

THE PRINTING PRESS.

The Printing Press, there is a mighty power
In the flap of its iron wing;
It finds its way to the peasant's bower,
And the palace of the king;
It scatters the germs of death or life,
Like dew-drops o'er the land;
And soothes to peace or wakes to strife,
As with a talismanic wand.

What glorious things achieved, have been
By a free and fearless Press,
Telling earth's crushed ones how and when
For their wrongs to seek redress;
Rich treasures from mines of mystic lore,
"Mong the nations hath it spread:
And tombs of science sealed of yore,
To the millions open made.

Then ho! for a free, unshackled Press,
With its thunderbolts to bear
On the bulwarks of unrighteousness,
And oppression everywhere;
"Till men shall freely fraternize,
And hallowed offerings bring,
To welcome from the upper skies,
Their everlasting King.

THE DUTIES OF A FOREMAN.

Many a man about starting in business, who has raised himself from the position of a journeyman, will frequently be noticed to say, "I will work myself and thus be better able to compete with firms already established, as by this means I can do work cheaper, and thus secure plenty of work and be sure of success." This is a mistaken idea, and the sooner abandoned the better, for it must be a very small, insignificant concern where the proprietor will have the time to labor in the office as a journeyman. A man of tact will soon discover this fact, for instead of his labor proving a help, he will find it a hindrance and an extra expense. He cannot perform the duties of two men and do it profitably and at the same time thoroughly, for one or the other, or both avocations, will suffer by neglect.

We do not wish to undervalue manual labor, for, no doubt, if a great deal more of it was performed, "the world would be the better for it." We can appreciate the ambition and energy of any man who has mastered his trade, and the affection he still has for what he has spent his whole life to attain, and which induces him to take a hand at it even if only for the love he retains for it, or to show to others, by his example, that the same is in no sense degrading. A little thought, however, will show him that his time can be more profitably employed in other ways.

No man can superintend a business of any considerable importance, and at the same time fill the position of a journeyman. While at work as a journeyman his superintendence will be neglected; a quantity of paper will be cut to disadvantage, or the wrong paper will be taken for a job in hand; an idle fellow will take advantage while the master's attention is confined to his work as a journeyman, to waste time. In short, what is gained by his own labor would have been more profitably performed by an employee.

There are very few men competent to fill the position of a foreman. Thousands who possess the

mechanical ability are unfitted from other causes. A man to fill the position acceptably, should have firmness and moral courage, and not be afraid to speak out when he sees anything going amiss. Punctuality should also be one of his qualifications, so that by his example he may be able to insist upon the same on the part of those under his direction. Moreover, he should be a skilled man; not only in name, but in practice as well, and have a confidence in it, so that he be not bushful of his ability. Above all a foreman should be a man of sobriety, that thereby he may be enabled to check any irregularity on the part of his men. An intemperate foreman is unfitted to have control of men, for not only will the work suffer but the reputation of the establishment will loose caste, while the men, knowing his failing, will follow his lead, and a loss of character will be the result to them, and a loss of money to their employer.

Perhaps the most difficult task the employer has, is to learn his foreman that he is his representative, not merely a graded workman, but a deputy. Yet hard as the task may seem, it can be accomplished by the exercise of a little prudence and common sense. He should bear in mind that he has chosen the very best man to fill the position, and that he is therefore entitled to good treatment, courtesy, and consideration. Skilled men are invariably sensitive and conscientious, and seldom commit careless blunders; if they should make an error of judgment, their pride and the fear that their employer would think them neglectful of their duties, is of itself a sufficient punishment, without the employer's reproaches. Therefore, the employer should be sparing of censure, providing the man is one who conscientiously does his best, or tries to do so. If it is necessary to reprove, it should be done calmly, without caprice or anger, as the only ones who never make mischief are those who never do anything.

An employer should not unduly interfere between his foreman and the men. To do so weakens the foreman's authority, and strikes a blow at good government, while it may be said that the foreman who will endure or allow it proves himself, by want of independence and self-respect, unfitted for his position.

Of course the power to reduce or increase the office force should lay with the employer, but he should instruct the foreman, and the actual engaging or discharging of help should be the business of the foreman, as the men will thus recognize the authority which is immediately over them, and thus render him the service due.

The foreman may rest assured that if he is alive to his employer's interests, and is determined that the men under him shall do their duty, he will not escape the charge of being a tyrant. The proper course for him, therefore, is to undertake no position of trust without being prepared to accept its responsibilities; but having accepted it, let him adopt as his motto, "Be just, and fear not."

The foreman should always let the workmen see that while his will is to be supreme in the office, it is because this authority is necessary to the welfare of the establishment and of the workmen employed, and not to gratify his thirst for power, for there is no man so mean or so little respected as he who, "dressed in a little brief authority," uses it for the purpose of tyrannizing over those whom circumstances have placed under his control.

If a man comes seeking employment, he should be treated courteously, and if he cannot be engaged, let him be told so frankly and kindly. He may be wanted on another day, when his reception on his former visit will assist or hinder you in obtaining his services.

There are various moral qualities which the foreman ought to possess that we have not thought necessary to debate upon. He should be a man of rectitude, impartiality, and truthfulness. While studying his employer's interests, he should do no conscious injustice to the men under him. Experience shows that he who is most equitable in his dealings with his fellow employees, is usually the most trustworthy in regard to his employer's interests. "Sharp practice" on one side usually involves the same on the other.

AMATEUR PRINTING.

Much has been said, and well said, upon the above subject; but too much can hardly be offered at the present time. That something is radically at fault about the printing business has long been manifest. No solution is more plausible to account for much of the trouble than this same superabundance of boy-printers. It is difficult to specify in every detail just how all the mischief is occasioned; but one thing is certain—the cheapness with which small work is turned out by these nondescript contrivances largely affects the patronage of legitimate printing-houses. The great majority of persons who require dodgers, cards, etc., do not discriminate about the quality of paper, ink, or style. If their advertisements can be read they are satisfied, and "it helps the boys." It is notorious that this boys' work is the worst "blacksmithing" in every way, that has been worked off from a printing-press since the goodly times of John of Mentz. The price-lists of reputable houses, by this means, become demoralized and great harm is wrought.

Another crying evil of amateur typography is the fearful and wonderful "journeymen" that are "sent into this breathing world scarce half made up." Of all the nuisances about a printing-office commend us to a "natural, self-made" printer. It is the next thing to impossibility to instruct one of these monstrosities, for he "knows it all." He has had an office of his own! It is easily seen that this method of spawning printers will account—if it does not already do so—for the marked deterioration in the capacity of men. It would seem indisputable that juvenile printing, in all its varied influences, is capable of working incalculable injury to the noblest art on earth, and it is encouraging to see that the craft are waking up to the fact that the evil must be strangled in its cradle.

BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN OF TYPOGRAPHY.

We have received from Mr. Geo. E. Desbarats a copy of an illuminated circular of a high order of merit, possessing all the qualities that go to make up an A-1 artistic job of typography (when we say this, we infer all that the word "artistic" implies.) We would be glad to note anything from any of our Dominion friends, or even from the States that approaches it either in excellency of design, quality of workmanship or intricate execution.