The first mention in connection with my subject in early times is not of printers but of booksellers and stationers, or, as this word was sometimes quaintly spelt, "Statchner."

Oddly enough, the earliest mention of a bookseller was a stranger in the town who, in order to do business, had to obtain a license for opening a shop:

On 8th Jan. 1690: Wm. Norman, bookseller, allowed to live in town and keep a shop for 6 months without any disturbance, provided he give a note under his hand not to enjoy the benefit of it any longer than that time and give security to leave the town at that time.

Of course there must have been booksellers in the town before 1690, but I find nothing. In 1693 we get the first glimpse of a native bookseller in the mention in the Vestry books\(^1\) of 10s. 6d. paid to Mr. Eaton for a "Prair Book" to Mr. Maior, though there is mention of buying of a "small booke for Christninges & burialls" so far back as 1681, but no name is given of the bookseller.

There appear to have been two brothers Eaton, viz. Peter and Joseph. In 1694 the "Prair Book" for

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Mr. Maior was supplied by brother Peter. They both lived in Common Garden from 1693 down to 1701. In 1704 Peter is found as bookbinder, Castle Street, while Joseph at this time was in Water Street. Joseph married in 1697 Ann Bennett. He was churchwarden in 1700 and 1701, the first two years of Liverpool’s independence from Walton. In 1712 Mrs. Ann Eaton is described as bookseller, and again in 1715, and from a letter in the Daily Post and Mercury signed “Greenwax,” dated 22nd June 1908, it seems that Joseph died in 1710. Peter seems to have been still at work in 1727. Daniel Birchall, though afterwards a printer, was at first only a bookseller, and is first mentioned in 1708 (Vestry Book 69). He is mentioned as a bookbinder in 1712, and in that year published a sermon by Rev. Christopher Bassnett, preached on board the ship Blundell. In 1722 he is advertised as the printer of a sermon by Rev. W. Wolstenholme for the Charity School lately erected.

The first reference I have been able to find to a stationer is that of Thos. Gerrard, who on the 5th June 1676 married Abigail Pickring of Warrington. The bridegroom is described as a stationer, and his name appears on several occasions in various connections. For instance I find from Mr. Peet’s published volume of the Liverpool Vestry accounts that in April 1682 he was selected one of the chapel wardens of the chappell of Liverpoole. In 1683 Thos. Gerrard was elected one of the overseers of the parish. I gather he must have died before 1689, since in that year a daughter, Abigail, died, aged five years, who is described as the daughter of Abigail Gerrard. He appears to have had two other daughters, and in April 1689 there is one entry in the Vestry accounts of £2:15s. for keeping Thos. Gerrard’s two children for twenty-seven weeks and four days.
I think I may claim that all authorities are agreed that the first printing-press established in Liverpool was that of Samuel Terry, 1712, the earliest production of which at present known is *Hymns Sacred to the Lord's Table*, a little 12mo. of 84 pp. The first mention of his location is in a *Psalms of David* in metre, small 8vo., published in 1718, where his address is given as Dale Street. Dale Street at that time, of course, would extend a very short distance from the Exchange, so that it would be quite the centre of the little town of those days. He was also, of course, the publisher of the *Liverpool Courant*, that first Liverpool newspaper which ever eludes the grasp of the collector, and no copy of which, I believe, has ever been seen by any one now living. The only numbers of which there is any record are No. 18, Tuesday 15th to 18th July 1712, and one for 13th November 1712, so that the *Courant* was published during the year 1712; but we have absolutely no other information whatever. In Blundell's *Diary*, under date 5th July 1712 (p. 103), there is the following entry: "I went to Liverp: and to the Printhous 'tis ye first time I was to see it." This would probably be Terry's press, and if so, it seems to have been a comparatively new institution at that time. Terry's publications are mostly hymns and sermons—nothing of any present-day interest. Where he came from, how long he lived, indeed anything else about him at all, is quite unknown. The latest date in a book printed by him is 1720 (?). As the little coat of arms on the title-page of the *Hymns Sacred to the Lord's Table* is that of Amsterdam, Mr. E. Gordon

1 At the first meeting of the Historic Society in 1848 Mr. S. Stainforth exhibited a copy of this latter number (Note by Mr. G. T. Shaw).

2 The only reference to a newspaper in this diary is on page 152, under date 2nd November 1718: "I paid a viset to ye Hall of Ince and stayed pritty late expecting the Newspaper"; but this would very likely be one of the London papers.
Duff suggests that Terry was using a Dutch printing type.

Some would put a printer, E. Owen, as next in chronological order, but it is a mistake. The book attributed to him, a small work written by Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, given in the Historical Exhibition as about 1720, should really be under date 1750, that being the date attributed to the book by the valuable Catalogue of Liverpool Prints and Documents published by the Free Library, Liverpool, in 1908. Owen's first-known printing was a sermon by Rev. H. Wolstenholme on the Rebellion, preached at St. George's Church in October 1745. In 1757 he also printed a few issues of the Liverpool Chronicle, instead of J. Sadler.

We are now brought to the second Liverpool printer, Adam Sadler. But first let me call attention to the fact that from 1722 to 1734 we can find no trace of book or pamphlet or any other printing. It is not until the printing and publishing of a poll book for the election of 1734 that we find anything to break the silence of those twelve years. We do not know the name of the printer of this poll book; but probably it was Sadler.

Adam Sadler was born towards the end of the seventeenth century, and seems to have taken a part in some of the wars of the early eighteenth under Marlborough. He married Elizabeth Bibby, is found at Melling in Lancashire in 1723, and shortly afterwards came to Liverpool and began his work as a printer and bookseller at the New Market, nearly on the site of the old Castle which had recently been almost entirely swept away. His first-known book was the history of the House of Stanley, by John Seacombe, of which the first edition is supposed to have been published in 1736, though I have never seen a copy nor come across any one who has.
have a fairly good copy of the supposed second edition brought out in 1741. After this the book passed through various editions, both in Manchester and Preston. It includes a history of the Isle of Man, as being part of the early Stanleys' possessions as Lords of Man.

Sadler's next known book has the distinction of being the first folio published in Liverpool: *The Sea Coasts of Britain*, with charts, a thin large folio by Fearon and Eyes. It was issued in 1738, with a very interesting list of subscribers. We have also a sermon by Rev. Richard Hartwell, preached at St. Peter's.

Sadler is mentioned as an engraver in Blundell's *Diary* (p. 231) and engraved a silver tobacco box with his crest for Mr. Blundell. He died in 1768 and was buried in Sefton churchyard. His son, John Sadler, born in 1720, commenced business in Harrington Street as an engraver; afterwards he was a printer also. He married Elizabeth Parker in 1748. Adam Sadler's business was taken on by his apprentice, Guy Green, and he and John Sadler together invented the famous method of printing on earthenware, as related below.

John Sadler's first book was printed in 1740, a pamphlet entitled *Short Account of a Course of Philosophy and Astronomy*, by J. Arden, teacher of mathematics, Derby. He printed many books of Roman Catholic devotions, as well as the well-known but scarce collection of songs entitled *The Muses' Delight*, published in 1754, and a reissue in 1757, renamed *Apollo's Cabinet*. His last book, printed in 1765, was an English *Grammar for the Latin Tongue*. In 1753 he got into great trouble in Liverpool by printing some of the pamphlets issued by Alderman Clegg during his dispute with the Corporation, and finally had to confess and apologise publicly in the newspapers.
He is, of course, famous all over the world as the inventor, in conjunction with Guy Green, of the system of printing on earthenware. All the MS. descriptions of his various processes can be seen by a reference to Chaffer's *History of Pottery*. Many examples, beautiful and otherwise, have come down to us, and a fine collection can be seen in the Liverpool Room of the Museum. Perhaps of all his works, the beautiful tiles illustrated from *Æsop's Fables*, portraits of well-known actors and actresses of the day, and many others, are the most popular. He died in 1789 and was buried in Sefton churchyard.

The next name on the list is Peter Whitfield, whose best-known book, *Dissertation on Hebrew Vowel Points*, seems to have excited a considerable amount of adverse criticism by Mr. Abr. Bourn as well as by Mr. Da. Jefferies, a French master in a school in Liverpool, who wrote and published two pamphlets printed by John Sadler in 1748 entitled *Advice to Hebrew Attempter*, and *Further Advice to Hebrew Attempter*. Mr. Whitfield was the son of Robert, and was born in 1685. He seems to have had a sort of private press, because all his known publications, and they are very few, are written and printed by himself.

We now come to a well-known man in the printing world, viz. Robert Williamson. He was a man of multifarious occupations; for instance, in an old advertisement he describes himself as R. W., near Exchange, Stationer, Bookseller—spectacles, telescopes, microscopes, barometers, harpsichords, spinets, maps, private charts, music, songs, circulating library. He was also a broker for the sale of almost every conceivable article. I think we may consider him the first cotton broker, selling by auction the earliest bags, nine in number, of American cotton in Liverpool on Tuesday 7th
September 1756, by the candle. His first book seems to have been that very rare but very interesting little volume called *The Liverpool Memorandum Book*, 1753; it was published 1752 and contains a great deal of information about Liverpool, its shipping, streets, etc., published here for the first time. A considerable amount of the statistical information is reprinted at the end of Gore's *Directory* for 1805. He was also the printer of most of the letters and pamphlets in the dispute, so prolific of both, between the Corporation and Alderman Clegg, which seems to have lasted more or less from 1752 to 1761. No books of his after 1767 are known, and his widow, Alice Williamson, carried on the business for a short time in her own name down to 1773. But perhaps Robert Williamson will be remembered chiefly as the founder of the well-known newspaper which was for just one hundred years, through many vicissitudes and times of tremendous stress and danger, one of the principal exponents of the voice of the rapidly growing town of Liverpool. It began on the 28th May 1756 as *Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser*. On the 6th January 1794 its title was changed to *Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser*, and again in January 1829 it became *The Liverpool Times and Billinge's Advertiser*; so continuing to its last issue on 1st March 1856.

Passing over a number of names of which little is known, though some of them, as for instance the Nevetts, had a long career of about seventy years in Liverpool, we come to the well-known name of Smith.

In the *Liverpool Chronicle and Marine Gazetteer* of 25th May 1759 is announced the death of William Smith on the preceding 22nd May, with the following comment:
An eminent writing master:

Many have I known more famous
Some more knowing
Not one so innocent.

The School lately kept in Redcross Street by Mr. William Smith lately deceased is continued by his son Edgerton Smith, where any gentlemen that shall think proper to commit their children to his Instruction may depend on their being carefully and expeditiously taught writing, arithmetic, merchants' accounts, navigation, geography, the use of the globes, maps, charts, planispheres, the Rudiments of Geography, Astronomy, &c., &c., &c.

N.B. Those persons that have already paid the late Mr. William Smith the full price for Navigation, Merchants' Accounts, Geography and the use of the Globes are at liberty to come and make themselves complete masters of that Branch without any additional expense.

Youth boarded.

Egerton or Edgerton Smith of Liverpool, "mathematician," married Ann Prescott at Preston on 31st March 1766, and some time before 1780 removed to Pool Lane, now called South Castle Street, where he established his printing business. The first Egerton was one of the gallant band who in 1773 tried to revivify the Liverpool Academy of Art, a venture destined to be wrecked by the great war in which we were engaged during most of the last quarter of the eighteenth century and for fifteen years in the nineteenth. He died probably in 1788, and Ann his widow carried on the business for a few years, no doubt until the two sons Egerton and William were old enough to take charge.

In June 1811 notice is given of the dissolution of the partnership existing between Egerton and William Smith and Samuel Dawson. Immediately afterwards, Egerton joined with Samuel Dawson, and on 5th July 1811, they published the first number of the Liverpool Mercury; on the 12th
July they also took in John Bywater as partner. The *Mercury*, like most other papers of that time, was at first published only once a week, on a Friday. The actual printer of the first number of the paper was Richard Hughes, senior, who died 24th February 1848.¹

For the next thirty years Egerton Smith was one of the most influential men in Liverpool. He made many ventures, some of which at least were very successful. In 1818 he founded the *Kaleidoscope*, a weekly which ran for two years, and then began a new series which ran to eleven volumes; and in connection with that a number of small offshoots appeared such as the *Liver*, 1st part, 3rd August 1824; *Liverpool Localities and Documents*, No. 1, 21st June 1822; and *Local Letter Box*, 1st on 1st March 1825. A memoir of his life by Carew is at the Free Library. He died 18th November 1841, much regretted. Of the *Mercury* itself I need not say anything to a society such as this. It had a long and most honourable career of nearly one hundred years, until it was amalgamated in 1904 with its neighbour *The Liverpool Daily Post*, thenceforth entitled *The Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*.

In the realm of newspaper printing alone there are many other names which ought to be mentioned such as that of Thomas Billinge, who helped Robert Williamson to carry on his paper for some years and whose two sons Henry and John continued it until its close in 1856.

Then again the Gore family, so well known by the long line of Liverpool *Directories*, from the tiny volume of 1766 down to the year 1897, when it had grown to the huge bulk of 2200 pages. In that year the *Directory* was taken over by Kelly’s *Directories*, Ltd., though one is glad to note that

the annual volume still bears its old name of Gore's Liverpool Directory. The Gores were also the founders of the Liverpool General Advertiser in 1765, better known from 1788 as Gore's Liverpool General Advertiser, which continued to thrive down to the year 1871. One ought also to mention the Fergusons, H. and Robert, who ran the Liverpool Phenix, 1790–96, after which date it became the property of Merritt and Wright. Under their care it flourished for some years with the more modern spelling of Phenix in its title.

Then a few lines must be devoted to John M'Creery, perhaps Liverpool's most famous printer, as far at least as the technical beauty of the type he employed. M'Creery was apprentice to George Woods, a printer in Prices Street, and as far as I can ascertain his first book was printed in 1792: Consolidated Duties and Drawbacks, etc. — not referring to moral duties and drawbacks, but to details of custom-house work. He was the printer of William Roscoe's splendid works on Leo X., etc., but his most beautiful specimen was, I suppose, the work called the Press. It is so well-known that I need not dwell upon the beauty and nobility of the whole book. M'Creery in 1805 sold his business to G. F. Harris, who had been until recently editor of the Gloucester Herald. Though Mr. Harris did not live long the business was carried on energetically by his widow and brothers under the title first of G. F. Harris's Widow and Brothers and afterwards of Harris & Co. This brings us down to 1834, about which time it was merged into the firm of Robert Rockliff, afterwards Rockliff Brothers.

Then, last but not least, I must not forget a firm known not only in Liverpool but through the whole of the United Kingdom. I mean Nuttall, Fisher & Dixon, founded by Jonah Nuttall. He was a native of Blackburn, but served his apprentice-
ship with John Ferguson, the Liverpool printer. Afterwards he became a partner in the firm of Hemingway & Nuttall of Blackburn. Early in the nineteenth century, probably about 1803, he came to Liverpool and started a printing establishment in Duke Street, bringing with him a young apprentice named Henry Fisher, afterwards his partner, the firm ultimately becoming known as Nuttall, Fisher & Dixon. Henry Fisher was born in Preston in 1781, the son of Thomas Fisher, a timber merchant in that town. Fisher was a man of singular ability and energy, and when in the year 1818 Jonah Nuttall retired and Dixon died, he carried on the business with great success under the name of Fisher, Son & Co. till 30th January 1821 when the Caxton works (the most complete establishment out of London) were entirely destroyed by fire. He then removed the business to London and there directed, as already stated, one of the greatest businesses in Great Britain. A bare list of their publications in Liverpool alone would take many pages of this paper. Mr. Nuttall after his retirement went to live at his seat, Nutgrove, near Prescot, where he died in 1837. Henry Fisher died at his residence, Highbury Park, in the same year, leaving two sons, one of whom carried on the business, and one daughter.

It has been thought that a complete list of the early Liverpool printers would be a very useful addition to the literature of ancient Liverpool, and Mr. G. T. Shaw, the chief librarian of our free libraries, and I hope shortly to complete the compilation of such a list, giving the dates of the earliest and latest known of their publications to about the year 1820.

In conclusion I desire to tender my grateful thanks to Mr. Shaw for many useful hints and much assistance in putting together the information
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contained in this paper. Without his help the difficulties would have been much greater, nor must I forget the great assistance I have received from the splendid Catalogue of Liverpool Prints and Documents published by the Library, Museum, and Arts Committee in 1908. It is a book of which any Corporation might be proud.