £2000 a year, was a shoemaker in Shropshire.

DR. MORRISON the eminent translator of the Holy Scriptures into Chinese, and one of the most devoted christian missionaries that the world has ever known, was originally a clogger, or maker of men's wooden shoes, in Newcastle.

REV. W. HUTTONGODD, the once celebrated and popular minister of Providence Chapel, Gray's Inn Lane, London, informs us in his interesting "Bank of Faith" that he was originally a "coalheaver," and a "cobbler."

WILLIAM STURROX, the celebrated lecturer on electricity, and magnetism, was born of humble parents, and in early life apprenticed to a shoemaker.

In his leisure hours, he acquired an excellent knowledge of mathematics, and also made considerable progress in the Latin and Greek languages. He then entered on the study of Natural Philosophy, of which he obtained a complete knowledge. The phenomena of electricity and magnetism had ever the greatest charm for him. In 1838, he commenced a periodical entitled, "The Annals of Electricity, Magnetism, and Chemistry," of which he issued 10 volumes.

He ultimately rose to the high position of professor of Natural Philosophy in the Military Academy at Addiscombe.

RALPH FINLEY was a poor but clever shoemaker, who died in 1769. Leachington mentions him as "one who had not dignity of birth, or elevated rank in life to boast of, but who possessed what is far superior to either, a solid understanding, amiable manners, a due sense of religion, and an industrious disposition: amongst other acquisitions, entomology was his peculiar delight; his valuable cabinet of insects, both foreign and domestic, all scientifically arranged with peculiar neatness, and in the finest preservation, is supposed to be the most complete private collection in the kingdom, and will remain a monument of his knowledge and application."

DR. JOHN KITTO, the celebrated biblical writer, whose works have already proved a blessing to the world, was in early life a shoemaker. His parents were very poor, and in the year 1819, they had to apply to the guardians for parish relief. John was admitted into the Plymouth Workhouse, and was there set to mend shoes. In 1821 he was bound apprentice to a shoemaker in Plymouth.

JACOB BOERNER, the celebrated German writer, usually called the Teutonic Philosopher, was originally a shoemaker.

REV. JOHN THORPE, for many years pastor of an important congregation at Mashov, was originally a shoemaker in that neighbourhood.

LEXNER, one of the greatest naturalists the world has ever produced, was on the point of being apprenticed to a Swedish shoemaker, when Providence opened the way for him to follow his favourite study of Botany. He however had to combat with trying poverty and opposition. On many occasions he had to depend upon the benevolence of his countrymen for a meal, and was thankful for their cast-off clothes wherewith to cover himself.

His biographer states that on one occasion imperious necessity compelled him to have recourse to the trade which his father had once resolved to bind him to.

He put cords in the worn-out shoes which were given him by his comrades, and stitched and mended them with the best of trees, to enable him at least to go and collect plants.



GEORGE FOX, so well known and highly esteemed, as the founder of the English Quakers, who was born at Drayton, in Leicestershire, in 1624, and died in 1681, was brought up a shoemaker, and followed his trade at Nottingham.

DAVID PARRIS, the eminent German Protestant Divine, who afterwards occupied the honourable and responsible office of professor of Theology at Heidelberg, was originally a shoemaker's apprentice.

B—, as gently as she had at first spoken.
 "O yes, so they are," cheerfully replied H—, "I could not see them any where."
 "Did you think crying would bring them?"
 "This was said with a smile, and in a tone so unlike his mother, that the child looked up again into her face with surprise, that was, Mrs. B— plainly saw, mingled with pleasure.
 "Do you want anything else?" she asked.
 "No, mamma," he replied cheerfully, "I can dress myself now."
 This first little effort was crowned with the most encouraging results to the mother: she felt a deep peace settling in her bosom, from the consciousness of having gained a true victory over the perverse tendencies of both her own heart, and that of her boy. It was a little act, but it was the first fruit; and the gathering of even so small a harvest, was sweet to her spirit.
 For the first time in many months, the breakfast-table was pleasant to all. H— never once interrupted the conversation that passed at intervals between his father and mother. When he asked for anything, it was in a way pleasing to all. Once or twice Mrs. B— found it necessary to correct some little fault in manner; but the way in which she did it, did not in the least disturb her child's temper; and, instead of not seeming to hear her words, as had almost always

been the case, he regarded all that was said, and tried to do as she wished.
 "There is a wonderful power in *gentle words*," remarked Mr. B— to his wife, after H— had left the table.
 "Yes, wonderful indeed, their effect surprises me."
 "Love is strong!"
 Days, weeks, months, and years went by; during all this time, the mother continued to strive very earnestly with herself, and very kindly with her child.
 The happiest results followed; the fractious, passionate, and disorderly boy, became even-minded and orderly in his habits. A word gently spoken was all-powerful in its influence for good; but the least shade of harshness would arouse his stubborn will, and deform his fair young face.
 Whenever mothers complain to Mrs. B— of the difficulty they find in managing their children, she has one piece of advice to give, and that is, "Command yourself, and speak gently."

VALUE ALL VAPOR THINGS.
 THE AWARE OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE that children be brought up to see a just value upon all useful things, especially upon all living things. One of the greatest faults of servants is their inadequate care of animals committed to their charge; this remembrance is owing to the servant not having been brought up to feel an interest in the well-being of animals.
Collier's Cottage Economy.
 "I never go to church," said a country tradesman to his parish clergyman. "I always send Sunday in settling accounts." The minister bowed, and only replied, "You will find that the day of judgment will be spent in the same manner."
 PARO being told that he had enemies who spoke ill of him, said, "I will live in such a manner, that none shall believe them."
 NERVA be afraid to step out of the way to do good.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE SCOTCHMAN.

A PLEASANT INCIDENT recently transpired in one of the Scotch Law Courts, which will secure for our Queen many a hearty cheer from British sons of toil. It appears that a man from Balmoral was being examined as a witness before the Jury, when the presiding Judge spoke rather sharply to the hard-toiling Scotchman, who, although probably very expeditious in *draining* stones, was somewhat slow in *addressing* the Court. In reply, the man said, "Just allow me to talk time, my lord, I'm no accustomed to sit a company." On leaving the box, the man said to the bystanders, "The Queen has been to my hut, and she speaks pleasantly, and draws pretty pictures for the ladies. I would far rather speak to the Queen, than to you chap w' the big wig."
 Long live Queen Victoria! who, although awaiting the sceptre over dominions in every part

of the world, is not above leaving the gaiety of palace life and, entering the cottage of a working man, is found drawing "pictures for the ladies."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. E. STROOD.—We shall at all times be glad to receive such literary publications.
 FRANKS.—A gentleman enquires whether it is possible for the men called *TURNERS* in iron works, who are exposed to the most intense heat, to perform their laborious work without the use of intoxicating drinks. Can any of our readers enable us to reply to this enquiry?
 We beg to return our best thanks to our numerous correspondents for their expressions of good-will. If each of our present readers will procure ranks new subscribers, we shall be able to prosecute our labours with comfort.

NEW AND CHEAP POSTAGE.

Packets of the "British Workman" may be had post free, by remitting in postage stamps, as under, to the publishers, or to the Editor, 2, Cambridge Terrace, Brompton Park, London.

4 Copies for	4s.	Or for one year	4s.	A packet con-
8	"	8s.	"	taining numbers
12	"	12s.	"	1 to 8 will be sent
16	"	16s.	"	post free on re-
20	"	20s.	"	ceipt of eight
24	"	24s.	"	postage stamps.

