

## One of the Olden Time.

D. B. E.

THE printer who really loves his vocation is always interested in anything in the shape of literature that bears on the growth and development of his art. Such a craftsman will delight in poring over documents and books written by men who in their day were looked upon as judges of what constituted a first-class type, men who were willing and able to give "pointers" to younger aspirants how to become good printers. Probably in no other calling is the literature so voluminous and presented so attractively and artistically as in printing and its kindred occupations. The trade journals of to-day, owing to the combined efforts of the type-founders and press-builders, backed up by the brains and skill of the men who handle their products, are really works of art and worthy of an honored place in any library, to be looked at and combed over as "things of beauty and joys forever"; and he who in the years to come may be the possessor of the volumes of such journals as the *Inland Printer*, *Engraver and Printer*, *THE IMPRINT*, and others, will have reason to congratulate himself on having exercised sufficient forethought to hoard up the separate numbers and have them bound for the edification and admiration of future generations. A comparison of those we have mentioned with some of the typographical trade journals which are almost forgotten by many printers of the present day, will show that this acme of excellence has not been reached at a bound, but by a slow and gradual process of evolution, the most pronounced difference being that the journal of twenty-five years ago was the expression in all or most of its departments of the ideas of one man, its proprietor. Standing out in bold relief from all its contemporaries in this respect was *Rounds' Printers' Cabinet*, than which no better periodical existed, and is excelled typographically by only one or two of the present day, simply owing to the improved methods of production before referred to. The writer is the fortunate possessor of some files of the *Cabinet*, and it is with feelings almost of reverence that the pages are turned over and read with pleasure and interest born of an intimate personal acquaintance with the author. A perusal of the columns upon columns (an agate) of interesting matter that flowed from the facile pen of the "Old Man," as his employes used reverently to call Mr. Rounds, shows that he was

able to express his thoughts in language both redundant and eloquent.

The specimen pages of the *Cabinet* were considered by competent critics as gems, and some of the examples of rule twisting were, considering the crude appliances of those days, marvels in design and execution. We have seen some of them copied, but very seldom improved on, by printers of a later day. Following is one of the literary gems which first appeared in the *Cabinet*:

## TYPOGRAPHICACKLE.

BY LITTLE DICK.

What music there is in the click  
Of the types, as they metrically rattle,  
From fingers deft to the stick  
O, 'tis winsome as infant prattle;  
But the story they tell when the newspaper's born  
Rings out like a bell or a battle!

With what Protean magic they shift  
From the shambles to sermon and rhyme,  
As each letter is detailed at sight  
To muster for duty in "line";  
Then the skirmish in gossip or news,  
Or march, "double-leaded," to fight  
In a "leader," where adjectives bruise,  
While the type-sticker winks with delight;  
And united they stand,  
In columns grand,  
Mute heralds of glory and light.

PYTHAGORAS the clever old brick,  
When he taught transmigration of souls,  
Was, doubtless, impelled by a "stick,"  
Or dreamed of the "matrix" and "moulds;"  
Saw the "crucible" smacking with "pi"  
Of the "old metal," "battered" and "worn,"  
And exclaimed, with a "cast" in his eye,  
"Fresh deal! We'll be newly born!"  
Thus old Pica and Primer  
Fraternally simmer,  
Till, lo! they appear  
A new font of Brevier,  
With faces resplendent as morn.

Though a "letter" in one font is "q,"  
In another may go back to "d,"  
Yet they're changing from old to the new,  
And evolve to eternity!  
Then, what solace must come with old age,  
When the "form" can no more stand the "press,"  
To be "locked" in a clear "title page,"  
And, "copper-faced," shine with the best!

EMPLOYEES of the London Advertiser held their annual picnic at Sarnia on July 15th, and had a pleasant time.

THE Vatican has adopted a type-writing machine, which is an important step towards overcoming the prejudice which has so long existed against this machine by the conservative institutions of Europe.

A NEW invention is being introduced in England which will prove of great value in the press-room if it does what it claims. It is a ready-made overlay for half-tone cuts made of gelatine, one being supplied with each cut. *The overlay, it is said, does entirely away with "make ready," and can be used over and over again.*