



CHAPTER I.

AUTHORS—POETS—JOURNALISTS.

“As a stimulus to flagging energies, as an inspirer of lofty aim, literature stands unrivalled. . . . The lofty themes of poetry, the grandeur of history, and the noble examples of biography, kindle in those who will have recourse to them, a new energy and a fresh heart. Literature—the song of the poet, the meditations of the philosopher, the records of the historian, and the lives of men who have left great names upon the earth—this (to use the language of Cicero) is at once the instructor and guide of youth, and the comfort and grace of our riper years.”

—LORD MORLEY.

BAILEY, SAMUEL, Philosopher and Author.

Referred to by Lord Brougham in the *Edinburgh Review* as “the Bentham of Hallamshire,” Samuel Bailey was the second son of Joseph Bailey of Sheffield, merchant, his mother Mary being the only daughter of John Eadon, master of the Free Writing School, Sheffield. Born on 5th July, 1791, he was educated at the Writing School, and at the Moravian School of Fulneck. On leaving school he entered the office of his father, who had risen from the position of artisan to that of a general merchant, and was Master Cutler of Sheffield in 1801. Samuel the son was one of the first Sheffield merchants to visit America in order to open out trade, a step attended with much success. The study, however, for him had more attraction than the office, and early in life he became devoted to literary and political pursuits. In 1828 he was elected one of the Town Trustees, and later, after the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of his native town in Parliament. We learn that “his principles resembled those of the philosophical radical; he advocated triennial Parliaments, vote by ballot, and the abolition of tithes and taxes on knowledge.” After a second defeat in 1834 he gave up politics and, in the main, lived a life of quiet seclusion and study. For a long period he was a Town Trustee, and for many years the Chairman

of the Sheffield Banking Company, which he had helped to found in 1831. It is said that his life was one of "clockwork regularity and absolute punctuality." He has been described as "tall, fair, intellectual looking, with gentlemanly address and manners, reminding one of a clear logical proposition or an abstract idea personified."

He was one of the founders of the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society and in 1826, and again in 1830 and 1831, he was elected President. In 1852 he read a paper before its members on "The art of reasoning as taught by Aristotle and his followers," and on his death left the Society a legacy of £1,000.

His chief fame rests on his philosophical and metaphysical writings, which in their day attracted great and widespread attention. It has been observed that in them everything is clear and thoroughly intelligible, and that with him language was the means to express thought in the simplest and most telling manner. In his thirtieth year, he published a volume of "Essays on the Formation and Publication of Opinions," which passed through three editions. Other learned works followed, including "Questions in Political Economy, Politics, Morals, &c.," "Dissertation on the Nature, Measures, and Causes of Value"; "Essays on the Pursuit of Truth"; "The Theory of Reasoning," and what has been regarded as his greatest literary effort, "Letters on the Philosophy of the Human Mind," published in three volumes between the years 1855 and 1863. Amongst his other writings was a poem called "Maro, or Poetic Sensibility"; also pamphlets on Parliamentary Reform, Education, Economics, &c.

Whilst a deep thinker on the workings of the human mind, Bailey was, it is said, utterly devoid of imagination. He has been called the "Philosopher of Common Sense," having no sympathy whatever with speculations or schemes not directed to some useful end. Abstemious in his habits, and most careful in his expenditure, his daily routine of life was regulated on the strictest principle of punctuality. Mr. R. E. Leader says: "In manner rigid and austere, he was in business the embodiment of inflexible integrity, with no room for sentiment—little perhaps for compassion."

He died, a bachelor, on 18th January, 1870, aged 79, and was interred in the burial ground of the Old Chapel at Attercliffe. He left a large fortune, nearly all of which he devoted to public uses. By his Will, after private legacies, he gave £2,000 to the Sheffield Infirmary, £1,000

to the Sheffield Dispensary, £1,000 to the Literary and Philosophical Society, £500 each to the Aged Female Society and the Boys and Girls Lancasterian Schools, and bequeathed the residue of his estate, amounting to over £100,000, to the Town Trustees for the benefit of the people of Sheffield.

A portrait of Mr. Bailey, painted by W. Poole, is in the Town Hall; another by J. W. Gordon hangs in the Town Trustees' Room at the Court House; a third is in the Rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Society.

CAWTHORNE, JAMES, M.A., Poet.

Born at Sheffield on 4th November, 1719, he was the son of Thomas Cawthorne, an upholsterer. Hunter tells us that he was educated first at the Sheffield Grammar School, and at the age of fifteen went to the Grammar School of Kirkby Lonsdale. In 1736 he became assistant teacher at the Rotherham Grammar School. Having matriculated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, he was assistant to Mr. Clare, who had an academy in Soho Square, London, whose daughter Mary he married. In 1743 he was ordained, and in the same year was elected Master of the Grammar School at Tonbridge, an office he held till his death. He displayed literary talent at an early age, and it is said these talents "bore but an insignificant proportion to his moral excellence." He is included amongst English poets by Johnson, Platts, Sanford, and others. His works, which included "Abelard and Heloise," "A Perjured Lover," and a Paraphrase on Psalm 139, were collected by the Rev. Edward Goodwin, and published in 1771, ten years after his death, which took place on 15th April, 1761, at the early age of 42, the result of a fall from his horse. In Tonbridge Church is a marble monument with a long Latin inscription erected by his sister, who was the wife of the Rev. Edward Goodwin, curate of Attercliffe Chapel. A Memoir of Mr. Cawthorne's life and writings from the pen of Mr. Goodwin appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. LXI.

ELLIOTT, EBENEZER—"The Corn Law Rhymer."

"The poor might well be proud, did they but know it, that they have such a poet. Not a few of them know it now; but many will know it in future; for a muse of fire like his will yet send its illumination into dark, deep holds." Such was the tribute paid to Elliott by Professor Wilson long ago in the pages of *Blackwood*.