

be a *nominal specific license tax*. Under such a law, a minor could not conduct the business of printing for profit. He could not obtain a license to conduct business, and, at the same time, be irresponsible for debts contracted in conducting such business. Minors are not enumerated among those who may be licensed in business—Code of 1873, p. 319, § 1.

Another step toward the suppression of the evil could be taken by discriminating against manufacturers of amateur presses. Several firms making these *bushwhackers* also offer power presses. Let them severely alone and they will appreciate the moral taught by the lesson.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 22.

J. L. W.

A Patent Outside.

The following from the *Norristown Herald* may need a word of explanation to be appreciated by the general reader. A "patent outside" is the technical term applied to many country newspapers, the outside pages of which are printed in the large cities and sold by wholesale. The editor then has only to fill the inside pages with local news and editorial. He stopped his wagon in front of a printing office, entered the presence of the editor and observed: "I have a patent outside——." "Well," interrupted the editor, "that is nothing to brag about. A man who can't afford to print all his paper——" "I mean," broke in the perplexed stranger, "I have a patent outside which——" "Yes, I know," again interrupted the editor; "I have several such papers on my exchange list, and I regard them as a fraud on the reading public. It is a mighty poor town that can't support a paper wholly printed at home——" "I don't know what the dickens you're driving at," exclaimed the bewildered stranger, edging towards the door, "but I have a patent outside on my wagon, an improved washing machine, which I wanted you to advertise, but I guess I'll hunt up a printing office that isn't run by a crazy man."

The style for wedding invitations this season is exceedingly simple, being merely a plain single sheet of paper scantily worded. They are likely to become popular because they cost about \$10 less per hundred than the former elaborate ones, and even the lovewrecked soul of humanity is beginning to appreciate the fact that \$10 will buy a heap of pork and pancakes.

The Newspaper—A Fragment.

The great press slowly moves; its arms are reaching for their strong embrace.

"Stop the press!"

The giant rests again. There is an error of statement to be corrected, or an objectionable article to be withdrawn. The types are taken out and borne away—corpses of dead thought.

Look now again at the mass of type—dead! inert as the earth you tread on. But see! The white sheet has fallen on their upturned faces; the touch of the press has baptised them; the life that was in them has passed upon paper, and the new creation is pregnant with thought—a thing with a soul, for it can stir the souls of men.

That sheet, so blank before, is a living power now. A change has passed over it as marvellous as if in an instant the unwritten face of the boy should put on the furrows of age, the lines of care, the impress of manhood's experience, thought and toil.

Thus the paper is born and goes out into the world. No messenger can overtake it. Its utterance is unalterable now. It may be explained, but not erased. The printed word can no more be recalled than the departed spirit can be wooed back to the cold body which it has left.

Here, now, we have it—the newspaper! Wonderful product of brain and toil! One would think it should be dearly bought and highly prized, and yet it is the cheapest thing in the world. Two or three cents will buy it. One or two dollars will bring it to your home every week in the year. And yet there are men too poor to take a newspaper! They pay five cents for a glass of beer; they can pay twenty-five cents for a circus ticket, or fifty for the theater, yet they are too poor to buy a newspaper—a newspaper, which is a ticket of admission into the great Globe Theatre, whose dramas are written by God himself!

The *Cambrian News* says that at the Merionethshire quarter sessions the rector of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogertysiliogogoch was charged by the Dolgelly local board with obstructing the highway near that town. Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogertysiliogogoch is a parish in Anglesea, near the Menai Bridge, and the *News* adds, it may interest our readers to know that the name we have given is an abbreviation of the full title of the village.