

until 1885, when the New York printers, under the active efforts of Douglas Taylor, were brought together. Mr. Taylor, without learning the art practically, had carried it on for twenty years with marked success, although cultivating no specialties. The same abilities that had made him the leader of the Democracy in one of the most obstinately contested wards in New York City when he was but nineteen years of age, and had led him to originate and establish, while still under twenty five, the Manhattan Club, the leading social organization of his political faith in New York, showed him the methods of victory in organization of printers. He reasoned, he cajoled and he threatened (he is a master of all three arts), and all were needed to overcome the indifference of the trade. Few imagined that organization was of any value. The society was at length established, with William C. Martin, an old and revered printer, at the head. St. Louis and Boston followed two years after, and finally Chicago, when the event happened which brought all these societies together and added two score more. This was an attempt on the part of the International Typographical Union to reduce the hours of labor to nine.

The Union had begun in 1850, but remained weak up to the time of the war and through it. After the conflict ended it grew more powerful, and remained so. When England reduced its printers' hours of labor, many compositors and pressmen on this side of the water argued that a similar reduction should take place here. The question was much discussed, and in 1887 the various societies resolved to put their theory into action. They argued that the workingman should derive some benefit from the spread of civilization, and declared that machines did so much of the work of the human race that soon many men would have no work at all. The time appointed was the first of November, and on that day work was stopped in Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Rochester and Louisville. The employers, however, had not passed this menace unheeded. St. Louis requested Chicago to convene a general meeting of printers from all over the Union, to consider what was necessary, which was done. William C. Rogers, at that time the secretary of the New York society, zealously seconded the efforts of Chicago and St. Louis, and a large number of delegates appeared in the city of the lakes on the 18th of October. Robert Harmer Smith, of New York, was chosen to the chair. He was a man of judicial mind, calm temper and perfectly familiar with the questions to be discussed. Under his guidance the convention finally resolved to make itself a permanent organization, to meet year by year, and to adopt the title of the United Typothetae. A constitution was adopted, and various committees were appointed. The title selected for the name of the organization was an old one. It was that by which the Emperor Frederick III. of Germany had characterized the printers of Germany in the year 1470. Meerman declares that he permitted printers to wear gold and silver ornaments. Both Typographi and Typothetae were honored by him with the privilege of wearing coat armor. Peter C. Baker, an old and esteemed printer of New York, was deeply impressed with the title of Typothetae, as thus originated, and he caused the name to be used for the gathering of the New York printers, which took place when they sat down to dinner together on the 22d of February, 1893. This choice of a name proved a happy one, and the New York Society, on the 11th of December, 1883, re-adopted it. Mr. Baker is also responsible for the pronunciation, ty-po-thet-ee, which he thought should be in accordance with apostrophe and many other words, with the

accent upon the antepenult. This, we learn from Prof. Henry Drisler, of Columbia College, one of the leading classical scholars of the country, is really right the pronunciation ty-po-the-te being wrong.

The first meeting of the society was almost entirely occupied in discussing the nine hour question and in preparing a constitution and providing for the future meetings of the organization. It was felt that there should be more intercourse in the trade among its members, and that such intercourse would be valuable. Within the half century preceding this meeting the population of the country had increased nearly fourfold, but the amount of printing had multiplied twelve times. New conditions of things had come, and readjustment of many problems was necessary. The answer to the nine-hour demand of the workmen was that few other trades worked nine hours; that ten hours did not impose an excessive strain upon a man, and that the increased price which it would be necessary to ask for orders in the future would stop a great deal of printing and would inflict actual loss, and perhaps bankruptcy, upon many employers. At present, throwing aside paper, the expenses of a printing-office are about 55 per cent. for labor, and 45 per cent. for superintendence, rent, insurance, power, and many other things which add to the cost of production. To lessen production one-ninth would reduce the cost for labor to about 48 per cent. of the former aggregate, the other 45 remaining as before. Hence, if the loading necessary in the one case were 82 per cent., in the other it would be 91, or one-ninth more, supposing the scale was unaltered. They did not believe the public would pay this, nor did they believe the workmen generally desired it, but that the most of those who had indicated acquiescence had done so to keep on good terms with their more energetic brethren. After this meeting the question did not come up again until the Cincinnati gathering, when Mr. Rockwell, of Boston, Mr. Cushing, of the same city, and Mr. Pugh, of Cincinnati, thought the question should be re-opened. The two former gentlemen argued that, as workmen lived farther from their offices than in 1850, they were obliged to spend more time in transit, which was really an addition to their day's work; as business was more strenuous, and as machines had, to a certain extent, displaced men, it would be right to shorten hours. More attention, probably, would have been paid to their argument, but just at this time a strike occurred in Pittsburg, the men asking for fifty-four hours a week. It was plainly supported by the International Union, although there was no enactment by that body upon that subject. The Typothetae sustained the action of the Pittsburg employers, both in person and by money, although the latter amount was inconsiderable. The strike lasted for about twenty months, when it was abandoned, the hours again being fifty-nine each week. The continuance of the strike formed a potent reason against a shortening, and similar arguments to their former ones, advanced by the Boston delegation during the Toronto meeting, did not receive much consideration. At that meeting, however, the question was argued on its merits, and was not stifled.

The apprenticeship question has been taken up at nearly every meeting. In the largest cities the feeling has seemed to be that it would be impossible to cause apprentices to live up to their agreements, nor would the boys be profitable; but in the smaller cities most of the members felt that much could be done by suitable regulations. Reports were also made on standards of type, and on the point system. It was argued that