

prior receives no compensation for the space they occupy in a book. They are objectionable — 1. The furniture or quotations are constantly needed for other work, and must be returned to their places as soon as a form is placed on the "dead" stone, thus demanding their re-making-up every time occasion calls for their use; 2. They are liable to become battered in general use, thus causing delay and trouble in perfecting a register.

A reliable blank page, and one that will pay for itself an hundred times, is made of thoroughly-seasoned haywood, such as is used for blocking stereotypes. Of course it should be made true, to a mathematical nicety. To prevent smutting, it is desirable to have them a fraction lower than quadrats.

Proof Planers.

Sometimes there are three efforts before a passable revise is obtained. The failures are generally caused by the paper being either too damp or too dry. In the first instance it will stick to the planer, as the felting, if worn, attracts the dampness, or will take such a deep impression that it peels in removing from the type, and in the second case the least steadiness of the hands will disarrange the sheet and cause a blurred impression. These inconveniences may be avoided by covering the planer with sheet rubber about one-tenth of an inch in thickness. A planer thus covered is almost everlasting.

Side and Foot-sticks.

when made of iron, are not so desirable for book work as for news forms. When in constant use and subjected to rough handling they are apt to become more or less bent and notched. Unless the form is unusually close, experience has taught me to give the preference to wood, if the chase will admit them, of sufficient stoutness to avoid the possibility of warping from wettings. A set made of mahogany will last for years, and when they are well worn on the outer edges a few strokes of a carpenter's plane will make them equal to new.

Quoins and Quotations.

Two very simple points will be treated under this head. Both are generally disregarded either from carelessness or ignorance. They are: 1. When two quoins are used in making the lock-up the *outer* should be the larger and driving quoin, for the reasons that a firmer purchase is secured for the shooting-stick, wedging guarded against, less force is required to drive it home, and the side and foot-sticks, if of wood, is protected from "barking," while, if of iron, the shooting-stick avoids "skinning." Proper care of the imposing stone demands that the latter should always be of wood. 2. The *cups* of quotations should be turned *down*—they were made hollow to economize in metal, and are not intended to catch ink and lye.

A Bowed Stone,

if warped on the sides, can be straightened by

driving a few wooden wedges under it at the centre of the ends and keeping it thoroughly saturated with water for three or four days. If warped at the ends, drive the wedges under it at the centre of the sides.

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