

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

THE PRINTER'S MISCELLANY is issued monthly at \$1.00 per annum, *in advance*, or ten cents per number.

Price to apprentices—50 cents per annum, *in advance*.

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

All letters should be addressed to

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The Printer's Miscellany.

ST. JOHN, N. B., CANADA, APRIL, 1877.

To the Workman.

Our Philadelphia correspondent, in one of his letters, recently touched upon a subject which should claim more than a passing thought from every intelligent printer in Canada, as well as in the United States. He says, in effect, that of all the papers started in the interest of printers, not a single one remains that fully and truly reflects their sentiments and feelings. All those "advocating the interests and up-building of the craft" having, in his opinion, passed under the dominion of the employers. How far this may be true or untrue, and to what extent the humiliating position at present occupied by the workman, has been brought about through this agency, we have no exact information at hand to enable us to determine. But, from a perusal of the various papers purporting to represent the craft, we would be led to pronounce that the statement was not far from the truth.

Now if this is the case, we ask all intelligent practical printers, what is the cause? Why is it that their periodicals, started to represent the workman solely, are so quickly absorbed and made subservient to the interests of the employer? Let the workmen consider the matter seriously but for a moment, and we feel assured that they will be able to find an answer

to this question which so vitally affects their social standing. It might also be asked, have the printers any just cause of complaint if such a change has taken place in the journals referred to? Have they, individually and collectively, given the projectors of such periodicals that hearty encouragement and substantial support they had a right to expect from such an intelligent class as printers are generally supposed to be? Have they, as a body, placed themselves in such a position as to demand and expect that moral support which journals, faithfully representing them, could and should at all times be ready to give, and of which they, as a class, sometimes stand sorely in need? Do they so contribute to the income of their journals as to render it unnecessary for their projectors to look to other and foreign sources for the necessary funds to meet the ordinary running expenses of publication? Surely the laborer is worthy of his hire. Surely a publication in their sole interest is entitled to a modicum of support, and should be made independent of all foreign influences whatever. But what is the case? There is not to our knowledge, on this continent, at least, a periodical purporting to represent the practical printer, that will yield its owner a fair living, leaving out of the question the support received from outside sources. How, then, can they expect that their representative paper will be edited and printed in a manner befitting the craft, to say nothing of its being a paper that should be a power in the land for good, and one that should be able and willing to defend them from all comers? All that we have had the pleasure of perusing thus far, are carried on in connection with agencies for printing materials, etc., which, we must add, is nothing to their detriment, but rather goes to show that printers are "backward in coming forward" with the small pittance necessary for the endowment of their class papers. If every printer would but recognize his responsibility for a small contribution—one dollar a year, or two cents a week, with an occasional letter—in aid of his favorite publication, there is not the slightest doubt that they would have one in every respect befitting the fraternity, but also one the like of which has never yet been seen.

We have started out with the experiment of publishing a printer's periodical, independent from any agency whatever. It remains to be seen whether such a thing can be done or not. We shall be extremely sorry if we have to fall