

It is to the effect that as he calls his place "Headquarters," a well known stenographer who is not an author, has proposed to open an establishment and call it "Hind-quarters," while an existing establishment is called "No-quarters"—the latter having the double signification that the transactions are never so large as to require any coin but nickle, and that "no quarter" is allowed to any other system. This is a fair illustration of the keen competition that exists. We know of nothing like it in any other part of the continent, notwithstanding that *Brown's Monthly* sometimes protests vigorously against the throat-cutting practice of the Chicago fraternity.

#### THE TYPE-WRITER BUSINESS.

The firm of Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict, organized last August, are doing a rushing trade in type-writers,—the sales being confined almost exclusively to the number two "Standard." Mr. Seamans is the resident representative, and manages the manifold details of an intricate business with marvelous tact, promptitude and exactness. It would have been but little trouble "to make an editor outen o' him," for he possesses in a marked degree the necessary "cheerfulness, courage and vim," besides being able to "keep things in apple-pie order, and do half a dozen at once." He keeps three lady "typers" busily engaged with dictated letters, circulars, etc., and yet personally supervises all the details of sales, shipments, repairs, etc. Looking at a photograph taken a year ago we should judge him to be a man of thirty-five, but since then he has stepped back into life half a score of years apparently, owing to the sudden and unaccountable loss of every vestige of hair from his face. The doctors are puzzled over the case, having never seen anything like it, but Mr. Seamans does not seem to worry over it. Mr. Wyckoff and Mr. Benedict are now, as they have been for many months, busily engaged in organizing their American agencies. Mr. W. is a man of the jovial type, with immense powers of endurance. His manner is very affable, and his organizing faculty peculiarly strong, hence the great success with which he met in his profession as stenographer, from which he has now retired in order to give his whole time and attention to the type-writer business. He was agent for the type-writer in Central New York while resident in Ithaca, and made more sales by far than any other agent. The story was told us last summer that at Remington's headquarters a complete model of a type-writer on an altogether new plan had been put out of harm's

way on the shelves of the establishment. There seems to be no foundation for this story. All the suggestions that have been made for the improvement of the type-writer have been adopted when found really valuable, and though there are other machines in course of invention which introduce new applications of principles, the type-writer of to-day may be taken as the sum of practicable invention in this direction to date. In this connection we may add that several improvements were first tested and then suggested by Mr. Wyckoff, and incorporated with the machine now on the market.

#### THE WRITING MACHINE ENTHUSIAST.

We had the good fortune of meeting and conversing with Mr. Charles Densmore, who spent \$13,000 in money, and five years in time, to produce the first working model of a type-writing machine. He has been intimately connected and identified with writing machines from their inception, and contributed what the inventors lacked in capital and patience. Let us honor the ingenious inventors who spare neither brain nor hand in the endeavor to produce a mechanical substitute for the pen and copying press; but equal honor is due to the man who stands behind and furnishes the means for the testing and perfecting of the innumerable and intricate parts. It is easy to grow enthusiastic on the manifold merits of the machine which has rendered such aid to our profession; but few men can bear the strain upon nerve and pocket of failure after failure as Mr. Densmore did. His faith in the future of the type-writer was unbounded, and no one will grudge him the satisfaction of pecuniary profits which he now enjoys from the successful completion of his plans. He is now retired from active pursuits, but still takes a lively interest in the caligraph and the type-writer, from both of which he draws royalties. The statement having been made in Canada that Mr. Yost, the manager of the caligraph company, was the inventor of the type-writer and had developed the caligraph as the superior instrument, we asked Mr. Densmore what Mr. Yost's connection with the type-writer had been, and in reply he wrote the following list upon a slip of paper, remarking that these names of the inventors of the type-writer were placed in the order of time.—C. Latham Sholes, Samuel W. Soule, Carlos Gliddon, Matthias Schwalbach, Walter J. Barron, Ernest R. Barron, Jefferson M. Clough, William R. Jenne, George W. N. Yost, Lucian S. Crandall, Byron A. Brooks. Mr. Brooks invented the