

WHAT'S A PRINTER.

An old typo gives the following: A printer is the most curious being. He may have a "balk" and "quoins" and not be worth a cent; have "small caps" and have neither wife nor children. Others may run fast, he gets along swifter by "setting" fast. He may be making "impressions" with eloquence; may use the "lye" without offending, and still tell the truth; while others can stand while they sit, he can "set" standing, and do both at the same time; may have to use "furniture," and yet have no dwelling; may make and put away "pi," and never see a pie, much less eat one, during his whole life; be a human being and a "rat" at the same time; may "press" a good deal, and not ask a favor; may handle a "shooting iron" and know nothing about a cannon, gun, or pistol; he may move the "lever" that moves the world, and yet be as far from the morning globe as a hog under a mole-hill; "spread sheets" without being a housewife; he may lay his form in a "bed," and yet be obliged to sleep on the floor; he may use the dagger without shedding blood, and from the earth handle "stars;" he may be of a "rolling" disposition, and still never desire to travel; he can have "sheep's foot" and never be deformed; never, without a "case," and know nothing about law or physic; be always correcting his "errors," and be growing worse every day; have "em-braces," without ever having the arms of a lass thrown around him; have his "form locked up," and at the same time be far from the jail, or watch-house, or any other confinement; he might be plagued by the "devil" and yet be a Christian of the best kind.

At the June meeting of New York Typographical Union No. 6, a reduction was made in the scale of prices. The new rates are as follows:

Morning newspapers, 50c. per thousand ems; semi-weekly and tri-weekly, 45c.; evening and weekly, 40c.

Book work—Reprint, solid, 43c.; leaded, 40c. Manuscript, solid, 50c.; leaded, 47c. Time work, 33c. per hour. Compositors employed by the week, \$19.

A NEWSPAPER is a window through which men look out on all that is going on in the world. With-out a newspaper a man is shut in a small room, and knows little or nothing of what is happening outside of himself. In our day the newspapers keep pace with history and record it. A newspaper keeps a sensible man in sympathy with the world's current history. It is an enfolding encyclopedia and unbound book, forever issuing and never finished. Always bear this in mind, and never fail to take, and, more particularly, pay for your home paper.

A BELIEVER IN A GOOD OLD DOCTRINE.—The following recently appeared in the London *Guardian*:—"A widow, a great invalid, wishes to place two of her daughters, aged 12 and 13 years, under the charge of a lady who would, when necessary, administer the birch rod, as they are exceedingly troublesome.—Terms liberal." That lady, though an invalid, is one of a class of which it would be well if we had more. She believes in ruling her offspring, and not being ruled by them, after the manner which is too common upon this continent.

NEW YORK NEWSPAPERS.

MR. JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS recently delivered an able and elaborate address before the New York Historical Society on the progress of New York city during the past century, in which he gives the following description of the rise and progress of its newspaper press:

The first newspaper in New York was the New York Gazette, established by William Bradford in 1725. During the war the only journals were Hugh Gaines' New York Mercury, Livingston's Royal Gazette and Robertson's Royal American Gazetteer, suspended after the departure of the British. In 1784 the newspapers were the New York Packet and the American Advertiser, published by Samuel London, the New York Gazetteer by Sheppard Kollock, and the Independent Gazette, or the New York Journal, revived by John and Elizabeth Holt, the Independent Journal, or the General Advertiser, by M'Lean & Wester. To-day New York boasts of 444 newspapers and periodicals, of which 28 are daily and semi-weekly, 187 weekly, 22 semi-monthly, 180 monthly, 3 bi-monthly, and 16 quarterly; 32 are in foreign languages, and 99 have a circulation of over 5,000 copies. Of the 10 principal newspapers one has a daily circulation of 127,000 copies; the lowest printed in German, of 30,000 copies. Of the the illustrated papers, one weekly issues 100,000 copies. Of the newspapers devoted to literature and stories, one has a weekly circulation of 300,000 and another of 180,000. One of the religious papers issues 78,000 copies, and one of the monthly magazines, 130,000 copies. The weight of newspapers and periodicals mailed by publishers at the city post-office to regular subscribers for the first three-quarters of 1875, Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, was 17,392,691 pounds, and the prepayment of \$249,952.17.

There are sixteen female compositors on the Montreal *Witness*, who can earn from \$7 to \$14 per week. The office is supplied with a library of over 1000 volumes, which is made up principally from books sent in for review. In addition to this, the hands have organized a glee club, and, what is better, a benevolent fund. The proprietors give each employee who has been in their employ for over two years, two weeks holidays, with salaries paid. They also give periodical literary, musical and athletic entertainments during the summer and winter months. Since the office was established, 30 years ago, it has never admitted into its columns a theatre, liquor, or quack doctor's advertisement.

In Sweden there are 121 printing-offices employing \$35 compositors, of whom 150 are women, 468 apprentices, 165 pressmen, 30 female layers-on, and 259 machine boys. In 95 offices there were 216 presses and 202 machines. Stockholm has 29 offices, with 135 machines. Of the total number of machines, 86 were of Danish make, 65 German, 19 Swedish, 14 French, and 11 English. Of the presses 112 were manufactured in Sweden and 34 in Denmark.

Quebec has an old newspaper, the *Mercure*, founded by Thomas Cary in 1805; his son Thomas succeeded him in 1823, and in 1855 the paper passed into the hands of the latter's son, G. T. Cary, who still conducts it.

There are forty-four daily papers in the Dominion of Canada, which has a population of four million inhabitants. In the Australasian islands, which have something like two and a half million inhabitants, there are forty dailies.

OLD TYPE AND MATERIAL.

We allow for worn out material in exchange for new material, as follows:

Old Type, - - - - -	10 cts. per lb.
" Stereotype Plates, - - -	7 " "
" Electrotype " - - - -	6 " "
" Brass Rules, - - - -	12 " "

In all Cases delivered at the Foundry.

Boxes should be marked plainly to our address, and should also have the name of the shipper marked thereon, and notification of shipment sent in advance.

There are said to be 911 printing-offices in Italy, employing 11,000 persons.

There are 196 printing-offices in Hungary. In the city of Pesth there are 658 journeymen printers (compositors and pressmen.)

A wise move was made by the International Typographical Union at its last meeting. It declared that hereafter in Subordinate Unions it would require a three-fourths vote to carry a strike. This will prevent an immensity of trouble and hardship.

A NEW INVENTION has appeared in England—a patent roller-washing machine, by which two attendants can wash, clean and dry from six to nine rollers per minute; indeed, it is claimed for it that with it two boys can thoroughly wash and dry from 100 to 200 rollers in a quarter of an hour, and that the work will be more thoroughly performed than by hand. The plan seems entirely feasible.

The London *Printers' Register* now occupies a new building of its own, an illustration of which is given in its last issue. It describes the position of its premises as being "in the very heart of the printing world," being at the corner of St. Bride street and Poppin's court, in the immediate vicinity of many of the daily newspapers and some of the largest publishing houses in the city.

We have taken the trouble to analyse the list of members of the London Society of Compositors who died during the year 1875-6. The result would seem to give the impression that compositors are a longer lived race than is commonly thought, though it must be remembered that many die before they figure amongst journeymen at all. The average age of fifty-five members who died during the year was fifty-five years and nearly three months. There were among them two veterans who had attained the ripe age of 84; one had reached 82, and another 81. The youngest on the list, on the other hand, was only twenty-four. Four were over 80 years of age, five between 70 and 80, six between 60 and 70, twelve between 50 and 60, thirteen between 40 and 50, eleven between 30 and 40, and four only between 20 and 30. It would appear from these figures that the period between 30 and 50—and especially 40 to 50—is the most critical stage in the life of a compositor. As may be readily imagined, diseases of the pulmonary organs head the fatal lists, claiming twenty-seven victims, or half of the total number; apoplexy carried off four, and heart disease three; three died from "decay," two from paralysis, one only from fever, two from diseases of the spine, three from tumors. One unfortunate man committed suicide, while another who died from delirium tremens may also be said to have died by his own hand. The remaining eight may be classed under the head of miscellaneous deaths.