

Keeping Abreast of the Times.

The Montreal *Witness* is having a new building erected on Bonaventure street, especially adapted to the printing business. The building is three stories high and 50 x 150 feet. The press room is 14 feet high and 75 feet long. A new press—a rotary, eight cylinders—is also being put in, the four cylinder press being found too small and slow for the purpose. The speed of the new press is estimated at sixteen thousand an hour. The management promises an eight-page paper, similar to the New York dailies, but varying in size, for one cent. In making the announcement of the change about to take place, the management says:—

"A daily paper depends largely on its power to annihilate the time consumed in printing its editions, and should never be limited as to its size, as it is almost a necessity to have it larger on some days than on others. Variation of size is accomplished in New York by giving extra pages in the form of what is called a triple sheet, in Toronto by a double paper, and in Britain and elsewhere by an enlarged page. This last is the plan we have adopted. . . . We have constantly examined all the presses and printing machines that have been manufactured; we look forward to the day when printing will be as perfectly done by web-feeding machines as by hand-fed ones, but no two opinions can be held with regard to the assertion that, up to the present time, rotary presses do better work than any web-feeding press yet made."

This is a step in the right direction, although we are not prepared to give the palm to the rotary principle for printing presses. There can be no two opinions as to the expediency of introducing fast printing machinery into our daily paper offices, for it must be conceded that the financial success of a daily paper is very largely dependent upon the power of putting the various editions rapidly before the public. A great many newspaper proprietors scarcely appreciate the importance of introducing the latest and most improved machinery into their offices, and to this apathy, no doubt, is to be traced many failures to reach the goal of success. It is needless to say that we wish the proprietary of the *Witness* the realization of every hope, for if it balances all the other departments of the paper with that of the press, it must achieve a handsome recompense.

Corner quads should be in use in every printing office. They are a great saving in time making ready forms with rules around them. By their use there is no trouble experienced in getting the mitres to join.

EXACTIONS OF JOURNALISM.—Every editor knows the truth of the following from the New York *Journal*:—"It is one of the hardships of the profession that its working wheels—brains and hearts—are not allowed to lag for sickness, or stop for calamity or sorrow. The judge may adjourn his court; the school and the workshop may close shutters; the mourner may veil features, and turn friend and stranger from the door; but the journalist must forget before the to-morrow of to-day—must write gaily and freshly as a news-monger on the trifle of the hour, whatever burden has been laid on that same hour, by Providence, for his heart and brain as a man. It sometimes tries and mocks—as the world that reads what is thus written would never dream of."

THE first book printed in English was "The Recuyell of the Historie of Troye," which was translated by Caxton in 1471, but was issued without any date of printing. This was followed by "The Game and Playe of the Chesse," "Fynnysshid the last day of march the yer of our lord god. a. thousand four hondered and lxxiii." These two books were printed at Bruges, the first book printed in England being, it is believed, the "Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophres," bearing date November 18, 1477, "emprynted by me, William Caxton, at Westmestre."

THE war correspondent is rather a rarity in newspaperdom. He is born, not made. He must be possessed of tact and activity, be able to ride barebacked and write with a fish-bone, be a good linguist and a light sleeper, have a knowledge of soldiering, and be content on occasion to make a meal off the soles of his boots. Who would not like to be a war correspondent?

CHARLOTTE GUILLARD was the first notable female printer. She was in business for fifty years in Paris—from 1506 to 1556—and was celebrated for the correctness of her books. Women were employed and commended as compositors in Italy as early as the latter part of the fifteenth century.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Gilted," by C. J. L., received, but is too lengthy for present use.

Apprentice, Sarnia, Ont.,—Thanks for kind wishes and marked paper, but fail to find the name on subscription list. The "ads" are very fairly set and the dress is becoming.