

pears,' freed from the dead weight of note or comment, many printing and publishing firms have given us already, and any that like may give. Who pleases may print, as who runs may read. But a Shilling Bible with an unnoted text only the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses and the Queen's Printers are privileged to put forth.

"If other printers print the book, it must be with notes. This seems to *Punch* a thing that Mr. Gladstone might have made a note of, to more purpose than the little bit of bookbinding claptrap by which a hundred copies of this very book, 'set up' at leisure at one of these privileged presses, had been printed off by a multiplication of machines, and put through all the processes of drying, folding, cutting, gilt-edging and binding, between midnight of the 29th and midday of the 30th of June.

"There are scores of firms that could have done as much; and the feat had no bearing whatever on the Printer's Art, instead of being, as Mr. Gladstone called it, its 'climax and consummation.' If it was a 'climax and consummation' of any art, it was of the bookbinder's, not the book-printer's, and, as such, this little 'bit of business' strikes one as rather a theatrical intrusion on an occasion which in no way called for it, considering, moreover, that the printing of this book is still the one printer's monopoly surviving in England, and that this copy came from one of three presses to which that solitary monopoly is confined."

On the particular subject of Mr. Gladstone's boast at the Caxton celebration, founded on the fact that the press work, from stereotype plates, and binding of one hundred copies of the Oxford Bible were executed in sixteen hours, the *Penn Monthly* recalls a much more remarkable instance of rapid printing, about which no special noise was made. The whole of the first two volumes of the cheap edition of Macaulay's History of England was put in type by the compositors, proofs read, corrected, revised, the forms stereotyped, and an entire edition printed and ready within forty-eight hours after the sheets of the English edition reached the American publisher's hands. This was a real achievement of quick book-printing, that which Mr. Gladstone lauded so highly being but the semblance confined to presswork and binding. Half a dozen American publishing houses have surpassed it a dozen times. Many daily newspa-

pers perform feats of printing every day that outdo any of them, except that there is no bookbinding to do.

#### Relief Societies.

"A Subscriber," whose letter appeared in the February number of the *Miscellany*, requested that we should "suggest some good scheme for the formation of such a society." There is no trouble to suggest a scheme, for there are many good ones that are quite practicable, but the trouble is to find printers enough to take hold of the matter and push it to a successful issue. It is a thing that will not grow of-itself—it must have at its head as good, intelligent, business men as the craft can turn out. There are many that we know of who would be just the men, but they already have about as much to do as they can attend to, and their time is fully occupied with other, and, perhaps, to them, more important work. However, we would suggest to "A Subscriber" that he break the matter to those whom he may have reason to think would be favorable to the movement; get their ideas of it, and in turn have them mention the matter to others. In the meantime, communicate with Mr. H. R. Danforth, of the Franklin Society of Boston, or with W. J. Quinn, of the *Herald* Benefit Association of the same city, and, no doubt, either of these gentlemen will be most happy to help their brother typos with all the information necessary for the organization of a society to accomplish the objects aimed at.

We would just add here, that from our present knowledge, we would suggest a society similar to the Franklin Societies of Boston and New York. However, our ideas are not very decided in any direction, but we stand prepared to aid the scheme no matter what direction it may take, only stipulating that it shall be of the general nature spoken of by our correspondent.

There is one point in connection with the organization of the Franklin Society named above which calls for special mention, that is the point where employer and employé are brought into intimate contact outside of the workshop. We are of those who believe that if both parties knew more of each other, socially, their actions would be more harmonious and a mutual feeling of confidence, good-will and esteem would prevail which would tend to lighten as well as quicken the labors of the workmen.

We have looked forward for many years to