

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our English Letter.

LIVERPOOL, ENG., March 26, 1878.

All kinds of business is dull, and although we in England are not so apt at making names for the occasion, or so quick to adopt them, perhaps, as our friends on your side of the water, we are pretty well able by this time to understand the meaning of the phrase "hard times." I daresay printing is one of the most sensitive of industries to the pressure, and a look through the monthly and other reports of the trade proves this conclusively. From all parts of the Kingdom comes the same report, and has come for some time back, and is likely, with a stupendous war in prospect, to come for some time in the future. Notwithstanding this, however, the antagonism between capital and labour—employer and employed—is as strong as ever, and strikes and lock-outs are, perhaps, more frequent and lasting than ever before. In this the printing business is included, if it is not a striking example, and a strike in Dublin and on one paper in Glasgow is at present in progress, involving the impoverishment of the workmen and the partial disorganization of their society, not to speak of the hindrance to the proper performance of the work, and the annoyance and ill-feeling engendered amongst all concerned.

By the way, a remarkable case of "American piracy," as the *Scotsman* puts it, has come to light in Edinburgh, Scotland. The facts, so far as ascertained, are as follows: John Henderson Monro is charged with stealing proof-sheets from the premises of Messrs. Neill & Co., printers, where he was employed as machineman. He was arrested and taken before the police magistrate, and, as the case stands now and with the information received, it is probable the case will be sent to a higher court. It would appear that shortly after the publication of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" was commenced in this country, the first volume was reproduced (without the publishers' knowledge or consent) by an American firm, named Stoddard & Co., of Philadelphia, who issued the subsequent volumes as regularly as they were published here. The interval between the appearance of the American edition and that of the English one having become surprisingly short, considering the size and varied character of the "Encyclopædia" volumes, Messrs. Black instituted inquiries in America, and from thence were reli-

ably informed that early sheets of the work found their way directly from the printing office in Edinburgh to that country. This intelligence was communicated to Messrs. Neill, the printers, who then recollected that, curiously enough, shortly after the "Encyclopædia" was commenced here, Munro applied for work in their press-room (where the sheets are thrown off after final correction), and that this man came from America. Latterly Monro has been under suspicion, and, having been observed taking sheets, he was arrested, and the sheets found in his pocket.

VERUM.

Norwich Notes.

NORWICH, CONN., April 5, 1878.

"Shorty" Campbell's latest adventure places him quite a distance ahead of Jack Johnston and the rest of the boys.

It is said several wood-type jouns. have gone West to commence business.

A book agent has recently been converted and preached his first sermon in the city last Sunday. Cape Cod would be a good station for the first few years of his ministry.

Alvin C. Bentley will hereafter trot through life in double harness. It occurred at Atlantic City, N. J., and you will find the particulars in another column. He has the best wishes of all. He is now at work in this city.

Messrs. Barstow, Hempstead and Benjamin have been permitted to take a vacation. A little boy, when asked by his parent why he stoned a very young goose, replied: "His father bit I." This is hardly the cause of their discharge, but it's something similar, if we are correctly informed.

Bad blood. We like a little sarcasm, once in awhile; it brightens us up and does us good, especially when it is hurled at us by one capable of "keeping his end up." But when the reverse is the case, it falls short of the mark and frequently cuts t'other way. It appears we have given offence—how, we know not—to "The Printer," and he has deemed it advisable to appoint a delegate to inform your correspondents and the remaining printers of the city, of some decisions and conclusions he has arrived at in connection with his business,—for all of which, did it any way concern us, we should most certainly feel grateful. Coupled with this message, or manifesto, or anything you may be pleased to call it, he has sent us the wonderful intelligence that we are lacking in knowledge. Well, now,