

# Music and Musicians for the People

Scottish International Exhibitions, 1886 & 1888

*The brass bands and their contests*



**Robert Marr**

**edited by Gavin Holman**

**February 2018**

# Introduction

A series of international exhibitions, managed by Sir Cunliffe Owen, were established in the 1880s. The first was at South Kensington in 1883, featuring “fisheries”, followed by Edinburgh in 1884 on “forestry”, South Kensington in 1884 on “health and hygiene”, South Kensington in 1885 on “inventions”, South Kensington in 1886 on “the colonies and India”, Edinburgh in 1886 on “industry, science and art”, Liverpool in 1886 on “navigation, commerce and industry”, South Kensington in 1887 on “America”, and finally Glasgow in 1888 on “industry, science and art”.

These exhibitions attracted large numbers of visitors and realized significant profits. They did not continue beyond 1888 for a variety of reasons, including the dilapidation of the buildings used and the various grounds being required for other purposes. The exhibits were not judged, as they were at other similar exhibitions, but there were other attractions provided for the visitors, beyond the exhibits, including instrumental music supplied by military bands, brass bands and other musical ensembles throughout the period of the events.

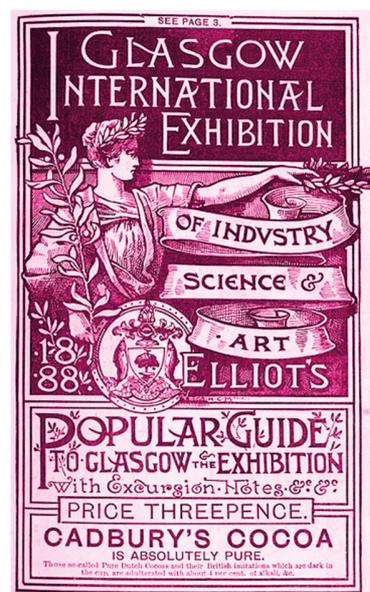
The Liverpool Exhibition advertised “*Open to the Public Daily – Splendid Military and other Bands All Day - Concerts, Promenades, Dancing, Acrobatic, Gymnastic, Equestrian, Vocal, Conjuring, Shooting, and Every Conceivable Performance - Sacred Music on Sundays*”

Each exhibition had a variety of publications associated with it – from the official exhibition programme of the exhibits, to the daily programme of events, and individual leaflets on specific exhibits, companies and attractions.

The musical contributions at the two international exhibitions in Scotland, at Edinburgh and Glasgow were detailed in two books written by Robert Marr. His retrospective of the Edinburgh International Exhibition of 1886, was entitled “*Music and Musicians*”, published by T.A. Constable in 1887. This was followed by his similar treatment of the 1888 Glasgow Exhibition, in “*Music for the People*”, published by John Menzies in 1889.

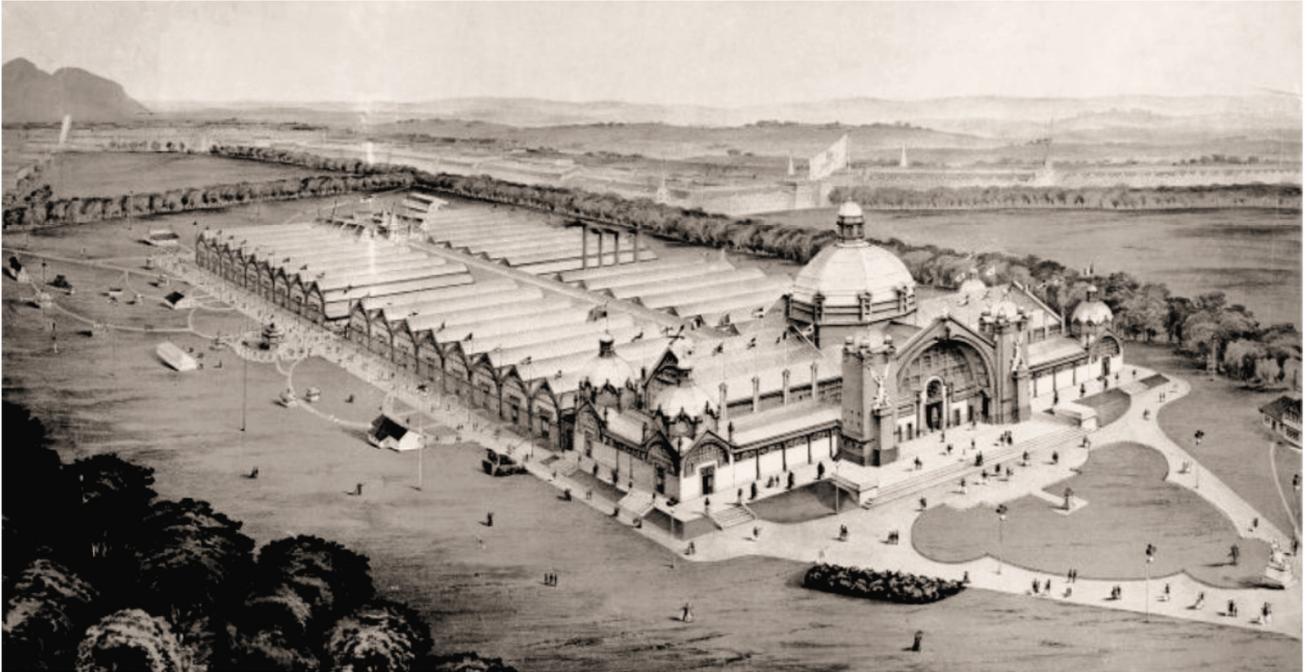
Both exhibitions featured many musical events and groups which were engaged to entertain and educate the thousands of people that streamed through the doors each day.

From Marr’s copious descriptions about the wider musical performers and events I have extracted the details of the visiting and competing brass bands, using his notes, and have included roughly contemporary pictures of those that are available. In addition to bands, orchestras and choirs performing concerts throughout the Exhibitions, there were a series of contests, including two at each exhibition for brass bands – one limited to Scottish bands, the other open to all. The contest results in Marr’s books have been expanded using contemporary newspaper reports.



# Edinburgh - 1886

The Edinburgh “*International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art*”, took place in The Meadows between May and October 1886.



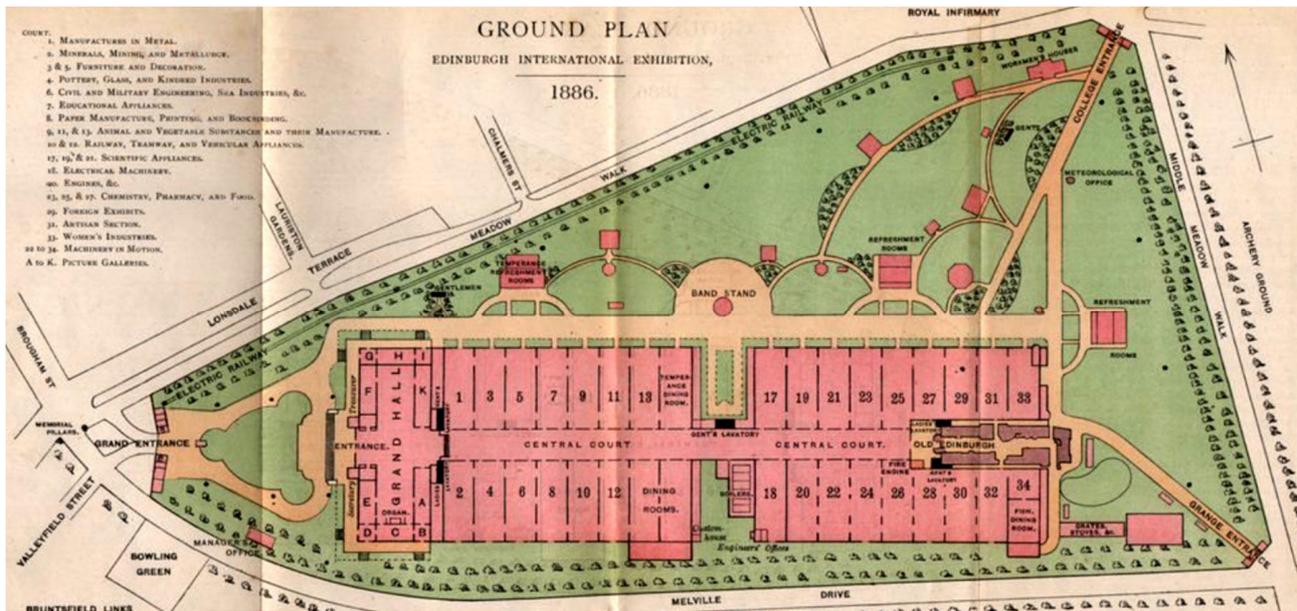
Thirty thousand people thronged the Meadows on May 6, 1886 when Prince Albert Victor opened the International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art. The Exhibition building was an imposing structure comprising a Grand Hall, fronting the main entrance at Brougham Place, with a range of double courts extending eastwards and arranged on either side of a central corridor. The Grand Hall had a 120-foot high central dome decorated with signs of the Zodiac, an impressive collection of statues around the entrance, a Grand Organ and orchestra platform and could hold 10,000 people. By the opening day, 12,000 season tickets, at a guinea each had been sold.

Over 20,000 exhibits illustrated the 'material progress of the age' and there were 1,725 works of art in the fine art galleries. The list of items displayed included 'educational appliances; Italian furniture and marble; violins from Prague; Turkish embroidery; illustrations of mining, pottery, sugar-refining, sea industries, paper-making, printing; and railway, tram-way and other vehicular appliances'. The Women's Industries display ranged through Belgian glove making, Fair Isle, Shetland and Icelandic knitting, Irish linen and artificial fly production.



The grounds were laid out with walks, rockery, fountain and bandstand. The principal open-air attractions were the electric railway which ran between the main Brougham Place entrance and Middle Meadow Walk; the

working man's model dwelling-house, which included the most modern appliances for sanitation and convenience; and the refreshment rooms, both temperance and otherwise. The Exhibition buildings and grounds were lit by 3,200 electric lamps in the largest illumination scheme ever attempted in Scotland.



## Brass bands which played concerts at the Exhibition

### Training Ship 'Mars' Brass Band

*(performed August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup> 1886)*

The Band of the Training Ship 'Mars' was formed in 1872. It has always been a Brass Band. All its members are under sixteen years of age. On leaving, many of the boys join the Bands of the Army and Navy, where their services are greatly appreciated. Only recently the Commanding Officer of the 42<sup>nd</sup> (Black Watch) wrote from Malta asking for Mars' boys for his Band, as he had proved them to be good and well-trained lads. William Douglas Davidson, the Bandmaster, served in the Royal Navy for eight years, during five of which he was occupied as Bandmaster.

Composition of the Band:

2 Eb Clarionets, 10 Bb Clarionets, 6 Horns, 3 Baritones,  
2 Euphoniums, 4 Bases, 13 Cornets, 2 Trombones, 2 Drums.



*Player associated with "Mars"  
possibly bandmaster  
or 'old boy'*

Solo Players:

Bb Clarinet, James Duff; Horn, William Johnstone; Euphonium, Andrew Given; Bombardon, Frederick Reinherdt; Cornet, Alex. Lothian.

Music performed:

Balfe	Selection, Bohemian Girl	Round	Fantasia on Irish Airs
Bucalossi	Polka, P. and O.		Pride of Ireland
	Valse, Mia Cara		Galop, The Scout
Bleger	Galop, The Indian Mail		Fantasia, Pride of Scotland
Cooke	March, The Battle of Stirling		Polka, Secret Smiles
Devrey	March, Brave Gordon		Valse, Fond Memories
D'Albert	Lancers, Rip Van Winkle	Smith	Lancers, Belgravia
	Valse, Iolanthe		Lancers, Lights of London
Flotow	Selection, Martha		Schottische, Elsie
Hemmerle	Fantasia-Overture, Art and Nature		Schottische, Good-bye
Hutchison	Valse, Ehren on the Rhine	Seaman	Polka, Loving Hearts
Leconte	Valse, Brunette	Wadson	March, The Red White and Blue
Meissler	Valse, Pierrot		Overture, The Little Gem
Newton	March, The Scottish Flower	Webb	March, Love at Home
Olga	Valse, Livingstone		Galop, The First Shot
			Valse, Pauline
		Widdel	Overture, The Fair Maid of Perth



*Boys of the "Mars", with the band on the dock side*

## **Burton Band**

*(performed July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup> 1886)*

## **Pullar's Brass Band (Perth)**

*(performed August 14<sup>th</sup> 1886)*

*[Formed in March 1881 as a works band for the local family-run dyeing and drycleaning organisation. Conductor F.C. Gorin in 1881-1884. Still active in 1895. Just ahead of the opening of the Perth Opera House in 1881 Robert Pullar purchased a full range of brass band instruments, including two dozen music stands and music sheets for his North British Dye Works employees. The instruments, valued at £300, were presented to the workmen by Robert Pullar and he intended the band would be available for concerts each winter for the new public hall, and in parks in the summer. In April 1895 the band was "gifted" by Pullar's to the town of Perth, becoming Perth Trades Band]*



## **Little Boys' Home, Farningham, Band**

*(performed August 21<sup>st</sup> 1886)*

*[Active from 1869 to the 1900s. Band run at an orphanage at Horton Kirkby, near Farningham. Travelled across Britain raising funds for the Home and making wider*

*known the plight of similar homes across the country - even reaching Inverness in 1890. Conductor William Russell in 1869, H.V. Sparrow in 1906.]*



### **Edinburgh Original Industrial School Brass Band**

*(performed August 25<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup> 1886)*

*[See notes/description, below, for Guthrie's Industrial School Band]*

### **Black Dyke Mills Brass Band**

*(performed August 9<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup> 1886)*

This Band consists of workmen employed in the Mills of the Messrs. Foster at Queensbury, near Bradford, and is one of the principal Prize Brass Bands in the North of England. In 1816 there was a good Reed Band in Queensbury, which was named after its leader, and known as Peter Wharton's Band. The late Mr. Foster, then establishing the business which now so honorably bears his name, was an ardent lover of music, and with the view of encouraging the amateurs, he joined the Band as an active member. His favourite instrument was the French Horn, and the instrument used by him is still treasured by the members of his family.

Owing to removals, and other causes, Wharton's Band became defunct, but in 1833 another Reed Band was established in the district. This Band lasted until 1855. On its beginning to show signs of decay, the Messrs. Foster - who appear to have inherited their father's enthusiasm for music - took the matter in hand. They connected the Band with their works, found employment

for its members, purchased new instruments and uniforms, and engaged the late Mr. Samuel Longbottom of Mixenden to instruct its members. Under this musician's baton the Band won its first honour at the Hull contest in July 1856, when it was awarded the second prize, value £5. Mr. Longbottom conducted the band until his death in 1876, when he was succeeded by Mr. J. Fawcett of Eccleshill.

In 1880 Mr. Alexander Owen was appointed conductor. Selections from Oratorio were favourite pieces with the Band under Mr. Longbottom's conducting, but when Mr. Owen was appointed its master, his experience in Opera music enabled the Band to provide those test pieces which had become more general at contests.

The total value of prizes won by the Black Dyke Brass Band since they gained their first prize at Hull in 1856, including that awarded to them at the Edinburgh Exhibition 1886, is £2,955 13s, of which £395 6s is in value of instruments. These prizes have been principally won in Yorkshire and Lancashire Contests; but honours have been awarded to them at the Crystal Palace, London, and at the northern Capital.



*Black Dyke Brass Band c.1890*

The Band has won the First Prize at Belle Vue, Manchester the head centre of these contests - in the years 1862, 1863, 1871, 1879, 1880, and 1881. For having earned it three times in succession, each member of the Band was awarded a Gold Medal, of the value of three guineas. At these contests Mr. P. Bower, the present Bandmaster, has on twelve different occasions taken prizes for Euphonium Solo, the total value of the prizes being £134 18s. The Band has also sent its members to attend at Glee contests for six instruments, and they have won 13 prizes, their total value being £61.

There is a Black Dyke Junior Band, consisting of young men in the mills, who are drafted into the senior Band as vacancies occur.

### Conductor:

Mr. Alexander Owen of Stalybridge is a well-known Cornet-player, and one of the best conductors of Brass Bands in the Lancashire and Yorkshire District. At the early age of sixteen he was appointed conductor to the Stalybridge Old Band, and afterwards in 1871 he originated the Stalybridge Borough Brass Band. His success with these Bands led to many other appointments. Some idea may be formed of the demand for his services when it is stated that he has at present some twenty Bands under his care.

The following summary of prizes won by Bands under Mr. Owen's conductorship since 1881 was recently given at a presentation made to Mr. Owen by the Stalybridge Borough Brass Band. 5 Bands won 6<sup>th</sup> Prize, 29 won 5<sup>th</sup> Prize, 47 won 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, 58 won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, 84 won 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, 378 won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. On an average 120 Prizes per annum for five years.

Mr. Owen has personally won many prizes for his playing on the Cornet. As might be expected, Mr. Owen has been the recipient of a large number of testimonials and presents.

### Composition of the Band:

1 Soprano, 6 Cornets, 3 Flugel Horns, 3 Tenor Horns, 2 Baritones, 2 Euphoniums, 3 Trombones, 2 Bombardons, 1 Bb Bombardon, 1 BBb Bombardon

### Solo Players

Soprano, J. Riley; Cornet, A. Owen and W. Sharp; Tenor Horn, J. Naylor; Baritone, J. Sykes; Euphonium, P. Bower; Trombone, Sam Radcliffe.

Librarian, J. Fothergill; Bandmaster, P. Bower; Conductor, Alexander Owen.

## Music performed during their visit:

Andrew	Valse, Gloire de Dijon	Rossini	Aria, Cujus Animam (Stabat Mater)
Balfe	Selection, Bohemian Girl		Selection, Mosé in Egitto
Basquet	Musical Extravaganza, Derby Day		Selection, William Tell
Brepsant	March, Mirlinton		Selection, Barbieri
Callcott	Glee, o snatch me swift		Selection, Semiramide
Chassaigne	Selection, Falka		Overture, Italiana in Algeria
Coote	Glee, Hohenlinden	Round	Fantasia, Joan of Arc
	Song, I Dream'd a Dream		Fantasia, Lyric Garland
Dodsworth	March, Aladdin		Fantasia, Pride of Scotland
	Nautical Fantasia, Britannia		Fantasia, Scottish Airs
Godfrey, C.	March, Distant Greeting	Round	Glee, Forest Queen
Gounod	Selection, Faust		Glee (Descriptive), Hail ! Apollo
	Selection, Cinq Mars		Glee, Hours of Beauty
Gung'l	Valse, Hydropaten		Selection, Bouquet of Beauties
	Valse, Zephir Luft		Selection, Homage to Wagner
	Waltz, Casino-Tanze	Schubert	Gavotte
	Waltz, Wendische Weisen		Song, Serenade
Handel	Chorus, Hallelujah (Messiah)	Shore	Glee, o' a' the airts
	Chorus, Worthy is the Lamb (Messiah)	Smart	Part-Song, Good night, thou glorious sun
	Chorus, Amen (Messiah)	Spohr	Selection, Last Judgment
	March, Scipio	Sullivan	Quintet, Sorcerer
Hare	Fantasia, Bonnie Scotland		Selection, Iolanthe
Haydn	1 <sup>st</sup> Selection, Creation		Selection, Patience
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Selection, Creation		Selection, Pirates of Penzance
Hollingworth	Glee, o Harmony	Sullivan	Song, The Lost Chord
	Glee, Here's life and health to England's Queen	Suppé	Overture, Poet and Peasant
Kalliwoda	Selection, Mass in A	Verdi	Selection, Attila
Kappey	Fantasia, Caledonian Bouquet		Selection, Nabucodonosor
	Fantasia, Erin	Wagner	Selection, Tannhauser
Lacey	Galop, Haymarket	Waddell	Overture, Fair Maid of Perth
Lagny	Polka, Jupiter	Waldteufel	Valse, L'Estudiantina
Maria	Overture, Les Fees des Roses		Valse, Pluie d'Or
	Polka, Pistonette		Valse, Chantilly
Marion	Galop, Foxhunter		Valse, Jeunesse Doree
Martin	Glee, All hail ! thou Queen of Night	Weber	Selection, Oberon
Mendelssohn	Grand March, Cornelius		Fantasia (Owen) on Various Melodies
	Selection, St. Paul (1 <sup>st</sup> Part)		
	Selection, St. Paul (2 <sup>nd</sup> Part)		
Meyerbeer	Fantasia, Huguenots and L'Etoile du Nord		
	Selection, L'Africaine		
	Selection, Le Prophete		
Mozart	Overture, Zauberflöte		
	Selection, Il Seraglio		
Newton	Fantasia, Beauties of Scotland		
	Selection, Scottish Favourite		
Owen	Masonic March, Prosper the Art		
	Selection, Heroic		
	Solo Polka, My Friends		
Raoux	Gavotte, Louis		
Reynolds	Polka, The Triplet		
Roder	Valse, 'Love's Dreamland		

## **The Brass Band Contests - 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1886**

This was the most important gathering of Brass Bands that has ever taken place in Scotland, and the judges and others experienced in such gatherings are unanimous in their opinion that there never was a finer contest.

Such contests are not new to Scotland, but they have been held at irregular intervals, and it is only recently that annual contests have been instituted. Of these, that held at Alloa is the most prominent; but Dunfermline and other towns have followed suit, and give fair promise of future excellence. These contests are, however, small compared with those that take place in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and are certainly not to be compared with the great annual contest held on the first Monday of September at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester. The English Brass Bands owe much of their recent increase in number and in proficiency to the Annual Belle Vue Gathering, which deservedly stands at the head of these contests. When the Messrs. Jennison instituted the Belle Vue contests in 1853 there were few Bands in the district, and the instruments used were very mixed. The number of players in each band varied from fifteen to twenty, and there was difficulty in obtaining entries sufficient for a contest. Now this has been all changed. The performers are now provided with first-class instruments, the entries are seldom less than forty, and sometimes fifty, Bands; and as it is impossible to get through a contest of forty competing Bands, the number of competitors is restricted to twenty.

Last July a new contest was commenced at Belle Vue, open only to Bands that had not won a prize at the September Gatherings during the previous four years. There were thirty entries on that occasion, but only twenty were allowed to compete. There were very few contests held when those at Belle Vue were instituted; but they have increased in number every year, and where there was then one good Band there are now twenty, while the contests have multiplied in even a higher ratio.

The membership of the Brass Bands consists almost entirely of working men engaged at mills, ironworks, or in the coal districts, and their Band membership is their pastime. It has been stated that in many of the smaller towns in the Yorkshire and Lancashire district every house has its musical instrument; and, certainly, this is the impression produced upon a stranger walking through any of these small towns. The histories of these Bands are interesting, and they exhibit the same tendency to rise and fall - to become famous, then to fall into obscurity - that is so commonly shown by other musical organisations.

The notice of the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band is a fair sample of the history of the various Bands that exist and have existed. Bacup Band, now defunct, was one of the first competing Bands, and accomplished a feat that has not yet been equaled; it took thirteen first prizes in thirteen consecutive contests (1869-71), in which it had to contend with the best prize Bands. Mr. George Ellis of Blackburn was, in the earlier years of these contests, considered one of the best conductors, and wrote good selections for his Bands. He was conductor of Bacup, Ramsbottom, Accrington, Blackburn Artillery, Grindleton, and many other Bands.

When Bacup Band broke up, Meltham Mills Band took the lead, and between the years 1871-1883, inclusive, it won prizes valued at nearly £4000. One pleasing feature in connection with these Bands is the interest taken by the employers in their welfare. Not merely do they assist with funds to obtain first-class instruments, to get good uniforms, and, better still, capable

teachers, but they frequently find work for good players in order that their Band may be a credit to the district. The attendance at contests is by no means the only work engaged in by these Bands, for they receive engagements to attend gatherings of all kinds, at which their services are greatly appreciated.

### The Exhibition Competition

The Exhibition Competition took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, the Friday's contest being restricted to Scottish Bands and the Saturday's open to all comers. Ten Bands attended the restricted contest, and twenty, including five Scottish Bands, the open contest. Their memberships numbered from twenty to twenty-four, the instruments being, Soprano Cornet, Cornets, Flugal Horns, Tenor Horns, Baritones, Euphonium, Trombones, Bombardons, Bb Bombardons, and BBb Bombardon. In one or two cases the Band Secretaries have been unable to provide a note of prizes won, as no record has been kept of the contests attended, but where this has been done the information appears interesting.

### Results of the Confined Contest

Position		Band	Music	Draw
1	£30	Alva	Rossini's Works	9
2	£20	Coatbridge	William Tell	5
3	£15	Airdrie	Stiffelio	7
4	£10	Alloa	Heroic	8
5	£5	Hawick Saxhorn	Verdi's Works [arr. W. Rimmer]	4
5		Bonnybridge	William Tell	10
		Townhill	Moses in Egypt [arr. Round]	1
		Langholm	Ernani	2
		Dr Guthrie's Industrial School	Scottish Melodies	3
		Galashiels	The Bohemian Girl [arr. Round]	6

### Results of the Open Contest

Position		Band	Music	Draw
1	£60	Besses o' th' Barn	Rossini's Works [arr. Owen]	16
2	£40	Black Dike Mills	Weber Fantasia [arr. Gladney]	5
2	£20	Linthwaite	L'Etoile du Nord [arr. Godfrey]	6
4	£10	Oldham Rifles	Heroic	12
4		Wyke Temperance	L'Etoile du Nord [arr. Swift]	14
		Stocksbridge	Meyerbeer	1
		Bonnybridge	William Tell	2
		South Notts Temperance	Weber Fantasia [arr. Gladney]	3
		Bury Borough	Reminiscences of Rossini	4
		Leeds Forge	L'Etoile du Nord [arr. Swift]	7
		Coatbridge	William Tell	8
		Alva	Rossini [arr. Round]	9

		Old Todmorden	Rossini's Works	10
		Glossop Volunteers	La Favorita	13
		Heywood Borough	Rossini's Works	15
		Wyke Old	Meyerbeer's Works	17
		Alloa Instrumental		18
W		Hawick Saxhorn	<i>(withdrew)</i>	11
W		Workington Artillery	<i>(withdrew)</i>	19

## Judges

**R. Marsden** - Solo Euphonium, Bacup Brass Band, 1863-1871; won several prizes as a soloist. Went to Manchester 1872. Has been Solo Euphonium, Belle Vue Gardens and De Jong's Orchestra. Played at Philharmonic Society, Liverpool, with Sir Julius Benedict and Max Bruch as conductors. Has been a member of Charles Halle's Orchestra since 1873. Also plays the Serpent, and has played the instrument at Charles Halle's Concerts, Manchester; 'St Paul' (Mendelssohn), Philharmonic Society, Liverpool; and in General Reid's March, Orchestral Festival Concerts, Edinburgh. Has for the last twelve years acted as Judge at Brass Band Contests in England, Scotland, and Wales.

**W. H. Locker**, F.E.I.S. is a pupil of Henry Phillips, the celebrated baritone vocalist; was a teacher of music in Birmingham till 1873, and sang at the principal concerts there as a tenor vocalist. In 1873 was appointed Choirmaster, St. John's, Alloa; Conductor of Alloa Choral Society, Alloa Amateur Orchestral Society, and Choral Societies in the district. He acted as Judge at Alloa Brass Band Contests for several years.

**Edward Goodall** - Euphonium player, as a boy travelled with Dr. Mark and his little men, and was principal Euphonium player. Has played with some of the best contesting Bands, such as Accrington and Darwen Rifles. Has won many prizes as Solo Euphonium; was principal Euphonium, Crystal Palace Band; was also a member of De Jong's Orchestra; has acted as Judge at Brass Band Contests for several years.

## The Scottish Bands

### Airdrie Band

Instituted 1819 as a Reed Band. In 1860 Brass Band formed. In 1871 William Donaldson, who had been Conductor for fifty-two years, died. The Band then became dormant for two years. Resuscitated 1872; began to compete 1879; has attended 13 Contests and won Prizes value £60. Conductor: Charles E. Murdoch, joined 72<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth Highlanders 1861; the same year entered Kneller Hall for musical instruction; rejoined Regiment 1866; Band-sergeant 1867; re-entered Kneller Hall for six months; appointed Bandmaster 72<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth Highlanders in 1872. At present Bandmaster 1<sup>st</sup> Lanark Artillery Volunteers.

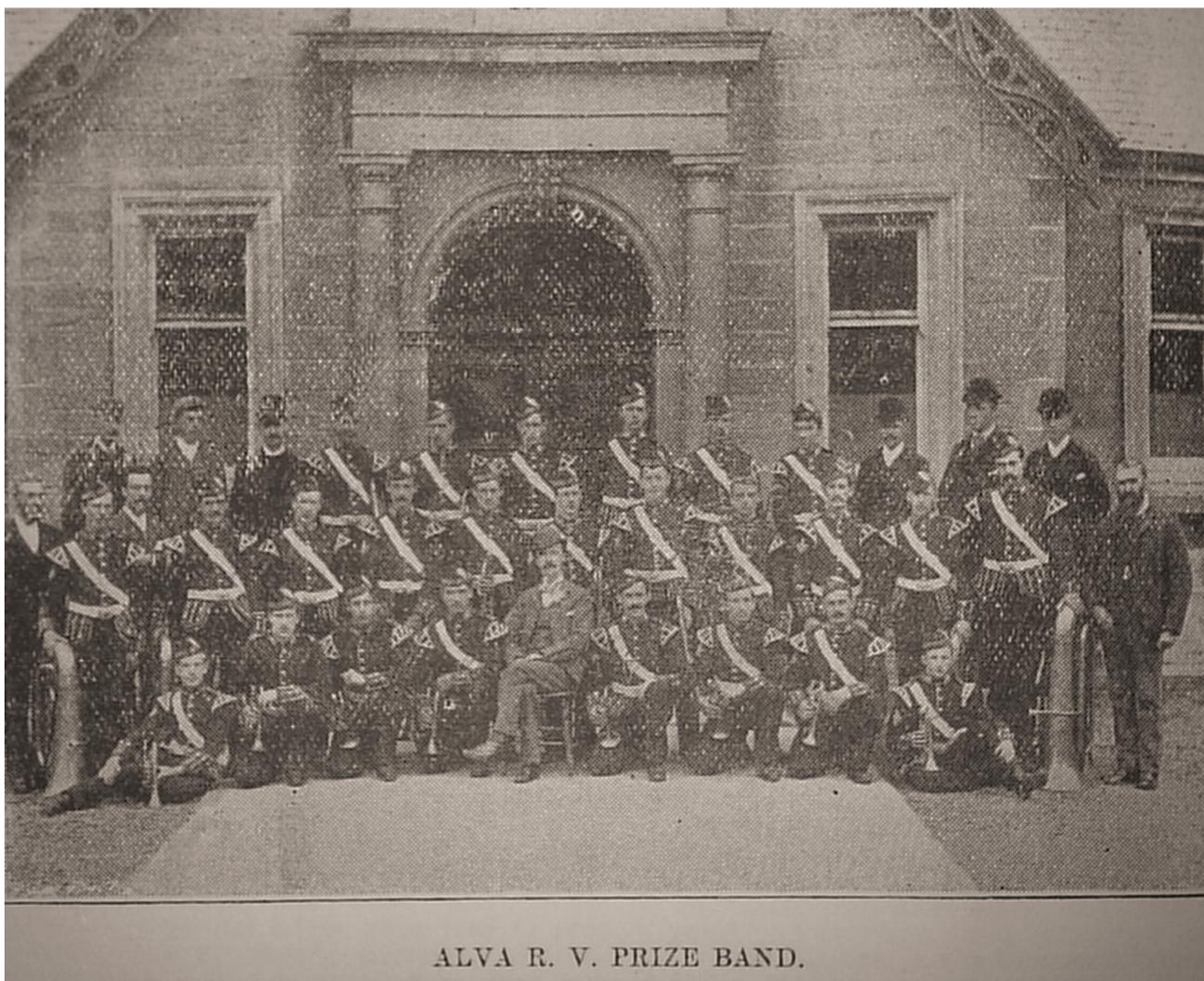
### Alloa Band

Instituted 1875; has won 14 Prizes, value about £200. Conductor: James Jenkins.

## **Alva Band**

Instituted 1871; began contesting 1879; has competed 23 times; has won 20 Prizes, value £316 14s. Conductor: James Jenkins, native of Stirlingshire; played Bombardon in Jullien's Band; was Bass Trombone player at Belle Vue Gardens Band, in Charles Halle's Orchestra, De Jong's Orchestra, and at Philharmonic Society's Concerts, Liverpool; acted as Judge at Brass Band Contests in England. Settled in Stirling 1875, and teaches various Brass Bands.

*[Note: the band was associated with the local volunteers and was also known as the 1st Clackmannan and Kinross Rifle Volunteers Brass Band]*



## **Bonnybridge Band**

Instituted 1878; had been a Reed Band for seven years previously; began contesting 1883; has attended 10 Contests, and won 6 Prizes, value £63 9s. Conductor: James Jenkins.

## Coatbridge Band

All working men, principally miners and ironworkers. Conductor: W. H. Cole, Violinist, Director of Fine Art Institute Concerts, Glasgow; Conductor Dunfermline Orchestral Society; Bandmaster 1<sup>st</sup> Lanark Engineers.

## Galashiels Band

Instituted about 1846 as a Brass and Reed Band; has only attended two Contests. Conductor: William Johnstone, Cornet-player.

## Guthrie's Industrial School Band

*[Marr's description not available – Based at Liberton. Active from 1885. Still active in 1905. Conductor Angus Sutherland. There were 23 boys in the band in 1894. The Ragged Schools were formed by Thomas Guthrie in the city. The school was located in Lasswade Road, Liberton. Also known as Edinburgh Original Industrial School Brass Band. The nucleus of the brass band was formed in 1850 and consisted of 21 tin whistles and a bass drum. Three years later the whistles were discarded in favour of flutes, and not long afterwards the flutes were strengthened by the introduction of brass instruments, from which combination arose the full brass band. The school advertised for a shoemaker and brass band instructor in May 1905, one person to fulfil both roles. The schools eventually closed in the 1980s.]*



## Hawick Band

Has existed for 30 years; has won 10 Prizes, value £125. Conductor: Walter Thorburn; joined this Band as a boy of fourteen years; in 1864 joined the Band of 72<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth Highlanders, and

ultimately became Solo Cornet; returned to Hawick in 1870; rejoined Band as Solo Cornet, and was appointed Bandmaster in 1880.

### **Langholm Band**

Instituted 1856; began contesting 1864; has attended 12 Contests, and won 6 Prizes, value £40. Conductor: William Calvert, at first a Trombone-player, afterwards Cornet-player, was conductor of Choral and Orchestral Concerts in Yorkshire; played at the Orchestral Concerts at Leeds and Bradford; has played with Brass Bands, including Black Dyke; has conducted various Bands; appointed to Langholm Band in 1875.



*Langholm Brass Band*

### **Townhill Band**

Instituted 1877; has attended Contests in district, and taken Prizes value £50. Conductor: James Carmichael, Cornet-player; conducts several Bands in district.

# **The English Bands**

## **Besses o' th' Barn**

Instituted 1823 as a String Band. As a Brass Band entered a Contest in 1868. From 1868 to 1878 took 9 Prizes, value £130. From 1878 to 1886, both inclusive, took 99 Prizes, value £1082 2s. Conductor Alexander Owen.

## **Black Dyke**

## **Bury Borough**

This is one of the oldest Bands, and took the Fourth Prize at the first Contest at Belle Vue in 1853; since that time it has won various prizes. Conductor Alexander Owen.

## **Glossop Volunteers**

Took Sixth Prize at Belle Vue in September 1886, and First Prize at the new July Contest instituted by the Messrs. Jennison in the same year. Conductor: Thomas German; trained in Salford Militia Band; has been Solo Trombone at Belle Vue Gardens for upwards of twenty-four years; has also been for many years a member of Charles Halle's Orchestra.

## **Hanley Mission**

Instituted 1884; has won 4 Prizes, value £49. Conductor Alexander Owen.

*[note: although this band appears in Marr's book, there is no record of its appearance in the contest or in those playing concerts during the exhibition]*

## **Heywood Borough**

Instituted 1869; only recently began to contest; has won several prizes. Value of Prizes won in 1886, £89 10s. Conductor Alexander Owen.

## **Leeds Forge Band**

Instituted 1882; began contesting 1886; has attended 14 Contests, and won 12 Prizes, value £115. Conductor: Edwin Swift, a very successful teacher of Brass Bands for nearly fourteen years. Two of his Bands won Prizes at the last Belle Vue Contest, namely Littleborough Public and Stocksbridge.

## **Linthwaite Band**

Took its first honour at Belle Vue in 1870, the Fifth Prize. Has since taken seven prizes at Belle Vue, 1 First, 1 Second, 1 Third, and 4 Fourth. Has taken many other prizes. From 1873 to 1886 the value of prizes is estimated at £2500. Its present teacher is Mr. J. Gladney, Clarionet-player, Charles Halle's Orchestra. Mr. Gladney during the last seventeen years has trained many Bands, and he conducted the famous Meltham Mills Band during the period 1871-1883, when it won

nearly £4000 in prizes. Three of his Bands won Prizes at the last Belle Vue Contest, namely, Kingston Mills, Heywood Rifles, and Hanley.

### **Oldham Rifles**

Instituted 1865 as a local Band; in 1871 appointed to Oldham Rifles. Prior to 1880 won several Prizes, and from 1880 to 1886 inclusive attended 65 Contests, and won Prizes value £796 12s. Conductor Alexander Owen.

### **Stocksbridge Band**

Instituted 1854; began contesting 1873; has attended 41 Contests, and won 31 Prizes, value £245 2s. Conductor: Edwin Swift.

### **South Notts Temperance**

Instituted 1882; has attended 25 Contests, and won 18 Prizes, value £209 14s. Conductor: George Hames, founder of the Band; plays Soprano Cornet.



*South Notts Temperance Band c. 1900*

### **Todmorden Old Band**

Has been in existence for many years, and has won several Prizes. Conductor: Edwin Swift.

### **Workington Artillery**

Conductor: W. W. Williams, besides being teacher to this Band, is Conductor of the Workington Vocal Union, which gives successful performances of Oratorio.

*[note: although this band appears in Marr's book, it appears to have withdrawn from the contest, although it was drawn to play no. 19]*

### **Wyke Old Band**

Conductor: G. F. Birkenshaw as a boy played cornet at Leeds, was for some time Solo Cornet in the famous Meltham Mills Band; has successfully taught Brass Bands for several years.

## **Wyke Temperance Band**

Instituted 1869; has won 99 Prizes, value £800; has for three years in succession taken the First Prize at the Crystal Palace, London, as the best Temperance Band in the United Kingdom. Conductor: Edwin Swift.

# Glasgow - 1888

Glasgow “*International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art*” in Kelvingrove Park between May and November 1888.



The organisers of the International Exhibition of 1888 took care to ensure that there were popular attractions in addition to more “worthy” exhibits. The River Kelvin provided a natural boundary, with the less serious features situated on the right bank. Popular attractions included a switchback railway (forerunner of the roller coaster), a shooting gallery, a captive air balloon and regular musical performances by bands. Sports events such as football matches, cycle racing and highland games were held in the University Athletics Ground nearby

Each day there were musical entertainments, and a daily programme was printed for the visitors. On the opening day, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1888, the gates opened at 12.30pm, with an organ and band performance in the Grand Hall at 1.30pm, together with Glasgow Choral Union, and the Band of the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders in the North Kiosk, also at 1.30. The Exhibition was opened by the Prince of Wales at 3.20pm and further concerts ensued until the grounds closed at 10.00pm.

International Exhibition,  
GLASGOW, 1888.

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**DAILY PROGRAMME.**

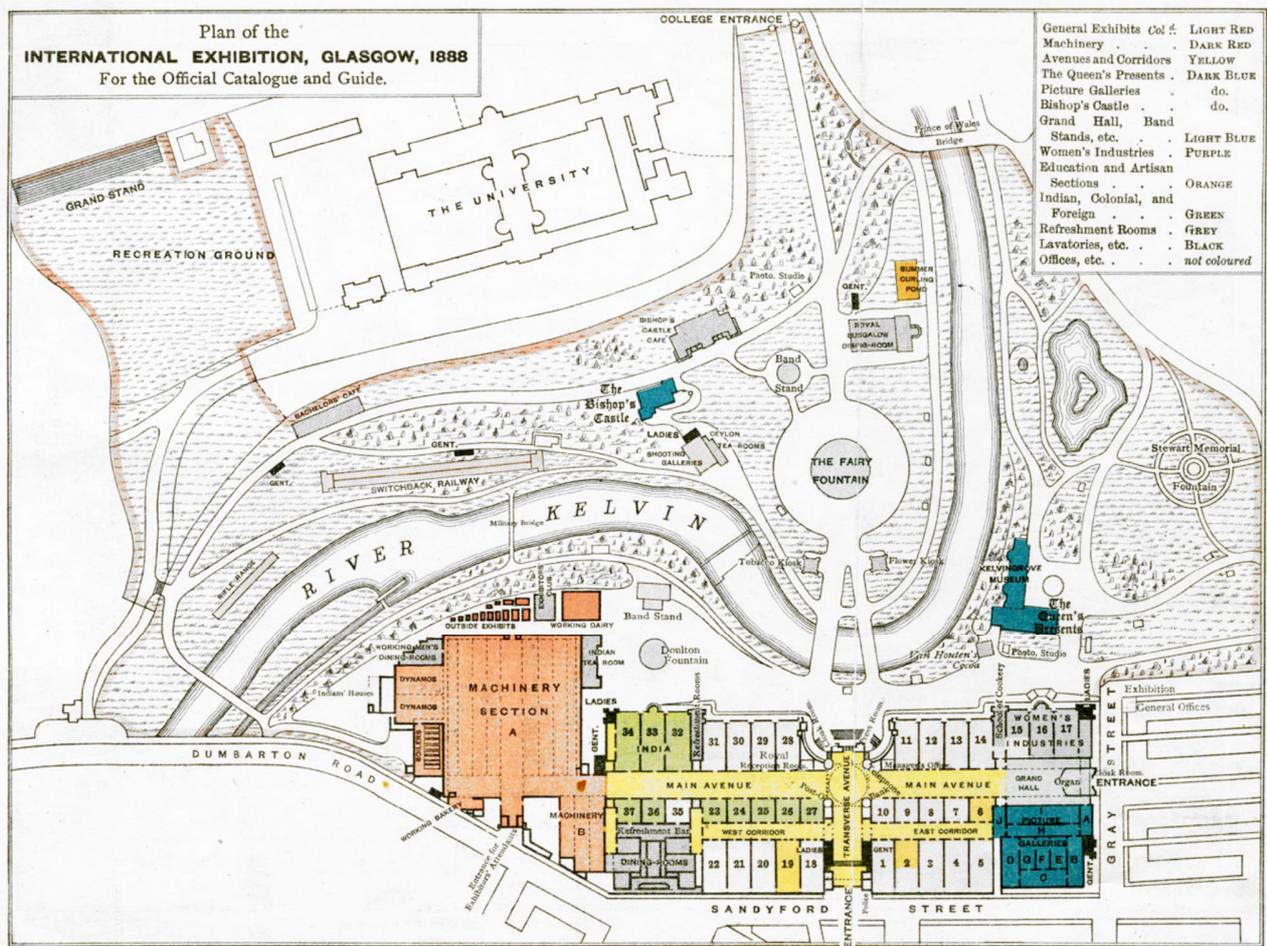
OPENING DAY, MAY 8, 1888.

TIME-TABLE.

12.30 . . . . .	Exhibition Gates open.	
1.30 to 2.15 . . . . .	Organ and Band Performance in Grand Hall.	[p. 2.]
1.30 to 2.15 . . . . .	Glasgow Choral Union in Grand Hall.	[p. 3.]
1.30 to 3.30 . . . . .	Band of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in North Kiosk.	[p. 7.]
2.20 . . . . .	Royal Party enter Exhibition.	
2.40 . . . . .	Opening Ceremony.	
3.20 . . . . .	Exhibition declared open by HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.	
5 . . . . .	Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales leave the Exhibition.	
5 to 6 . . . . .	Organ Recital in Grand Hall.	[p. 7.]
6 . . . . .	Exhibition open to General Public.	
6 to 9 . . . . .	Band of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in North Kiosk.	[p. 8.]
7 to 9.45 . . . . .	String Band of the Royal Artillery in South Kiosk.	[p. 8.]
9 to 9.30 . . . . .	Fairy Fountain.	
10 P.M. . . . .	Close of Exhibition.	

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## Bands which played concerts at the Exhibition

### **Black Dike Mills, Queensbury**

This band consists of workmen employed in the Mills of the Messrs. Forster, at Queensbury, near Bradford, and is one of the principal prize brass bands in the North of England. In 1816 there was a good reed band in Queensbury, which was named after its leader, and known as Peter Wharton's band. The late Mr. Forster was an ardent lover of music, and with the view of encouraging the amateurs he joined the band as an active member. Owing to removals and other causes Wharton's Band became defunct, but in 1833 another reed band was established in the district.

In 1855, on the band beginning to show signs of decay, the Messrs. Forster took the matter in hand. They connected the band with their works, found employment for its members, purchased new instruments and uniforms, and engaged the late Mr. Samuel Longbottom, of Mixenden, to instruct its members. Under this musician's baton the band won its first honour at the Hull contest in July 1856. Mr. Longbottom conducted the band until his death in 1876, when he was succeeded by Mr. J. Fawcett, of Eccleshill. In 1880 Mr. Alexander Owen, the well-

known cornet-player, was appointed conductor. Selections from oratorio were favourite pieces with the band under Mr. Longbottom's conducting, but when Mr. Owen was appointed its master, his experience in opera music enabled the band to provide those test pieces which had become more general at contests. Mr. Owen retired from the conductorship of the band in June 1888, and was succeeded by Mr. John Gladney, who for nearly twenty years has been a well-known teacher of brass bands, and who conducted the famous Meltham Mills Brass Band from 1871 to 1883, when it won nearly £4,000 in prizes.

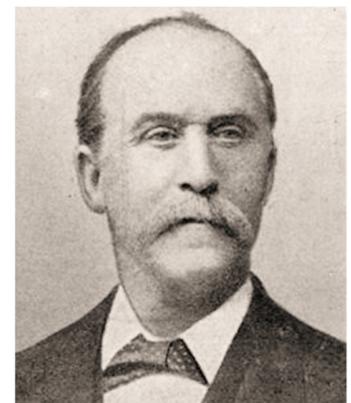


*Phineas Bower*

The total value of prizes awarded to the Black Dike Brass Band since it gained its first prize at Hull in 1856 till August 1888 is £3343, 10s., of which £395, 6s. is in value of instruments. The band has won the First Prize at Bellevue, Manchester - the dead centre of these contests - in the years 1862, 1863, 1871, 1879, 1880, and 1881. For having earned it three times in succession, each member of the band was awarded a gold medal of the value of three guineas. At these contests Mr. P. Bower, the present bandmaster, has on twelve different occasions taken prizes for euphonium solo, the total value of the prizes being £134, 18s. The band has also sent its members to attend at glee contests for six instruments, and they have won 13 prizes, their total value being £61.

Besides attending at contests, the band frequently receives engagements. It appeared at the International Exhibition, Edinburgh (1886), Manchester (1887), and Newcastle (1887). There is a Black Dike Junior Band, consisting of young men in the mills, who are drafted into the senior band as vacancies occur.

Mr. John Gladney, the present teacher of the band, was born in 1839, his father being bandmaster to the 30th, now 1st Battalion East Lancashire, Regiment. He commenced studying the flute in his eighth year, and the violin when he was nine. In 1851 he removed with the regiment to the Ionian Islands, then under the protection of the British Government. He received his first engagement as a violinist in the Island of Cephalonia, playing in Verdi's newly-produced opera, "Luisa Miller." Removing with the regiment to Gibraltar in 1853, he played the flute and afterwards the clarionet in the band. On the outbreak of the war with Russia, he accompanied the regiment to Turkey, but being a civilian was not permitted to go to the Crimea. He returned to England with his father, and at the close of the war his father rejoined the regiment at Gibraltar.



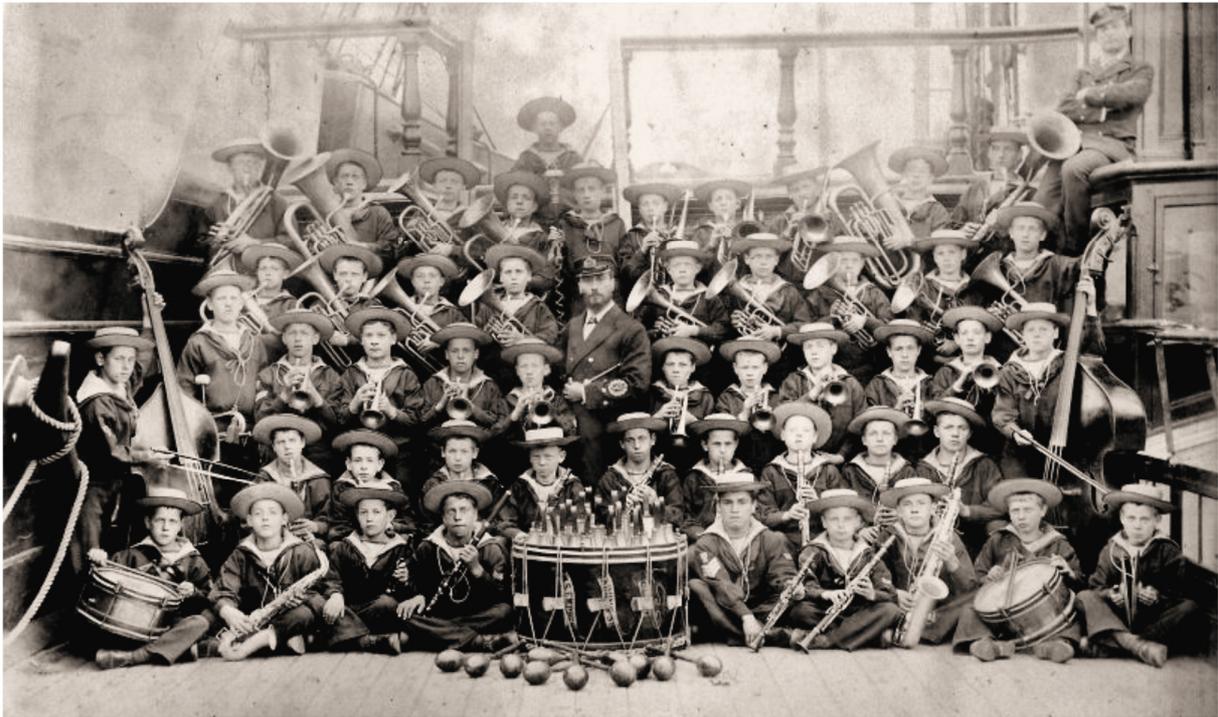
*John Gladney*

Mr. Gladney's parents were desirous that he should become a bandmaster in the army, but he decided to remain in civil life, and returned to this country in 1857. Since that time he has become well known as a clarionet player. He has travelled a good deal with Italian and English opera companies; was solo clarionet and sub-conductor to the band at the Spa, Scarborough; and for the last twenty-eight years has been a member of Sir Charles Halle's orchestra. In 1871 he turned his attention to brass bands, the first being the famous Meltham Mills Band. Since then he has had nearly fifty bands under his care, many of them being prizewinners at the champion contests at Bellevue, Manchester. Mr. Gladney has won thirty-six gold medals at Bellevue, besides many silver ones.

## **“Cumberland ” Training Ship for Boys, River Clyde**

The band of the *Cumberland* Training Ship was formed in 1869. At first it consisted of thirty players, but in 1888 it was largely increased, and now consists of fifty instrumentalists. All the boys are under sixteen years of age. There is a reserve of forty boys kept in training to take the places of those whose time expires. The band is in part "double-handed," a number of the boys being able to play string as well as brass instruments. This training is of great value to them when they join the military bands in the army; and they are in great request, the commander receiving more applications than he can supply.

In the summer of 1888 they received many important engagements, the last being at the launch of H.M.S. *Marathon* by H.R.H. Princess Beatrice. Mr. Howard H. Smith, the bandmaster, received his musical education from Mr. S. Weeks, Mus. Bac. Oxon., and Mr. J. Hale, Mus. Bac. Oxon. He has held the appointment since 1875. Composition of band: 2 piccolos; 2 E flat clarionets; 8 B flat clarionets; 2 saxophones; 1 bass clarionet; 2 'cellos; 2 string basses; 8 cornets; 2 fitigelhorns; 5 E flat horns; 3 baritones; 3 euphoniums; 4 trombones; 4 basses; drum and side drum.



*Training Ship "Empress" Band (sister ship of HMS Cumberland at Helensburgh)*

## **Burton Band**

This band originated with the Volunteer movement in 1859, and is attached to the 2d Battalion Prince of Wales' North Staffordshire Regiment, under the command of Colonel the Right Hon. Lord Burton. At first a brass band, it was, on the appointment of Mr. Twells as bandmaster in 1875, formed into a reed band. From that date it made rapid strides in efficiency, so much so that in 1876 Mr. Dan Godfrey awarded the band the first prize at an open contest held at Northampton. The band has fulfilled engagements in many parts of England, and has played at

the Exhibitions in London, Edinburgh, and Liverpool. Mr. Twells received his training in one of the bands of Her Majesty's service.

### **St Joseph's College, Dumfries**

The band of St Joseph's College, Dumfries, was formed in 1880. It is a brass band, and consists of twenty-eight members, all being students of the College. Although it has to contend with continual changes in its membership, the elder boys leaving school just when they become efficient players, yet, as music forms a leading study in the College, the band is easily resuscitated at the beginning of each session.

When the band appeared at the Exhibition, one-half of its members were either Colonials, French, or Spanish, and fourth-fifths of the members played either piano or violin. Herr Ludwig, the conductor, acted as bandmaster of the 3d Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers with considerable distinction for thirty-one years. Besides the band of St. Joseph's College (with which he has been connected since its formation), he is also conductor of the band of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion King's Own Borderers.



*St Joseph's Brass Band - Dumfries*

### **Brass Band Contests**

Brass band contests received their origin in this country in the Yorkshire and Lancashire districts of England, and they may be said to form one of the results of the great revival which took place in favour of music for the masses about the middle of the present century. Arising from small beginnings, and working with crude material, both in players and in instruments, the movement has grown into huge dimensions; but, unlike choral music, which has spread

itself all over the country, it has received its development principally in the district of its nativity, and it is there that it flourishes most. This is mainly to be accounted for by the fact that the masters of large works, with which many of the leading bands are connected, take a direct and personal interest in their success. They provide the best instruments, engage good teachers, give every convenience for rehearsal, and do not hesitate to find places in their establishments for men likely to become valuable members of the band. Prior to the well-known Bellevue Gardens contests, held every September at Manchester, there were very few, if any, competitions.

On their establishment in 1853 few bands entered the competition, and even six years later the entries were so few that 1859 stands as a year with "no contest." Matters, however, gradually improved, and the entries became so large that a limit had to be made, and twenty bands selected from among the applicants for the contest. Nor is this all.

In 1886 Messrs. Jennison, the energetic managers at Bellevue, inaugurated a July contest, open only to bands that had not won a prize at the September gatherings during the previous four years. There were thirty entries on that occasion, but only twenty bands were allowed to compete.

Among the first bandmasters who contributed to the early growth of the Brass Band Contest movement may be mentioned Mr. Richard Smith, now well known as the popular publisher of band music in London, and editor of the *Champion Brass Band Journal*, which he commenced in 1859. In 1861 the *Illustrated News of the World* gave a full notice and portrait of Mr. Richard Smith, in connection with the great contest held at the Crystal Palace in that year, and of him it said: "He has been justly styled the 'Champion Teacher of Yorkshire';" and the *British Bandsman* of June 1888 gave an appreciative sketch of Mr. Smith's career, accompanied by an excellent portrait of him. He raised some of the best brass bands, and trained over nineteen of them with great success. His Leeds Railway Foundry Band took the first prize at Bellevue in 1854, and his *Saltaire Band*, consisting of workmen in the employment of Sir (then Mr.) Titus Salt, was awarded the first prize at the great Crystal Palace Contest, London, in 1861.

Mr. Samuel Longbottom trained the Black Dike Brass Band, and conducted it when it won its first prize at the Hull contest in July 1856. Mr. George Ellis was at the head of the Bacup Band in the years 1869 to 1871, when it gained thirteen first prizes in thirteen consecutive contests. Other well-known teachers were J. W. Tidswell, James Deacon, G. F. Birkinshaw, senior, John Peel, R. de Lacy, and A. Jackson.

Mr. Joseph Higham, of Manchester, was the first to give instruments as prizes at these contests. He was followed by Antoine Courtois, of Paris, through his agent, Mr. Arthur Chappell, of London; by Mr. Henry Distin, of London; and Messrs. F. Besson and Co., London.

In 1855 Mr. Enderby Jackson commenced a series of contests in the Zoological Gardens at Hull, and organised and carried out successfully many contests in various parts of the country. He threw great energy into his work, and did much to stimulate the growth of contests in earlier years; and it was under his direction that the great contests held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, in 1860, 1861, and 1862, were organised and carried to a successful issue.

As competitions became general, several bands made themselves famous, and they won in prizes amounts that look large and surprising. Perhaps the best instance of this on record is the

case of the Meltham Mills Band, which, during the period of 1871-1883, and under the baton of Mr. J. Gladney, was awarded prizes to the value of nearly £4,000. Like many other musical organisations these bands are not always prosperous, nor do they live for ever. Perhaps no better guide can be obtained to the names of the best bands in different years, and their varying fortunes, than the list of prize-winners at the Bellevue contests.

At first selections from oratorio were favourite pieces, but ultimately operatic music took their place, and continues to furnish the favourite pieces. Twenty years ago there were more prizes offered for soloists — a kind of competition that seems at present to have fallen greatly into the background. They were for cornet, horn, or euphonium, and the competitor had to play an air with variations, which was generally arranged specially with band accompaniment. A competition of bass players took place at the Crystal Palace in 1861, the prize being a sonorophone contre-bass in E flat, with rotary valves. Five players entered the lists, and the prize was eventually awarded to a bass player of the Keighley Band, who played a double B flat trombone of his own invention. The Manchester Guardian said: "This portion of the competition greatly excited the risible faculties of the assembly. The unwieldy instruments, the gruff and deep tones they emitted, the elephantine gambols they were made to execute, and the earnestness of the players, made the scene irresistibly comic."

The most important contests held in the South of England are those that have been given at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. Of these, the series conducted by Mr. Enderby Jackson, of Hull, in the years 1860, 1861, and 1862, are worthy of mention; and they may be looked upon as a landmark in the history of brass band contests. A few details regarding those of the 10th and 11th July 1860, and described by the Daily Telegraph as the first contest of brass bands ever held in the South of England, will serve to illustrate their character, and show the interest they created by drawing together from all parts of the country the best bands then existing. Seventy-two bands entered for the first day's contest, and ninety-eight for the second. Forty-four bands came forward and took part in the first day's contest; they were divided into six divisions, and they played in turn before their appointed judges.

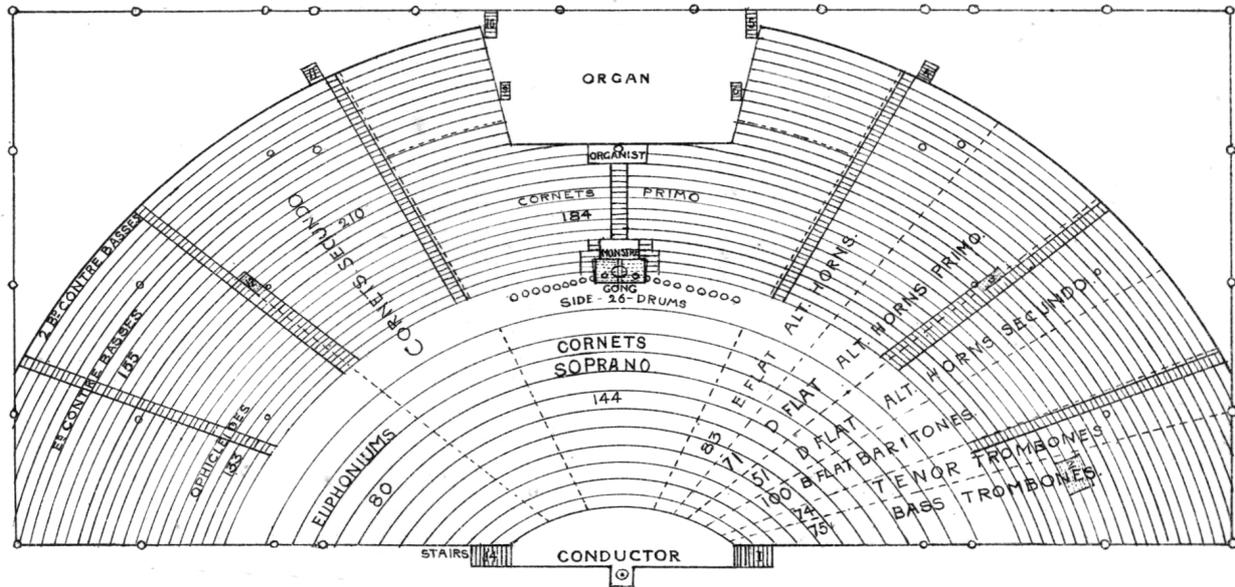
There were eighteen judges, and they presided at six different platforms, as follows:—Platform No. 1, Henry Nicholson, bandmaster to the Duke of Rutland; J. Smythe, Royal Artillery, Woolwich; Mr. Hanson, late of the 39th Infantry. No. 2, Wellington Guernsey; George Loder; H. Rogers, Waterford Artillery. No. 3, Dan Godfrey, Grenadier Guards; H. Schallehn, late of the Crystal Palace Band; J. A. Kappey, Royal Marines, Chatham Division. No. 4, Charles Godfrey, senior, Coldstream Guards; Charles Godfrey, junior, now of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues); William Miller, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade. No. 5, Herr Kcenig, Norfolk Artillery — a brother of the celebrated cornet soloist; William Money, 5th Lancers; M. Hartmann, 10th Hussars. No. 6, H. Basket, 58th Regiment; C. Boosë, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues); George Leng, late of the Hull Harmonic Society. Final Referee, Mr. Enderby Jackson.

The competition commenced at 10 o'clock A.M., and by three o'clock all the members of these forty-four bands assembled in the Handel Orchestra to play a programme, while the judges were deliberating, and selecting the twelve bands, being two from each platform, that were to compete in the final struggle. These combined bands formed what is believed to be the largest band on record in English history. It consisted of 1390 performers, and they were arranged in rows according to their instruments. It was composed of 144 soprano cornets, 184 cornets primo, 210 cornets secundo, 83 E flat althorns, 71 D flat althorns primo, 51 D flat althorns secundo, 100 B flat baritones, 74 tenor trombones, 75 bass trombones, 80 euphoniums, 133

ophicleides, 155 E flat contre-basses, 2 B flat contrebasses, 26 side drums, monster gong drum, and the great organ.

### PLAN

SHOWING THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE 1390 PERFORMERS AT THEIR UNITED PERFORMANCE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE BRASS BAND CONTEST HELD AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE IN JULY 1860. TAKEN FROM MR. ENDERBY JACKSON'S COPY.



This mass of instrumentalists was conducted by Mr. Enderby Jackson. They played "Rule Britannia," "Hallelujah" (Handel), "Wedding March" (Mendelssohn), "The Heavens are telling" (Haydn), and "God Save the Queen." Of this performance the Times said : " The effect of the combined legions of ' blowers ' was tremendous. The organ, which accompanied them, and which on less exceptional occasions is apt to drown everything, was scarcely audible in the midst of the brazen tempest. Nothing less than the new monstre gong-drum,' manufactured by Mr. Henry Distin—to wield the thunder of which required the united efforts of Messrs. Charles Thompson, of the Crystal Palace Band, and Middleditch, of the London Rifle Brigade—could prevail against it. The pieces that pleased the most (perhaps because the best executed) were Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" and the National Anthem, both of which were unanimously encored.

The whole performance was conducted with wonderful vigour and precision by Mr. Enderby Jackson, of Hull, a sort of Delaporte' in his way, who has exerted himself in forwarding the brass band movement among the mechanics, artisans, petty tradesmen, manufacturers, and labourers of the northern and midland counties with almost as much energy and unremitting zeal as M. Delaporte the Orpheonist movement in the provinces of France." At the close of the performance the twelve selected bands appeared in the Handel Orchestra, and there engaged in the final contest before the eighteen judges.

These bands were:— The Black Dike Mills Band, conducted by Mr. S. Longbottom; Saltaire Band, Mr. Richard Smith; Cyfarthfa Band, Mr. R. Livesey (Jullien obtained Mr. Hughes, the celebrated ophicleide player, from this band); Darlington Saxhorn Band, Mr. H. Hoggett; Dewsbury Band, Mr. J. Peel; Deighton Mills Band, Mr. P. Robinson; Witney Band, Mr. J.

Crawford; Stanhope Band, Mr. R. de Lacy; Chesterfield Band, Mr. H. Slack; Staleybridge Band, Mr. J. Melling; Accrington Band, Mr. R. Barnes; and Holmfirth Temperance Band, Mr. W. Roberts. The prizes were awarded to the first five in the order given here.

The proceedings at the second day's contest were similar to those described, with the exception that the Black Dike and Saltaire Bands were debarred from contending, as they took the first and second prizes respectively on the previous day.

Since that time brass band contests have been held at intervals in London. There was one at the Crystal Palace in 1871, when the famous band of the Mounted Artillery, then a brass band, under its well-known conductor, Mr. James Lawson, took the first prize of £50. A proposal to hold one at the Inventions Exhibition, 1885, fell through, apparently owing to there not being sufficient entries.

In 1888 a competition was held at the Irish Exhibition, at which the prizes were awarded thus:—First day—first prize, Wyke Old Brass Band, conducted by Mr. J. Gladney; second prize, Leeds Forge Band, Mr. E. Swift; third prize, Wyke Temperance Band, Mr. E. Swift. Second day—first prize, Staleybridge Borough Band, Mr. A. Owen; Linthwaite Band, Mr. J. S. Jones; Rushden Temperance Silver Prize Band, Mr. G. F. Birkinshaw.

Brass band contests have frequently been held in Scotland, but they have taken place at irregular intervals, and they have no settled home such as the English bands find in Bellevue Gardens. In some isolated cases bands are connected with large works, but the great majority of them are maintained entirely by the men themselves, sometimes aided by a band committee. Their existence may be said to be a fluctuating one, disturbed by conditions in management that cannot arise when they are attached to establishments such as large works; and their membership is seriously interfered with by those variations in trade that occur in manufacturing districts where brass bands generally exist.

The Volunteer movement of 1859 appeared to offer a good opportunity for the formation and maintenance of good brass bands. That, however, only lasted for a short time, as the conductors, who were generally retired army bandmasters, did not rest until reed instruments were added, and had under their control a full military band. Credit is due to the late Mr. H. D. Douglas, musical instrument-maker, Glasgow, who was Field Bugler to the 1st L.R.V., for having attempted to do something for the improvement of these bands while they were still brass bands. He organised contests in 1862, 1864, and 1867 with the view of "increasing the efficiency of the Volunteer and other bands in Scotland."

That of 1864 was probably the most important. It was held at College Green, Glasgow, on 25th June, and was taken part in by twenty-five bands. The prizes amounted in total value to £77. The judges were Herr Weierter, bandmaster, 1st City of Edinburgh Artillery; Signor Operti, late bandmaster, 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars; and Mr. Raskopf, bandmaster, 15th Hussars. The competition commenced at 12 o'clock noon, and the awards were as follows:—First prize — City of Edinburgh Rifle Brass Band, Mr. C. Laubach, bandmaster. Second—19th Lanarkshire R.V., Glasgow, Mr. G. St. Clair Jones. Third—7th Dumfriesshire, Langholm, R.V. Band, Mr. N. Anderson. Fourth —Dumbartonshire R.V., Bonhill, Mr. George Park. Fifth—Hawick Brass Band, Mr. Stephen Teal. Sixth —1st Renfrew R.V., Greenock, Brass Band, Mr. C. Denny. Seventh—25th Lanarkshire R.V., Glasgow, Mr. William Crosbie. Eighth—Auchtermuchty Brass Band, Mr. David Johnston. Ninth—2d Administrative Lanarkshire R.V., Glasgow, Mr. Kyle.

The other competing bands were :---Dunblane Brass Band, Galashiels 1st Selkirk Rifle Brass Band, Newmains Reed Band, Kinnaird Instrumental Band, Gartsherrie Thistle Reed Band, Bo'ness 2nd Linlithgow R.V. Reed Band, Crofthead Brass Band, Glengarnock Reed Band, Shettleston Reed Band, Kilbarchan Reed Band, Camelon Brass Band, Airdrie Old Union Brass Band, 1st Linlithgow Rifle Brass Band, Elderslie Reed Band, 4th Roxburgh Hawick Rifle Brass Band, and Omoa Iron Works Brass Band.

A "Grand Contest March," composed expressly for the occasion by Mr. M. W. Perry, bandmaster, 1st L.A.V., was played by the combined bands, for which performance a "Sensation Monster Drum" had been made; and the whole proceedings were brought to a close by the bands in mass playing the National Anthem.

The next gathering of note was that held at the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on 16th April 1877; and it was the first Scottish contest at which the famous English brass bands appeared. Twenty-three competed, and they were limited to twenty-five performers each. The judge was Mr. Charles Godfrey, bandmaster, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues). The proceedings were commenced at one o'clock by the combined bands, representing six hundred performers, playing the National Anthem. After they had played before the judge he awarded the prizes as follows: - First prize, £60, Linthwaite Band (Yorkshire), Mr. Edwin Swift, conductor. Second prize, £30, Kingston Mills Band (Cheshire), Mr. J. Gladney. Third prize, £20, Meltham Mills Band (Yorkshire), Mr. J. Gladney. Fourth prize, £10, Accrington Band (7th L.R.V.), Mr. J. Gladney.

Two prizes, open only to Scottish bands, were won, the first by the Whins-of-Milton Band (a gold-mounted ivory conductor's baton and a silver-plated and gilt cornet), and the second, for the best euphonium player, to Mr. Joseph T. Lindsay, Coat-bridge Band (a Vienna euphonium). The other contesting bands were: - Armadale Brass Band, Newmains (Volunteer) Band, Whitburn Brass Band, Cumbernauld Brass Band (11th D. R.V.), Fecney Industrial School, Perth; 25th L.R.V., Glasgow; 7th L.R.V., aytonle-Moors; Staleybridge Old Band, Holm Mills Band, 31st L.R.V.B., Langholm Band, Black Dike Mills Brass Band, Jedforest Band, Carluke Old Band, 29th L.R.V. (Airdrie Old Union), Cleland Band, and 10th Forfar Highland R.V. The proceedings closed at seven o'clock by the bands in mass playing a " Grand Contest March," composed expressly for this occasion. Both of the combined performances were conducted by Mr. Harry O'Neil, the famous cornet-player, who is one of the Queen's Trumpeters, and who had the entire management of the proceedings. Following this, the next contest of importance was that held at the Edinburgh International Exhibition, 1886. It drew together many of the best bands in the country, and was pronounced by those accustomed to attend such gatherings to be as fine a contest as they had ever listened to.

Alloa is the only town in Scotland that has the credit of having conducted contests yearly. They were instituted in 1883, and have been visited by several of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bands. Up to 1888 they had distributed over £600 in Prize Money. Dunfermline has been following in its wake, and among other places, where these contests have been conducted, may be mentioned, Airdrie, Armadale, Bonnyrigg, Bridge-of-Allan, Coatbridge, Dumfries, Dundee, Galashiels, Kirkcaldy, Markinch, Maryhill Barracks, Perth, Stirling, and West Weems. Besides the journals already mentioned, Wright and Round's Brass Band Journal (Liverpool) is an organ connected with the movement.

## **The Exhibition Competitions - Brass Band Contests**

*26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1888*

### **Judge - Mr Franz Groenings**

Mr Franz Groenings was born at Bruhl, near Cologne, on 22nd February 1839. He received his principal musical training in the Conservatoire at Cologne, studying theory with Ferdinand Hiller, pianoforte with Woldemar Bergiel, violin with Otto Von Konigslow, organ with Franz Weber, and singing with Professor Böhme; and he was at the same time a member of the choir of Cologne Cathedral. During 1861-62 he studied privately at Paris; in September 1862 he went to London, but ultimately settled at Middlesborough, where he remained for twenty years. He took an active part in the musical affairs of that town; was organist and choirmaster of All Saints' Church, at which he gave various choral and organ recitals; was conductor of the Choral Society and Philharmonic Society, which were afterwards amalgamated under the title of the Middlesborough Musical Union. He conducted the Orpheus Society, the Sunday Band in the Park, and taught various brass bands. In October 1882 he removed to Glasgow on his appointment as musical director at the Royal Princess' Theatre, where, in January 1885, he produced Mrs. W. McIvor Morison's comic opera, "The Uhlans." While in Glasgow he gave concerts of sacred music for the Sunday Society, with a band of about forty instrumentalists. Towards the close of 1885 Mr. Groenings removed to London, where he remained for two years, writing articles on "Musical Pitch," "Key Colour," and other subjects, for the Musical Times (Novello and Co.); scoring for different London publishers, and periodically acting as conductor or chorusmaster at various theatres in London and the provinces. In April 1887 he was appointed conductor of the band at the West Pier, Brighton. He conducts concerts of sacred music on Sundays at Brighton. Mr. Groenings has acted as judge at various brass band contests, including that held at the Liverpool International Exhibition on 24th September 1887.

## **The Scottish Bands**

### **Airdrie**

Instituted 1819 as a reed band. In 1860 brass band formed. In 1871 Wm. Donaldson, who had been conductor for fifty-two years, died. The band then became dormant, but was resuscitated in 1872; began to compete 1879; has attended fourteen contests, and won prizes value £80. Conductor Mr. Charles E. Murdoch, late bandmaster 72d Seaforth Highlanders, presently bandmaster 1st Lanark Artillery Volunteers.

### **Alloa**

Instituted 1875; won seventeen prizes, value about £249. Conductor, Mr. George Irvine.

### **Alloa Colliery**

Instituted 10th September 1881. Conductor, Mr. John M'Beath.

## **Alva**

Formed originally as a military band about fifty years ago. After a varied existence became defunct in 1871, mainly owing to bad trade. Was re-formed toward the close of 1871 under Mr. David Johnston, the present bandmaster of the Dunfermline I1.V. band. A prolonged strike in the weaving trade broke it up, but it was again resuscitated in 1876 under its present conductor, Mr. James Jenkins. Began contesting 1879; has competed 28 times, and won 25 prizes, value £400, 14s., including prizes won by solo cornet-player and euphonium-player. Conductor, Mr. James Jenkins, native of Stirlingshire; played bombardon in Jullien's band; was bass trombone-player at Bellevue Gardens band, in Charles Halle's orchestra, De Jong's orchestra, and at Philharmonic Society's Concerts, Liverpool; acted as judge at brass band contests in England. Settled in Stirling 1875; and teaches various brass bands.

## **Baillieston**

Instituted May 1874. Attended two contests; won two prizes, value £5. Conductor Mr. W. B. Howell; presently Bandmaster 1st L.R.V.; member of band of 92d Highlanders; rose to be band-sergeant; studied at Kneller Hall. Settled in Glasgow; seventeen years bandmaster of the 6th L.R.V. before receiving his present appointment. Teaches several brass bands.

## **Bonnybridge**

Instituted 1871 as a reed band. A strike in the foundry put an end to the band, as many members had to leave the village. Re-formed in 1878 as a brass band; began contesting 1883; has attended ten contests, and won six prizes, value £63, 9s. Conductor, Mr. James Jenkins.

## **Cambusbarron**

Instituted 1882. For first five years could not contest, owing to want of proper instruments. In 1887 had a subscription sale on Art Union principle; realised £190, with which they purchased instruments. Attended Alloa contest in 1888, but did not win a prize. Conductor, Mr. James Jenkins.

## **Coatbridge**

All working men, principally miners and ironworkers. Conductor, Mr. W. H. Cole, violinist, Director of Fine Arts Institute Concerts, Glasgow; Conductor Dunfermline Orchestral Society; bandmaster 1st Lanark Engineers.

## **Fairfield, Govan**

Instituted March 1877. Conductor, Mr. E. Baistow, for twenty years a teacher of bands in England, and conductor of several prize bands.

## **1st Lanark R.V.**

Originally a bugle band, under Mr. Robert Strachan, it eventually took the form of a brass band. At first it acted as band for the second battalion of the regiment, but in 1887 it had

improved so much that it was promoted as band to the first battalion, the professional band which had previously existed being done away with, and pipers taking their place with the second battalion. This was the first contest at which the band had appeared. Conductor Mr. W. B. Howell.

#### **4th R.V. Royal Scots**

Instituted in 1868. Mr. Alexander Mlintock was conductor from its formation till his death in 1887. He was a native of Neilston, and had previously acted as instructor for various volunteer corps in Renfrewshire. This was the first contest in which the band had engaged. Conductor, Mr. George Walker, has taught several volunteer and other bands in the North of England.

#### **Galashiels**

Instituted about 1846 as a brass and reed band; only contested recently; won prizes value £25. Conductor, Mr. Thomas Moore, formerly teacher of Tanfield Lea Band, Durham.



*Galashiels Brass Band c.1900*

#### **Hawick Saxhorn**

Instituted 1858; has won twelve prizes, value £135. Conductor, Mr. Walter Thorburn; joined this band as a boy of fourteen years; in 1864 joined the band of the 72d Seaforth Highlanders, and ultimately became solo cornet; returned to Hawick in 1870; rejoined the band as solo cornet, and was appointed bandmaster in 1880.



*Hawick Saxhorn Band*

### **Kilsyth**

Instituted as a reed band July 1880. Conductor, Mr. James Stirling, late bandmaster 79th Highlanders.

### **Langholm**

Instituted 1856. Began contesting in 1864; has attended thirteen contests, and won seven prizes, value £50. Conductor Mr. William Calvert; at first a trombone-player, afterwards cornet-player; was conductor of choral and orchestral concerts in Yorkshire; played at the orchestral concerts at Leeds and Bradford; played with brass bands, including Black Dike; has conducted various bands; appointed to Langholm band in 1875.

### **1st Renfrew and Dumbarton Artillery Volunteers**

Instituted in 1875 as the Working Boys Brass Band; in 1876 became the Greenock Thistle Brass Band; and in 1880 band to its present corps. The Exhibition competition is the only contest it has attended. Mr. J. Henderson, the conductor, is a teacher of music.

### **Newmains and Cambusnethan**

Newmains instituted 1845; attended nine contests; won six prizes, value £30. Cambusnethan instituted 1870; attended eighteen contests; won thirteen prizes, value £125, 10s, These two bands amalgamated in 1886, but attended no contests until the present one. Conductor, Mr. Robert Booth.

## **New Cumnocks**

Instituted 1860; won three prizes, value £7. Conductor, Mr. John Whiteford.



*New Cumnock Brass Band*

## **Selkirk**

Instituted May 1883; commenced contesting 1887. Attended three competitions, won three prizes. Conductor, Mr. C. Reekie, late of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders band.



*Selkirk Brass Band*

## Results of the Confined Contest

Position		Band	Draw
1	£25	Galashiels Band	9
2	£20	Alva Band	15
3	£15	Coatbridge Band	5
4	£10	Alloa Band	4
5	£5	Airdrie Band	3
		Hawick Saxhorn	1
		Newmains and Cambusnethan	2
		New Cumnock	6
		Cambusbarron	7
		Bonnybridge	8
		Selkirk	10
		Kilsyth	11
		Langholm	12
		Baillieston	13
		1st Renfrew and Dumbarton A.V.	14
		1st Lanark R.V.	16
		Alloa Colliery	17
		Fairfield Govan	18
		4th R.V. Royal Scots	19
W		Rosewell	

# The English Bands

## **Besses o' th' Barn**

Instituted 1823 as a string band. As a brass band entered a contest in 1868. From 1868 to 1878 took • nine prizes, value £130. From 1878 to present date has taken 119 prizes, value £1356. Conductor, Mr. Alexander Owen, a celebrated cornet-player, and well known as a teacher of brass bands.



*Besses o' th' Barn Band, 1888*

## **Black Dike**

Instituted as a reed band in 1816. As a brass band won its first prize at Hull, in July 1856. Value of prizes won to date, £3671, 14s. Conductor, Mr. J. Gladney, a well-known teacher of brass bands.

## Bury Borough

Instituted 1848. Took fourth prize at the first contest at Bellevue in 1853; since then has won various prizes. Conductor, Mr. R. Jackson.



*Bury Borough Brass Band*

## Cleckheaton

Commenced contesting 1878. From 1878 to 1881 attended twenty-seven contests, won twenty prizes, value £165. Resumed contesting in 1884 and 1885; value of prizes won in these two years, £171, 10s. In the following year the band fell off, owing to loss of members through bad trade. In 1888 attended nine contests; won seven prizes, value £70. Conductor, Mr. Hugh Whitham, has been with the band since its first contest in 1878.

*[Note: the band actually competed from 1859]*



*Cleckheaton Victoria Band c.1900*

## Dewsbury

Instituted 1850. From date of formation to 1870 attended 107 contests, won ninety-eight prizes, value £1779, 10s. 10d. Unable to compete for some time owing to want of good instruments, but again took the field in 1887, when they attended two contests and won two prizes. Conductor, Mr. J. S. Jones, was a playing member of the band during the last twenty years; only recently appointed conductor.

## Eagley Sunday School Band

The old Eagley Band, formed in 1848 under the late Mr. Booth, of Bolton, existed about two years, being broken up owing to removal of members. Resuscitated under Mr. Briggs of Darwen; escorted the late Earl of Derby at the Preston Guild in 1851, who complimented them on their playing, as also on their uniform, which is described as having consisted of " silk tall hats and white vests." Again came to grief, and nothing heard of it for some time until Messrs. Chadwick Brothers, sewing cotton manufacturers, organised it afresh, and bore all expenses. It plays once a week in the park belonging to the firm. In 1882 received new instruments, and Messrs. Chadwick engaged Mr. W. Wood of Radcliffe as tutor. In 1887 commenced contesting. Has attended five contests, won four prizes, value £50. Conductor, Mr. N. Wood.



*Eagley Sunday School Brass Band*

## **Great Horton**

Instituted 1877; attended forty contests; won thirty prizes, value £300. Conductor, Mr. G. F. Birkinshaw, was for some time solo cornet in the famous Meltham Mills Band; has successfully taught brass bands for several years.

## **Haslingden Temperance**

Instituted April 1884. Began contesting 1887; attended eight contests, won six prizes, value £52, 10s. Is mainly supported by subscriptions, varying from £5 to 2s. 6d. Conductor, Mr. Charles Woodcock, was a member of the Accrington Old Prize Band, first as a horn-player, afterwards as a solo cornet. Is a teacher of several brass bands.



*Haslingden Temperance Band*

## **Heap Bridge**

Instituted July 1877. In 1881 became connected with the firm of Messrs. E. & G. Wrigley, woollen manufacturers, Heap Bridge—Mr. John Peers, euphonium-player, being engaged as conductor; commenced contesting same year, and won fourteen prizes to date. In 1882 purchased new instruments at a cost of £400, and uniform £120. Conductor, Mr. J. Gladnet, appointed 1887.

## **Huddersfield Rifles**

Began contesting 1887; won three prizes, value £40, 6s. Conductor, Mr. G. Paine.

## Kingston Mills

Commenced contesting 1872; has won many prizes, the chief of which were the first prize at Bellevue Gardens, Manchester, in 1885, 1886, and 1887, thus entitling them to the gold medal for winning the first prize three years in succession. Conductor, Mr. John Gladney.



*Kingston Mills Brass Band c. 1897*

## Leeds Forge

Instituted 1882. The members are all workmen in the Leeds Forge Company's Works. The practices take place in the Forge premises every Sunday morning from 10.30 to 12.30; several others are held during the week. Began contesting 1886. This year won twenty-six prizes, value £305, 5s. Conductor, Mr. Edwin Swift, a very successful teacher of brass bands for nearly fourteen years.



*Leeds Forge Band - 1888*

## **Nelson**

Instituted 1868; has taken various prizes. Conductor, Mr. Job Nutter; has been with the band since its formation.



*Nelson Prize Brass Band c. 1895*

## **Norland**

Instituted 1878. In 1880 Mr. Walter Atkinson of Sowerby Bridge appointed conductor, and he remained with the band until the close of season 1887. Value of prizes won, £214, 7s. Conductor, Mr. George Raine, late solo cornet, Linthwaite Band.

## **Oats Royd Mills**

Originally the Luddenden Old Band, it assumed its present name on becoming connected with the firm of Messrs. John Murgatroyd and Sons, Oats Royd Mills, in April 1864, who undertook to maintain the band, and appointed Mr. Joseph Hartley of Halifax conductor. Attended various contests, but ceased to do so in 1870. On 8th August 1884 present conductor appointed, and again appeared at contests. During the last two years has won twenty-one prizes, value £177, 16s. Conductor, Mr. William Heap; was at first cornet-player with the band; is presently conductor of several bands.

## **Rochdale Amateur**

Instituted 1879. Value of prizes won since 1883, £240. Conductor, Mr. Alexander Owen.

## **Wyke Old**

Instituted 1856. Won in 1888 eighteen prizes, value £260, 16s. Conductor, Mr. J. Gladney.

## Oldham Rifles

Instituted 1865 as a local band; in 1871 appointed to Oldham Rifles. Prior to 1880 won several prizes; and from 1880 to present date inclusive won prizes value £1010, 6s. Conductor, Mr. Alexander Owen.



*Oldham Rifles Band*

## Stocksbridge

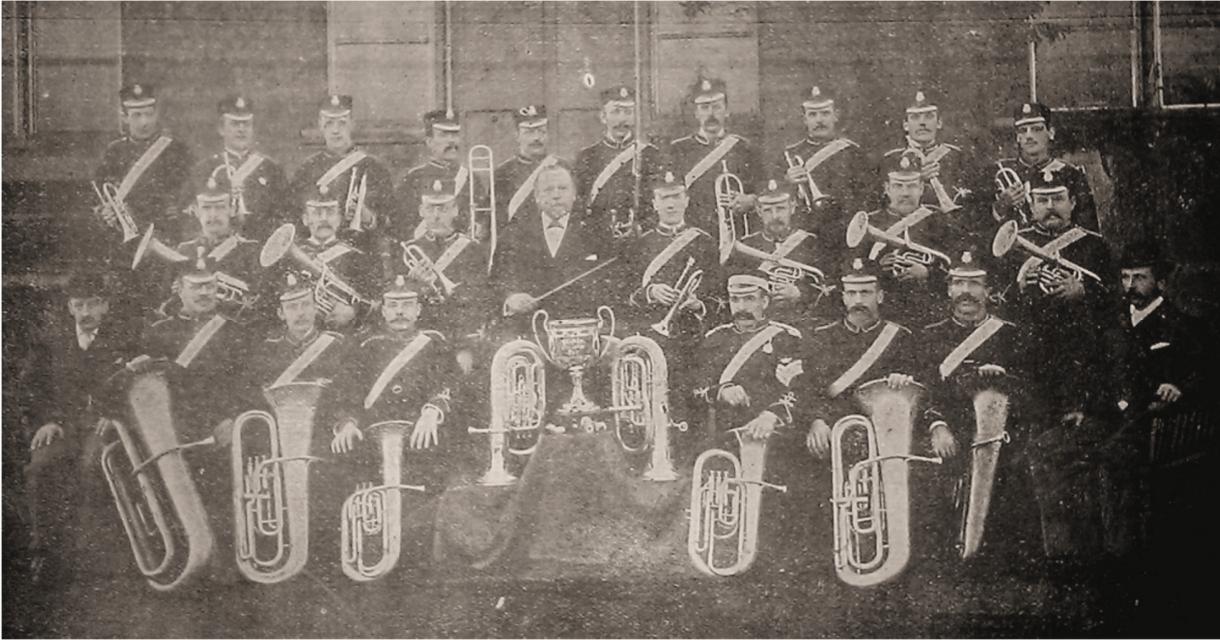
Instituted 1871. Attended fifty-two contests; won forty-three prizes, value £336. Conductor, Mr. Charles Marsden.



*Stocksbridge Band - 1893*

## Wyke Temperance

Instituted 1869. Value of prizes won, £1200. Conductor, Mr. Edwin Swift.

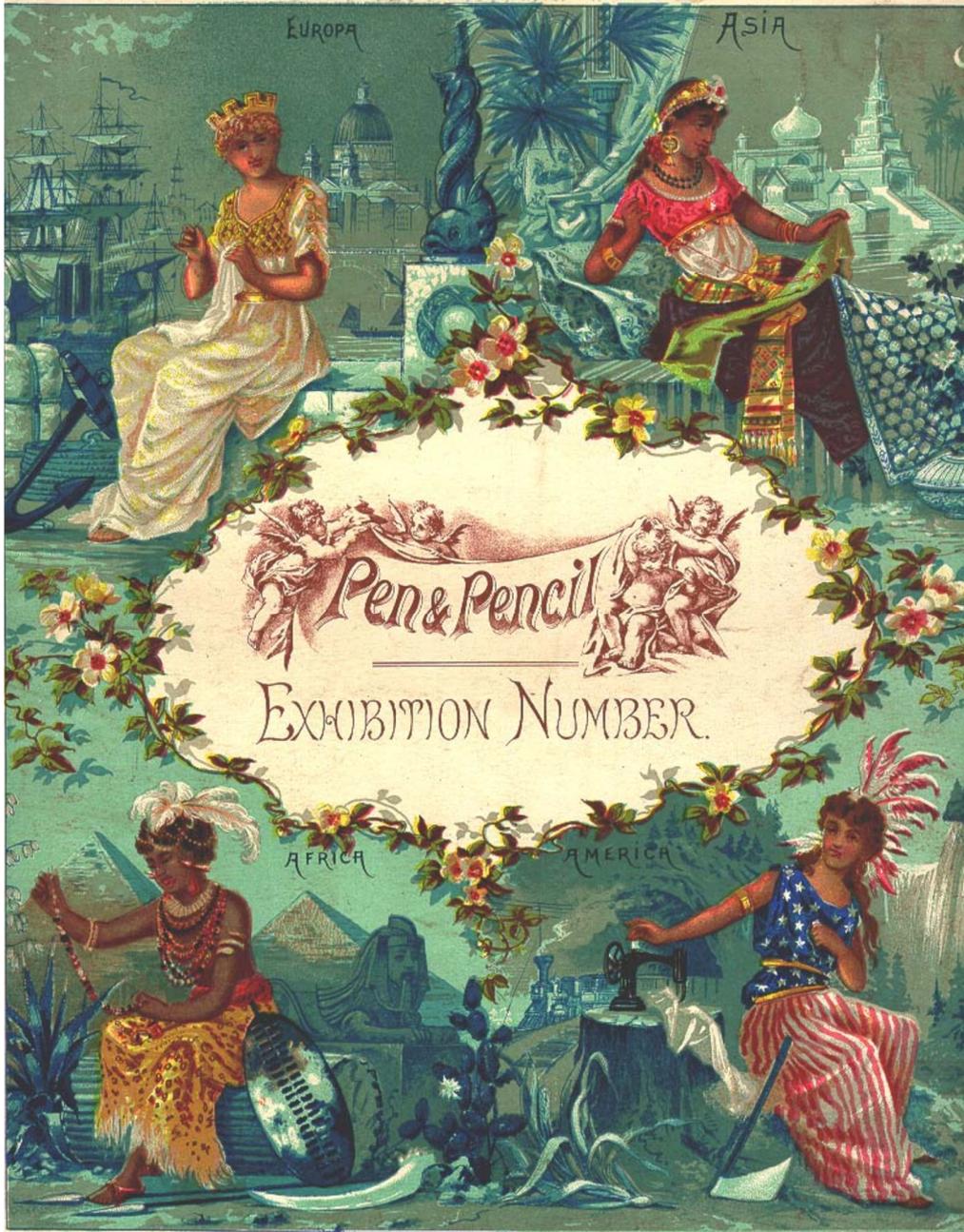


*Wyke Temperance Band - 1898*

## Results of the Open Contest

Position		Band	Draw
1	£40	Kingston Mills	17
2	£30	Wyke Temperance	12
3	£20	Besses o' th' Barn	1
4	£15	Leeds Forge	5
5	£10	Wyke Old	19
6	£5	Oldham Rifles	20
		Huddersfield Rifles	2
		Bury Borough	3
		Nelson	4
		Rochdale Amateur	6
		Cleckheaton	7
		Oats Royd Mills	7
		Dewsbury	9
		Stocksbridge	10
		Norland	11
		Heap Bridge	13
		Black Dike	14
		Haslingden Temperance	15
		Eagley Sunday School Band	16
		Great Horton	18

# INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION



OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE & ART.