

arisen with respect to his management, the London sale was transferred to the Messrs. Longman, with one half share in the property of the work.

During the partnership of Murray and Highley, they had occasional business transactions with Constable of Edinburgh. When the partnership was dissolved in March 1803, it became the duty of Murray to communicate with Constable as to the settlement of the accounts between the firms. In the following month Murray wrote to Constable requesting him to advertise 'Dundonald on Agriculture,' and Dagley's book on Gems\* on the outside cover of the next *Edinburgh Review*. He also stated that he had no objection to Constable becoming the publisher of these works in Scotland. He concluded his letter with the following suggestive inquiry :

*John Murray to Mr. A. Constable.*

April 25th, 1803.

"I have several works in the press which I should be willing to consign to your management in Edinburgh, but that I presume you have already sufficient business upon your hands, and that you would not find mine worth attending to. If so, I wish that you would tell me of some vigorous young bookseller, like myself, just starting into business, upon whose probity, punctuality, and exertion you think I might rely, and I would instantly open a correspondence with him ; and in return it will give me much pleasure to do any civil office for you in London. I should be happy if any arrangement could be made wherein we might prove of reciprocal advantage ; and were you from your superabundance to pick me out any work of merit of which you would either make me the publisher in London, or in which you would allow me to become a partner, I dare say the occasion would arise wherein I

\* Mr. D'Israeli assisted in the preparation of the letterpress of this work.

could return the compliment, and you would have the satisfaction of knowing that your book was in the hands of one who has not yet so much business as to cause him to neglect any part of it."

Mr. Constable's answer was favourable. He was willing to become the agent for any works that Mr. Murray might consign to him, and he would give them his utmost attention. The result was that in June 1803 Mr. Murray sent to Constable & Co. some copies of I. D'Israeli's 'Flim-Flams,' together with a copy for the editor of the *Edinburgh*. In the following August he again wrote to Constable, congratulating him upon the extensive circulation of the *Edinburgh Review*. "I hope," he says, "it will continue its celebrity and prove highly advantageous to all its proprietors. Let me know if I can serve you in London." Murray pushed the sale of the *Review*. In November he wrote to Constable: "I have got five-and-twenty new subscribers since March," and requested that the additional numbers might be forwarded.

In October 1804 Mr. Murray, at the instance of Constable, took as his apprentice Charles Hunter, the younger brother of A. Gibson Hunter, Constable's partner. The apprenticeship was to be for four or seven years, at the option of Charles Hunter. These negotiations between the firms, and their increasing interchange of books, showed that they were gradually drawing nearer to each other, until their correspondence became quite friendly and even intimate. Walter Scott was now making his appearance as an author; Constable had published his 'Sir Tristram' in May 1804, and his 'Lay of the Last Minstrel' in January 1805. Large numbers of these works were forwarded to London and sold by Mr. Murray.

At the end of 1805, differences arose between the

Constable and Longman firms as to the periodical works in which they were interested. The Editor and proprietors of the *Edinburgh Review* were of opinion that the interest of the Longmans in two other works of a similar character—the *Annual Review* and the *Eclectic*—tended to lessen their exertions on behalf of the *Edinburgh*. It was a matter that might easily have been arranged; but the correspondents were men of hot tempers, and with pens in their hands, they sent stinging letters from London to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to London. Rees, Longman's partner, was as bitter in words on the one side as Hunter, Constable's partner, was on the other. At length a deadly breach took place, and it was resolved in Edinburgh that the publication of the *Edinburgh Review* should be transferred to John Murray, Fleet Street. Alexander Gibson Hunter, Constable's partner, wrote to Mr. Murray as follows:

*Mr. A. G. Hunter to John Murray.*

December 1st, 1805.

"Our game with Messieurs Longman & Co. is *entirely up!* What think you of this? You will understand, of course, that it relates to things to come, and not to things past; as there must still remain some intercourse between us (either in a direct or roundabout way) with regard to those works in which we are at present jointly concerned. But all business is at an end between us relating to future publications, to the fullest extent. It would be difficult for me to give you any account at present of this last hurricane or tornado. Suffice it to say that we have some thoughts of copying out the whole correspondence without any commentary, and submitting it confidentially to you and our mutual friend, Mr. Davies . . . Mr. Constable is to write to you to-morrow respecting our miscellaneous order of books from London, which we send for generally once a fortnight or so. I have no doubt we will experience every attention and expedition from you in procuring and