

inquired, his curiosity quite overcoming his discretion.

"From Chicago. Me 'n pardner has been taking a little promenade. We had a good sit there, but we got a little airy and they lifted us. We got clean dead broke, and had to hoof it all the way. We were going to Boston, but when pardner struck this town he said it pleased him, and we kinder concluded to reform and settle down, you know."

This frank confession helped matters a good deal. The men seemed willing to work, and the foreman found them able. Besides, he needed them. There was some faint whispering among the handsomely dressed and orderly compositors when the couple first made their appearance, but the men speedily began to remove any objectionable features. During the first week, however, they did not resume, owing to a presumable absence of funds, that quality which well-to-do printers are wont to wear. But the second week the short man blossomed into a red flannel shirt, which was gorgeous. "It ain't so heating as linen, you know, boys," he said, apologetically. Then both men had new shoes. Then they went rapidly on from better to better. The editor's two dollars were faithfully returned. Candor compels him to add that the short man said, in a patronizing vein, "I thought I'd hurry and give it back to you, for I know you editors haven't got any more money 'n you know what to do with." This was gratifying. One day, as summer was melting into autumn, the editor saw in the composing-room two richly-appareled men, in whom he had some difficulty in recognizing his shabby friends of some time since. They had attained financial ease, and were at that moment informing the foreman that they couldn't work that evening, and would put on "subs." They were going to indulge in a carriage drive to a suburb. "Must enjoy this weather, boys, you know," said the short man; "it's awful nice."

The next day the office was crowded with rumors of their exploits. Filled with seductive and entangling fluids, which they had imbibed in suburban hotels, they had wrecked a carriage and lamed a horse, and, horrified at the idea of having to pay three or four hundred dollars damages, had incontinently decamped, leaving their equipage to be picked up by passers by.

"I knew," said one of the compositors thoughtfully next evening, "that those bloats

wouldn't last long. They were too fresh! And now they're on the tramp again."

Whereupon the dignified artisans who were above the folly of tramping resumed their wonted serenity of demeanor.

A New Lock-Up.

The accompanying cut represents a new, safe, and economical lock-up, recently invented for locking chases, blocks, etc., on the bed of the press. The crude method of locking forms on the press with blocks of wood, furniture, and quoins, heretofore in vogue, is now no longer necessary. Printers have long desired some better, more secure, less destructive, and quicker mode of fastening the chase to the bed of the press. This lock-up accomplishes all this, and is the simplest and best improvement ever made for that purpose. It saves time and labor, is the most secure and even lock-up, and it is one that will not spring nor shrink. As no mallet or shooting-stick is used, it saves the pounding and hammering on the bed of the press, and consequent indentation. It will therefore save its cost in a short time. These lock-ups are in use in many of the printing offices in the principal cities of the United States, and are highly recommended by all who have adopted them. They should cost somewhere about \$4 or \$5 each. To use it, move out until it comes in contact with the chase. Apply wrench into fulcrum hole, keep the pressure against moving lever while you screw up nut with cross wrench. If the edge of chase is uneven, place a strip of reglet between edge of chase and lock-up.

The press of Mississippi propose to erect a monument at Holly Springs to the memory of the editors who died of yellow fever in 1858.

There were 1,013 new novels published in England last year.

