

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

THE PRINTER'S MISCELLANY will be issued monthly at \$1.00 per annum, *in advance*, or ten cents per number. Price to apprentices—fifty cents per annum, *in advance*.

The names and addresses of subscribers should be written plain, in order that mistakes may not occur.

All letters should be addressed to

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The Printer's Miscellany.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER, 1876.

THE Post Office printing of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has been pretty thoroughly overhauled by the press of the Dominion during the past month. It has mostly been treated from a political stand-point alone, the argument seeming to hinge on whether the work could be lawfully done by a member of parliament, without violating the "Independence of Parliament" Act. Now, while the *Miscellany* eschews politics, the matter of public printing and politics has become so thoroughly amalgamated that it would seem almost impossible to separate them, even temporarily, and we feel almost inclined to fall in with the general hue and cry. But, on second thought, we refrain from this action, because we wish to treat the question from a practical workman's point of view.

At this point, it must be acknowledged, we feel somewhat dissident of our own ability to handle this matter as it should be, and almost wish some abler pen had undertaken the task. However, we have the feelings and thoughts of a workman, and we will try and lay them before the "powers-that-be" for their consideration, and, perhaps, edification. At the outset, we feel in duty bound to enter our solemn protest against the action of those in power in trying to centralize everything at Ottawa, for in so doing they have taken away, in this instance, the chance of earning an honest living from a large number of printers, resident in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. No corres-

ponding benefit will accrue to the public, for we contend that the work alluded to can be done as cheaply, if not more cheaply, in Halifax and St. John as in Ottawa, other things being equal. For be it understood, by those who are not practical printers, that the prices paid in Ottawa are on orders for from 50 to 500 reams of one job, while the prices paid in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are for orders of from one to twenty reams at the very outside. Therefore, it could not be expected that the prices would be the same when there is such a difference in the amount of work ordered. Every workman knows, and so should every ordinary business man, that, in printing, the first cost of typesetting and getting-ready is over two-thirds of the whole cost for very short editions. After the type has been set and the form made ready, the only items of expense are the presswork (which is small) and the paper: that is, it costs as much to set the type and make ready the form for one sheet as it would for one million sheets. But, aside from this, we repeat here, that the work could be done as cheaply in Halifax and St. John as it can be at Ottawa, notwithstanding the smallness of the orders, if it were given out, without fear or favor, by tender and contract, instead of being used by politicians to accomplish their own ends. And it is time, in this case at least, that the welfare of the honest hard-working class, should be made less subservient to the mere whims and exigencies of the politician.

The government printer at Ottawa has a full right to the work on reports and the Dominion departmental printing appertaining to Parliament, but he can have no *just* claim on the printing for the post office, customs, or any other department in the several provinces, further than the official reports. The people of these provinces pay their quota of the running expenses of the government machine, and are certainly entitled to have a small share of the money expended among them in the equipment of one small branch of the public service. If this principle of centralization is carried out in its entirety, then our people will have to go to Ottawa, or the United States, to earn their living. The sum of \$25,000 is not, perhaps, much in itself, but, when it is taken into consideration that it is taken away yearly from one small branch of industry—job printing—it swells to enormous proportions.

There is no doubt our *printer* friends in the upper provinces will bear us out in what