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was represented by a local politician. Unfortunately Mr. Horsman's representative died, and the power of the "Journal" passed to the remaining members of the management.

This power was used against the offending Mr. Horsman, whose moderation was not appreciated by the "Journal." Eventually he was driven from the representation of Stroud, chiefly through the agency of the "Journal."

#### HARSH TREATMENT

Such harsh treatment of the independently minded Mr. Horsman was resented in Stroud. A meeting of some influential moderate men, who wished to counteract the Radical tendency of the "Journal," was held, and they determined to establish in Stroud a second newspaper.

Thus on Saturday, November 2, 1867, the "Stroud News" was born. The new paper told its readers: "We start today the first penny newspaper ever published in the Borough of Stroud."

"The demand in every part of the Borough for a Journal of an independent character and moderate political views is so plain and loud . . . we feel we are discharging a duty . . . rather than soliciting for an enterprise of our own."

#### FIRST EDITORIAL

The first editorial mentioned the "escape of Caribaldi from Caprena and his appearance at the head of the revolutionary columns in the Papal State."

In the "Local and District Intelligence" there was a two-column account of the Lord Bishop of Gloucester's visitation to Stroud. Another column was devoted to the Annual Services of the Church Missionary Society held in the Trinity Church and the Town Hall. There was also a column report on a public meeting organised by Stroud Baptist Church.

A Stroud labourer was charged at the Stroud Police Court that week of beating and assaulting his wife.

#### CIRCULATION DOUBLED

In its second issue the "Stroud News" claimed a circulation of over 3,000 copies—more than double that of any other newspaper published in the Borough.

The new paper was an immediate success, and seven years later the "Printers Register" wrote of the extraordinarily rapid growth of the "News," and remarked: "It has the largest circulation of any newspaper in the county, it is published on Friday at one penny, and its circulation is increasing every week; it is indeed a bright example of what spirit and enterprise can affect in a newspaper venture."

For some years, towards the end of the last century, the "Stroud News" produced an evening paper called "The Gloucestershire Advertiser and Evening News." This paper, which carried local news from as far afield as Malmesbury and Dursley, also had general news from all parts of the world. It described itself as the "Largest Evening Paper in the West of England."

#### INDEPENDENT

Over the years, right up to the present time, the "Stroud News" has always lived up to the principles of its founders, who in the original prospectus wrote: "As a Political Journal the 'Stroud News' will hold an independent and unfettered position—bold enough to speak irrespective of consequences

when duty demands, and liberal enough to credit all from whom it may differ with honesty and sincerity of purpose."

The rivalry between the "Stroud News" and the "Journal" has been very keen in the past. But now in the 90th year of the "News" and the 103rd year of the "Journal," the two papers are to amalgamate into the "Stroud News and Journal." There is no doubt the new paper will be as vigorous and independent as its forebears.

Continuing "STROUD NEWS"

# STROUD

- ★ *Stroud's First Newspaper*
- ★ *Why the "Stroud News" was Founded 12.4.57.*

**T**HE Gloucestershire Repository" was probably the first newspaper published in Stroud. The "Repository" contained "Fragments, Literary and Political, etc., etc." and it first appeared on Friday, January 10, 1817.

But towards the end of the year, the editor, Mr. F. Vigors, wrote: "As the profits of the publication have not sufficiently remunerated him for the labor and expence of getting it up, and other engagements call for his exertions, he is under the necessity of relinquishing it." The last issue of the

"Repository" appeared on December 26, 1817.

## THE FREE PRESS

The next newspaper published in Stroud was "The Monthly Observer," a small paper of four pages, begun in 1848 under the management of S. G. Bucknall, whose father was a bookseller in King Street. In 1850 the name was changed to "The Free Press," and it appeared weekly until 1856 when it ceased publication.

Another bookseller and printer, Mr. F. W. Harmer, commenced, in May, 1854, the

"Stroud Journal," a weekly paper of eight pages. When Mr. Harmer emigrated to Canada in 1857, the paper passed into the hands of some members of the Liberal Party, and it became the local organ of that party. A Mr. Alfred Higgs became the editor, and conducted the paper with "great partizan zeal."

But as Libby says in his history of Stroud, he cannot altogether acquit the "Journal" of disingenuousness towards one of its principal supporters.

The full story, as Libby tells it, is this:—

Mr. Horsman was at that time the Member of Parliament for Stroud. Horsman was an Independent Liberal, who, on occasions, crossed swords with the powerful extremists of the party. The principal share in the "Journal" was held by Mr. Horsman, but his name did not appear as part proprietor, because his interest in the paper was represented by a local politician. Unfortunately Mr. Horsman's representative died, and the power of the "Journal" passed to the remaining members of the management.

This power was used against the offending Mr. Horsman, whose moderation was not appreciated by the "Journal." Eventually he was driven from the representation of Stroud, chiefly through the agency of the "Journal."

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