

1-1-1972

More Unidentified or Disputed Articles in Blackwood's Magazine

Brian M. Murray

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl>



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Murray, Brian M. (2014) "More Unidentified or Disputed Articles in Blackwood's Magazine," *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 9: Iss. 2, 107–116.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol9/iss2/4>

This Article is brought to you by the Scottish Literature Collections at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Studies in Scottish Literature by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact digres@mailbox.sc.edu.

BRIAN M. MURRAY

More Unidentified or Disputed Articles in *Blackwood's Magazine*

In my first article¹ I offered information about some eighty articles in *Blackwood's Magazine*, dealing in the main with the period covered by Professor Strout's monograph.² The outline was, to my mind, dominated by the number of hitherto unidentified or conjecturally attributed articles which it assigned to J. G. Lockhart and, to a lesser extent, to the Rev. George Croly. In the present study I examine in some detail the articles of another great pillar of *Blackwood's*, Sir Archibald Alison. Although there are several lists of contributions by Alison in his own books, the number of blanks in the standard authority, *Blackwood's Contributors' Book* (hereafter *B.C.B.*),³ which can be filled by the material from the account books in the possession of the firm of Blackwood is so considerable that I have thought it worth while to offer a statement of them here for the benefit of scholars interested in this field. As *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals*⁴ gives a large number of attributions made by me, under the general heading, "Account Books", I have not included these here, except in cases where the Account Books are the only source of information and the articles do not appear to have been published subsequently in book form.

The material is arranged in three sections:

- (a) attributions for the 1817-1825 or "Strout" period.
- (b) attributions after 1825, excluding Alison's articles.
- (c) articles by Alison.

(a) 1817-1825

July 1819. No XXVIII. Vol V. "Bowles's Answer to Campbell."
(p.387).

1. "The Authorship of some Unidentified or Disputed Articles in *Blackwood's Magazine*," *S.S.L.*, IV (1967), 144-154.

2. Alan Lang Strout, *A Bibliography of Articles in "Blackwood's Magazine Vol I through XVIII"* (Lubbock, Texas, 1959).

3. "Contributors to *Blackwood's Magazine* 1817-1870." National Library of Scotland, MS. 4893.

4. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900* ed. Walter E. Houghton (Toronto, 1966).

Professor Strout assigns tentatively to John Wilson, in view of Wilson's known interest in the Bowles-Pope controversy. Writing to Henry Mackenzie, 7 May 1821, Blackwood remarks, "I hope to have a capital article on this controversy in my next No. by the gentleman who reviewed Bowles' former pamphlet in No. 28 of my Mag: Vol. 5 p. 387". In a letter to Maginn, 18/4/20, he regrets that Wilson "could not do it for this No. as he has been glad to get off to the fishing. . . ." In the event, the article was written by John Matthews (x.p. 227), but I feel the ascription of the earlier one to Wilson should be accepted.

March 1820. No. XXXVI. Vol. VI. "Barry Cornwall's A Sicilian Story." (p.643).

Strout John Wilson (?)

I think this is confirmed by Blackwood's letters to Procter, 18 or 28 March, 1820, and to Croly, 5 April 1822, saying that the review is "by one of the finest poets of the age. . ." and that Procter has been lauded by "one of the finest poets of the age." Blackwood's liking for Wilson and the latter's considerable poetic output suggest Wilson is being discussed.

June 1820. No. XXXIX. Vol. VII. "The Spell Unravelled." (p.290).

This unsigned poem I attribute to Charles Lloyd, who in a letter of 1 June 1820 in the National Library of Scotland (M.S. 4937) submits it.

December 1820. No. XLV. Vol. VIII. "Of the Three Imposters" signed A. B. (p.306)

Strout suggests Alexander Blair (?) but Blackwood writes to Thomas Mitchell 25/12/24, "I also beg leave to send you the new No. of my magazine in which you will find the article you were so good as *favour* us with." This article seems to be the one in question, since "Death of Microsophus and Sale of his Museum" (p. 315) is the sequel to an earlier one. Mitchell, who wrote other articles for *Blackwood's*, may be the classical scholar, 1783-1845, for whom see D.N.B.

February 1821. No. XLVII. Vol. VIII "Meeting of Parliament." (p.585).

Strout: George Croly (?)

I assign to Croly also, since William Blackwood writes to him 20/3/21, stating, "Your former article on the meeting of parliament has been unusually praised."

June 1821. No. LI. Vol. IX. "The Coronation" (p.337).

Strout: George Croly (?)

This is confirmed by Blackwood's letter to Croly (23/6/21): "I received your very interesting and most *seasonable* article on the Coronation just in time for this Number."

June 1821. No. LI. Vol. IX "The Leg of Mutton School of Poetry No. I". (p.345).

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

In a letter to Maginn, dated 31 May 1821, Blackwood says his translations and review will be inserted. The former is "Bacchus, or the Pirates", p.264, and the article under discussion looks the most likely "review."

July 1821. No. LII. Vol. IX. "Howison's Essay on the Sentiments." (p.393)

I assign to the Rev. George Tod, for William Blackwood writes to John Wilson Croker (23/6/21) that "The author of the remarks on Howison is a Scotch Preacher at Montrose . . . Be so good as to return Mr. Todd's (sic) Remarks at your convenience, as I have no other copy of them."

September 1821. No. LV. Vol. X. "Sclavonic Poetry. Zaboy, Slawoy and Ludeck." (p.145)

I attribute this to Col. Krystyn Lach-Szyrma, as under May, 1822.

February 1822. No. LXI. Vol. XI. "Hume, Martin, and Canning." (p.230)

Unsigned. Writing to Maginn, 18/2/22, Blackwood says he will insert an article of his and his introduction to the Wine-Bibber's G'ory, with the additions to Barrettiana. The only possibility as far as the article is concerned would appear to be the present one. Although the publisher may have had second thoughts, the subject and style seem to support the Maginn attribution.

March 1822. No. LXII. Vol. XI. "English Literature in Poland." Signed S. (p.329)

See under May 1822, "Kotzebue's Voyage."

April 1822. LXIII. Vol. XI. "Letter to Christopher North, from a Volunteer . . ." (p.473)

Following a copy of a letter from William Blackwood to John Matthews (25/6/22) is a short list in Blackwood's own hand, totalling the pages of this correspondent's first three contributions and adding "Letter from a Vol. 1½", before noting "Three Travellers 4." This must surely be firm evidence of Matthews' authorship of the "Letter" in question.

May 1822. No. LXIV. Vol. XI. "Kotzebue's Voyage." (p.521)

On 27 May 1822, Blackwood notes in a memo that he has sent "Lights and Shadows" and "Magazine No. 64" to "Mr. Syrma." Then, 24 July, 1823, he writes to J. D. Murphy, "The author of the articles on Poland in the Mag is the author of the work lately published by Constable & Co. His name is Szyrma—he has been here for some time with a young Polish Prince."

I think these references and the subject-matter of this article and the one on "English Literature in Poland" mentioned above indicate Col. Krystyn Lach-Szyrma, for whose publications on topics

of Polish and Russian interest, see the B.M. Catalogue of Printed Books.

June 1822. No. LXV. Vol. XI. "Cambridge Pamphlets - Irish Ball, &, &," signed P.P.P. (London). (p. 735).

Strout: George Croly (?)

I think this attribution confirmed by Blackwood's letter to Croly (22/6/22): "Many, many thanks for your lively, spirited, and most amusing article. I fortunately received your packet just in time, but owing to yours and several other communications coming late, I have been obliged to give a couple of extra sheets this month, I hope you will forgive us for leaving out your paragraph about the literary fund."

June 1822. No. LXV. Vol. XI. "Letter of thanks from an Occasional Contributor." Signed Francis Freeman (p.741)

Strout: Eyre Evans Crowe,

with additions by John Wilson

Blackwood writes to John Galt, 22/6/22, "It is fortunate that Mr. Crowe did not send me the article on your novels, for I have got such an article as I am sure you will like. You will easily see who is the author of the article from the noble fine and manly spirit in which it is done . . ." This would suggest that Wilson wrote the whole thing; his "I believe it is all bad . . ." in the letter quoted by Professor Strout seems to support this.

January 1823. No. LXXII. Vol. XIII. "Public Affairs." (p.43)

Strout: George Croly (?)

This attribution is confirmed by the Account Book, which pays Croly as follows:

"Jan. 30. By Public Affairs No. 72. 8 pages £6. 6."

March 1823. No. LXXIV. Vol. XIII. "Public Affairs" (p.358)

Strout's conjectural attribution to Croly is confirmed by the Account Book, which pays Croly £2. 12. for three pages on this subject in No. 74.

June 1823. No. LXXVII. Vol. XIII. "Criticism". (p.686)

Strout: George Croly (?),

on the strength of the

latter's undated letters

of 1823.

Writing to Croly, Blackwood says 27 May 1823, "After getting the article 'Criticism' in types, I thought it for better not to insert it, as there is that minute(ness) in it which would have led every one to think that it was written by the person who had been so shamefully attacked—and at the same time from this very circumstance it did not state some things so strongly and likewise

so carefully as they could be stated by another. I think you will be much better pleased with the article in the *Noctes*."

Although *Noctes* No. VIII fits in with this, the subject-matter of the article in the June number suggests that Blackwood changed his mind and inserted Croly's Contribution.

October 1823. No. LXXXI. Vol. XIV. "The Unwilling Author". (p.417)

Strout: William Maginn (?)
(Doubtful)

The Magazine Contributor's Private Book pays six guineas to *T. Crofton Croker* for a "communication" for Mag. on the 13 October 1823. This article seems to be the only possibility: the Irish subject would support the ascription to Croker.

January 1824. No. LXXXIV. Vol. XV. "Note on the Quarterly Reviewers" signed C[hristopher] N[orth]. (p.83)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

The Account Book pays Lockhart "By W. I. Controversy NO. 3". for this number, assigning the article 18 pages. As Professor Strout points out (p.116), this "Note" appears to be a tailpiece to the article on "The West Indian" Controversy," which begins on p.68. This article and the one under discussion would make up the number of pages for which Lockhart is paid.

March 1824. No. LXXXVI. Vol. XV. "Letter from a First-Floor Lodger" Signed Wrinkleton Fidgit. (p.251)

The Wellesley Index notes that Strout assigns to Henry Thomson ("Titus") without giving evidence, but the Account Book verifies the ascription.

June 1824. No. LXXXIX. Vol. XV. "Maxims of Mr. O'Doherty, Part II." (p.632)

Strout: Maginn and Lockhart

That Lockhart wrote the lion's share is suggested by the Magazine Contributor's Book, which pays Lockhart for Wilhelm Meister (6) and Maxims (8) for "June 89", the present number.

June 1824. No. LXXXIX. Vol. XV. "Lord Byron" (p.696)

Strout: John Galt (?)

In a memorandum in the Letter Book for 1824, dated 21 June 1824, we have, "Wrote Dr. Maginn with an order on Cadell for 6g on a/c of the article on Lord Byron". This may or may not refer to the article under discussion, but it does make Maginn a possibility.

July 1824. No. XC. Vol. XVI. "Letters of Timothy Tickler No. XVI. To the Editor of The John Bull Magazine." (p.115)

Strout: J. G. Lockhart (?)

Confirmed by the Account Book's payment of Lockhart for two pages on this topic, "By No. 90".

November 1824. No. XCIV. Vol. XVI. "Symbolic Wild Flowers."
(p.517)

Strout, following D.M. Moir, assigns to Caroline Bowles Southey, but the piece was written by Mrs. Christian Isobel Johnstone, of Inverness, the novelist, for William Blackwood writes to her 26/11/24, "I feel much indebted to you for the beautiful verses you were so kind as send me, "The Symbolic Wild Flowers" you will see in this No."

July 1825. No. CI. Vol. XVII. "Mr. Blanco White's Evidence against the Catholics." (p.102)

In my previous article I assigned this to J. G. Lockhart, on the strength of William Blackwood's letter to the latter (11/6/23) praising a fine article on an important subject without naming it. I now assign firmly to Lockhart, since a tailpiece to the above letter (copied in not too easy a hand) declares, "I have no money today being Saturday, I will send you both for this and Blanco Whyte (sic)". The important one would seem to have been deferred or even refused.

(b) Attributions after 1825, excluding Alison's articles.

December 1827. No. CXXXIII. Vol. XXII. "Lettera Seconda" (p.722)

Mr. F. Graham is assigned this, without payment.

"Death Day of Korner" signed F.H. (p.736)

Mrs. Felicia Dorothea Hemans is paid 1½ guineas for this.

April 1828. No. CXXXVII. Vol. XXIII. "The Calm Sea" signed W. J.
(p.499)

William Johnstone's authorship is suggested by the initials and "Mr. Johnstone" of the Account Book.

August 1830. Part II. No. CLXIX. Vol. XXVIII. "The Regatta" (p.310)

"Mr. Ferguson, Be'fast" is assigned this.

"On the supply and exchangeable value of the precious metals"
(p.338)

"Rev. Mr. Edwards" (i.e. Rev. Edward Edwards) is paid for this.
"Noctes Ambrosianae" (No. LI). (p.383)

John Wilson, J. G. Lockhart and James Hogg are assigned
43, 9, and 2 pages, respectively.

March 1832. No. CXCII. Vol. XXXI. "The Ministry and their Supporters". (p.566)

William Johnstone is paid three guineas for this article.

May 1832. No. CXCIV. Vol. XXXI. "The Reform Debate in the Lords".
(p.848)

William Johnstone is paid £6 for seven pages on this topic with
Alison receiving £1 for "Additions to Do."

January 1833. No. CCIII. Vol. XXXIII. "Zephyrs". (p.89)

John Eagles wrote this and was paid 17/6 for it.

April 1833. Part II. No. CCVII. Vol. XXXIII. "On the picturesque style of historical romance". (p.621)

Herman Merivale's authorship is proved by an entry paying "Mr. Merivale, Jun." £5 for seven pages on this topic.

October 1833. Part II. No. CCXIV. Vol. XXXIV. "Life" (p.599); "Home" (p.600)

Both poems are signed "E" and are by John Eagles, who is paid £2 for them.

February 1835. Part I. No. CCXXXI. Vol. XXXVII. "On the removal of some family portraits." Signed C. (p.234)

This is by Caroline Bowles Southey, who receives £1. 10. 0. for this title.

(c) Articles by Sir Archibald Alison

September 1831. No. CLXXXV. Vol. XXX. "On the foreign policy of the Whig administration (No. 1): Belgium" (p.491)

Alison is paid for 15 pages on this topic.

January 1832. No. CLXXXIX. Vol. XXXI. "Remote causes of the reform passion (No. 1)" (p.1)

Alison receives £12 for 18 pages on this topic.

"State of public feeling in Scotland" (p.65)

Alison is paid for this article.

February 1832. Part 1. No. CXC. Vol. XXXI. "French Memoirs." (No. 1) *Revelations d'une Femme de Qualité*. (p.222)

Alison receives 10 guineas for this piece.

March 1832. No. CXCI. Vol. XXXI. "The Belgian Question" (p.448)

Alison is paid for 17 pages on this.

April 1832. No. CXCI. Vol. XXXI. "The British finances" (p.598)

Alison is paid for 24 pages on this subject.

May 1832. No. CXCI. Vol. XXXI. "The great West India Meeting" (p.807)

Alison is paid £7-8-0 for 13 pages on this. (The odd sum is due to his being paid twelve guineas for the article on Dumont's *Recollections* in the same number.)

July 1832. No. CXCVI. Vol. XXXII. "Duties of the Conservative Party" (p.139)

Alison is paid for this piece of five pages.

August 1832. No. CXC VII. Vol. XXXII. "Chateaubriand (No. 2):
Genie de Christianisme (p.263)

Alison is paid for 16 pages on this subject.

"To the future electors of Great Britain" (p.263)

Alison is paid for these 16 pages.

September 1832. No. CXC VIII. Vol. XXXII. "Prospects of Britain
under the new constitution" (p.343)

Alison is paid £29 for this article and "The Spanish Revolution"
in the same number.

October 1832. Part II. No. CC. Vol. XXXII. "Foreign affairs" (p.614)

Alison is paid for 24½ pages on this.

"Revolutionary inroads: the Bank - the Corn-Laws" (p.671)

Alison is paid for 9 pages on this.

November 1832. No. CCI. Vol. XXXII. "The working of the Bill"
(p.824)

Alison receives £12 for 16 pages on this.

January 1833. No. CCIII. Vol. XXXIII. "Future balance of parties"
(p.115)

Alison is paid for 5 pages.

February 1833. No. CCIV. Vol. XXXIII. "Ireland (No. 2): The dis-
memberment of the Empire" (p.224)

Alison is paid for this.

March 1833. No. CCV. Vol. XXXIII. "Ireland (No. 3): The adminis-
tration of justice" (p.338)

Alison is paid for 20 pages on this.

April 1833. Part II. No. CCVII. Vol. XXXIII. "Ireland (No. 4): The
coercive measures-church spoliation - the grand jury system."
(p.561)

Alison is paid for 20 pages on this.

May 1833. No. CCVIII. Vol. XXXIII. "The East India Question"
(p.776)

Alison is paid for 28 pages on this.

July 1833. No. CCX. Vol. XXXIV. "State and prospects of France"
(p.95)

Alison is paid for 16 pages on this topic.

August 1833. No. CCXI. Vol. XXXIV. "On the financial policy of Mr.
Pitt and his successors" (p.179)

Alison is paid for 17 pages on this.

September 1833. No. CCXII. Vol. XXXIV. "America (No. 1)" (p.285)

Alison is paid for 24 pages on this.

November 1833. No. CCXV. Vol. XXXIV. "The First session of reformed Parliament" (p.776)

Alison is paid for 28 pages on this.

February 1834. No. CCXVIII. Vol. XXXV. "Progress of social disorganisation (No. 1): the schoolmaster". (p.228)

Alison is paid for 21 pages on this.

March 1834. No. CCXIX. Vol. XXXV. "Progress of social disorganisation (No. 2): the trades' unions" (p.331)

Alison is paid for 22½ pages on this.

April 1834. No. CCXX. Vol. XXXV. "Progress of social disorganisation (No. 3): the prostration of government" (p.526)

Alison is paid for 21 pages on this.

May 1834. Part II. No. CCXXII. Vol. XXXV. "Attacks on the church" (p.731)

Alison is paid for 12 pages on this.

June 1834. No. CCXXIII. Vol. XXXV. "Present state of parties" (p.883)

Alison is paid for 16 pages on this.

July 1834. No. CCXXIV. Vol. XXXVI. "Dissolution of the Reform Ministry - the Radical rump" (p.82)

Alison is paid for 14½ pages on this.

August 1834. No. CCXXV. Vol. XXXVI. "Results of the triumph of the barricades." (p.209)

This article is by Alison in collaboration with Arnout O'Donnel, with Alison receiving £9 for 11 pages and O'Donnel £5 for 7 pages.

"Fall of Earl Grey" (p.296)

Alison is paid for 11½ pages on this.

September 1834. No. CCXXVI. Vol. XXXVI. "The influence of the press". (p.373)

Alison is paid for 20 pages on this.

October 1834. No. CCXXVII. Vol. XXXVI. "Foreign Affairs" (p.507)

Alison is paid for 16 pages on this.

November 1834. No. CCXXVIII. Vol. XXXVI. "Character of the Reform Parliament" (p.673)

Alison is paid for 8 pages on this and 12 on "The Old Scottish Parliament" in the same number.

December 1834. No. CCXXIX. Vol. XXXVI. "Ireland. (No. 5)"
(p.747)

Alison is paid £6 for 8 pages on this, which seems curious, in view of the length of the article. Since he wrote the previous articles in this series on Ireland, it is likely that this one is by him and that the note on remuneration is a slip of some kind.

* * *

These articles are, of course, only a fraction of these written by Alison, but it is interesting to note how topical and comprehensive is his contribution at a period of great social and constitutional change.

In conclusion, I have again to acknowledge the facilities for research granted by Mr. George Douglas Blackwood and the great assistance of Miss Archibald, who made the work of checking details easier.

Stirling