

Mr. G. P. B. Fielding, to whom reference was made in the last issue of the *Miscellany* as lying ill, died in this city on Sunday, 23rd ultimo, and was buried in the Rural Cemetery on Tuesday, 25th. Mr. Fielding had been ailing for some time, but his death came more suddenly than his friends had anticipated. He had been connected with the press in England, (of which he was a native) as well as in Toronto and St. John, in Canada, and Boston, in the United States. His principal contributions to the press of America were to the *National* in Toronto and the *Watchman* in St. John, although we have read some very clever squibs and verses from his pen in *Grip*. If we are not mistaken, an occasional paper by Mr. Fielding has appeared in the *Mail*, Toronto, *American-Canadian*, of Boston, *Telegraph*, *Globe* and *News*, of St. John. Perhaps as interesting an example as any of his productions, was a sketch of the Journalists of Toronto, which he wrote for the *Watchman* about three months ago. Mr. Fielding was one of the most thoroughly educated gentlemen in Canada, and had he been blessed with a good physical constitution and greater will power, he would probably have attained to high literary distinction. Though a resident of this city but a few months, and entirely unknown when he arrived here, he found kind friends whose ministrations soothed the last moments of a troubled life. He died aged 37 years, mourned by all who knew him.

Mr. Charles Heavysege, a mechanic by trade and a poet by nature, died in Montreal on the 14th ult., aged 60 years. The *Montreal Witness* says, "Mr. Heavysege came of a Yorkshire family, having emigrated to this country twenty-four years ago, being then a journeyman cabinet-maker. While diligently following his calling he spent many hours that others give to sleep in the study of the English classics, a study which resulted in the production of a drama which received high compliments from the English reviewers, and which was twice published in this country. The author of 'Saul,' the name under which he was henceforth best known to the world, soon left his bench for the position of reporter on the *Montreal Transcript*. In 1860, he entered the service of the *Witness* in the same capacity, and continued in the same service, until failing powers forced him a year or two ago to quit it. Among the works which issued from his pen were in poetry 'Jephtha's Rash Vow,' 'Count Philippo,' and in prose,

'The Advocate of Montreal.' Mr. Heavysege was very faithful to his adopted calling, which, however, was an extremely different walk of literature from that which he would have chosen, as the field for his genius."

We have been shown a remarkably well preserved copy of *The Royal Gazette and the New-Brunswick Advertiser*, vol. ix, dated "Tuesday, October 7, 1794, St. John: Printed by Christopher Sower, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty." The full size of the sheet is  $19\frac{1}{4} \times 15\frac{1}{4}$ , the paper being quite heavy and rough compared with that in use now-a-days. It is made up into four pages of four columns each, the second, third and fourth pages being without head rules, if we except a heavy rule at the head of the first column on the second and fourth pages, which seems to have been used on account of the first and third pages finishing with advertisements. The advertisements, of which there are four columns, and the reading matter, is set in long primer, old style of course. The column rules would seem to have been pieced and are of uneven lengths. With the same material and facilities as were to be had in those days, it is doubtful if some of the printers of the present day could produce such a presentable sheet.

Attention is called to the first contribution to the history of the press in Canada, which will be found in this issue of the *Miscellany*, and for which we are indebted to the kindness of an old printer from Carleton County, N. B., and Mr. P. A. Melville, on the staff of the *Telegraph* of this city. We hope somebody else will place us under a similar obligation for the history of the other counties of the province of New Brunswick. It is to be hoped also that other parts of the Dominion will not be behind in making their contributions to the history of printing in the early days of our country.

We clip the following pertinent paragraph from one of our local exchanges. There is more truth than poetry in it:—

We would observe that commercial handwriting appears to be sadly on the decline, if we take the advertisements sent to the newspapers as evidence. Often these are shamefully illegible, and the wonder is that more mistakes do not occur. The art of writing attractive advertisements as well as the art of writing them legibly needs to be studied. Occasionally it takes a consultation of all the night staff of a paper to find out what some merchant's advertisement means, the handwriting is so very bad.