

The Sabiston Lithographic Company have sold out their book-binding department to the Gazette Printing Company, and in future the latter concern will handle all work of the kind.

The Monoline machines which the Herald put in some time ago are said to be giving general satisfaction. They are comparatively cheap, and the work turned out, as demonstrated by the appearance of the paper, is satisfactory. Speaking in regard to this composition machine matter, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER had an interesting chat with one of the managers of a well known newspaper who had been giving the matter some consideration. This gentleman had been considering the advisability of putting up some Linotype machines in his establishment. He figured it out that it would cost him fully \$20,000 to fit up his office properly, and, after careful consideration, decided that the saving realized would not pay him for the extra investment. He based his assumption on the ground that it would not pay a morning paper, which his was, unless it had a circulation of over 20,000 to stereotype its issue, and that if he put in Linotypes he would be of necessity compelled to put in a stereotyping plant. This would mean considerable extra expense besides the pay of the workmen, so that the saving in composition, type, etc., did not warrant the extra expenditure. He admitted, however, that under favorable circumstances the Linotype or any other machine allied to it was a money saver, but in his case it was not. With an evening paper, however, or a morning paper above the circulation mentioned, he was strongly of the opinion that it would pay to put in machines.

It is understood that the Montreal Paper Mills Company, whose office is on De Bresole street, and whose mill is at Sorel, is going into voluntary liquidation. The object is to wind up the affairs of the company so as to permit of the amalgamation of its plant and works, etc., with those of another concern, which can be operated with more profit. The present works of the company at Sorel are operated by steam, which is a drawback in the case of competition with other mills in the country, which are all water-power establishments. Hence, it is proposed to wind up the concern, and afterwards combine issues with those of a water-power establishment at St. Jeanne de Neuville, Que., owned by the Messrs. Dupont, which is at present largely engaged in the manufacture of wood pulp, etc. By transferring the machinery of the Sorel works to those, and extending the premises, it is felt that business can be carried on much more profitably, and with this object in view negotiations are in progress. The Montreal Paper Co. is a joint stock concern with an authorized capital of \$50,000, of which \$38,000 is paid up, and of course in the event of liquidation being decided upon every one of the creditors will be paid up in full. Its shareholders comprise some of the wealthiest French Canadian capitalists in the province.

The Metropolitan intends to get out a Christmas number this year, and has already arranged for a lot of special matter, reading and otherwise, from the very best hands. They hope to make this number one of the best of its kind, and PRINTER AND PUBLISHER wishes them every success.



HISTORY OF THE UNITED TYPOTHETAE.

W. W. PERRY.

PRINTING was carried on in the United States as well as the Colonies for 250 years before those who practised the art came together and made the acquaintance of each other. The establishment brought over by Mrs. Glover, which was set up in Cambridge in 1638, the one that Bradford began in Philadelphia in 1685, and those which were subsequently originated in New York, Charleston, New London, Baltimore, and elsewhere, had multiplied from that time till now at a marvelous rate. Every state and every territory had its own printing-offices and its newspapers. Yet, no general meeting of those who practised the art had been thought of ten years ago. The intercourse between Pittsburg and New York, between Chicago and Philadelphia, between St. Louis and Boston, was as slight as possible. No printer in one of these cities knew one in another city, unless by accident, and improvements in the calling might have been originated and been known for years in one before it reached another. This is now changed. Nothing is more common now than fraternal intercourse between printers from distant points, and the gains in methods, the knowledge of speedier or better processes, are very soon imparted from one to the other. Instead of some towns being ten years in advance of others, all are alike nearly on the same line.

There were several local associations of printers before the Typothetæ began. When prices rose with lightning-like rapidity during the civil war, book paper being as high as twenty five cents, and news paper as high as eighteen cents a pound, some grades of letter paper at sixty cents, and compositors on morning newspapers demanding sixty cents a thousand, it was necessary for the employers to meet and to consult together. They did this, and formed associations in Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Boston and New York. Elaborate calculations were made as to what prices should be charged customers, and a reasonable adherence to these figures was maintained as long as gold maintained its high premium. When it began to fall, printers began to cut, and to neglect their associations, and in a few years all were dead. No meetings were held after 1871 or 1872. The permanent value of these meetings was in the calculations which had been entered into as to the cost of work. The results were drawn out in book-form by several of the societies, and to them were added the interest on capital and the necessary profits, as affording a basis for charges. Most elaborately of all, a schedule was brought forth by Theodore L. De Vinne, of New York, then the Secretary of the New York Master Printers' Association, as a price list, and he also contributed much to the typographical journals of the war decade, upon the theory of the business. Prices continued to sink after the panic of 1873, and continued falling until about 1881 or 1882, when they began to stiffen somewhat.

No organization among the master printers was again formed