

## THE PRINTING FACILITIES OF YE OLDEN TIME AND NOW.

Written for PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

WITHIN the writer's recollection there was only one type foundry in America west of New York, and that was Nathan Lyman's, of Buffalo. The Montreal foundry was non-existent. Chicago, that possesses now about half a dozen good letter foundries, was dependent on New York and Buffalo. C. T. Palsgrave, who owned the Montreal foundry at a later date, was simply a commission merchant and importer at first, getting his supplies from London. An Irishman named Guerin, from New York, started the first type foundry in Montreal, and after running it for a while, Palsgrave bought him out. In 1849 the latter started a branch in Toronto, in charge of D. K. Fechan. The location was in an upper room on Front street. The removal of Parliament from Quebec to Toronto and the consequent removal of the Government printing offices made this necessary. In the early days printing materials coming into Canada were duty free. When the Montreal type foundry was started a duty of about 15 per cent. was placed upon imported type. When Sir Francis Hincks got to be Receiver-General a change was made. Mr. Palsgrave was no admirer of the aggressive Finance Minister, as he was a man of strong conservative notions and made himself obnoxious to the party in power. The result was that for a time the duty was removed and this branch of native industry was a sufferer. Mr. Cayley, I believe, reimposed the duty.

Our first publishers used English type, but New York soon became our purchasing place. A man named Prescott, who resided in Buffalo, used to visit the Canadian towns and take orders for all kinds of printing materials. He used to find it pretty hard sledding collecting his bills, as in those early days all business was done on long credits. I remember seeing that poor man chase around for days making his collections, while some of his debtors were in hiding. There was a nominal discount of 10 per cent. for cash, but nobody in those days shook the currency in a man's face, and those were the days of the prevailing Halifax currency, when a shilling was 20 cents. Then business was done in £ s. and d. Men of the present day have no idea of all the changes and reforms that have been effected since that time—the period of the early forties. There was not a power press then in Canada West. Hoe & Co. were the only makers in America, but Taylor came soon after.

Our early printers had only Ramage or wooden presses, and there were several of them in Toronto at the time of which I write, and one or two in Hamilton, but only as relics. The Smith iron press, with the round chucks, was its successor, and then came the stately, square framed Washington press, manufactured by the Hoes, but it, too, was a hand press. The pressman that turned out a "token" an hour all day, was considered a first-class pressman. There was no paper at that time that possessed a circulation of a thousand copies (and all were weeklies or

semi-weeklies only The Christian Guardian, of Toronto. The Examiner came next. Few papers had over 500 circulation.

The postage was high and was paid by the publisher, the mail facilities were wretched, and the libel laws were rigorous and large circulations were out of the question. The papers then were all folios and ranged in size from five to seven columns to the page. The Weekly Colonist, of Toronto, had eight columns and was the largest paper in Ontario. It needed a giant for a pressman, and a boy to fly the sheets from the tympan.

The first Ontario daily paper was The Hamilton Spectator, started in 1849. It was a neat sheet of six columns and was a sample for Canadian printers. I guess it possessed the first cylinder press in Ontario, a Hoe drum.

We used to get our newspaper stock from the paper mills direct, and I have seen the Crooks boys, of Flamboro', deliver many a ream from wagon or sleigh to the Hamilton publishers, and Barber Bros., of Georgetown, the same to Toronto publishers. We used to buy our ink and fine papers and cards at the drug stores.

Early in the forties, two Americans named Gay established themselves in Hamilton and made job type cut across the grain on maple wood by machinery, and made it well. The English wood type was all cut along the grain. They made many varieties too, ornamental as well as plain. Their factory was a room upstairs in McQueston's foundry on James street, about where the Royal hotel stands now.

There were very few card or job presses in the early forties. The pioneer printer had to utilize his newspaper press for every purpose and use it for cards as well as book work. Opulent was the office that displayed a foolscap Washington press for printing cards, blanks and hand bills. The inventive genius of the age, however, produced samples of job presses that were unique and original, and I remember one in use in a Hamilton office that was made in Toronto and that did good service for a number of years, until that murdering contrivance of Ruggles, of Boston, the Alligator, made its appearance. Oh! but that was the finger-nipper and hand-crusher. I was looking at poor Johnston, a pressman in The Colonist office, when he got his right hand caught and crushed. With a yell of agony he dropped to the floor and fainted away. He never recovered and died a raving maniac in the lunatic asylum from the result. Ruggles afterwards, however, brought out some elegant rotary card and job presses that had large use, but they were finally superseded by the Franklin, Deringer and other disc presses. For book work the Adams platen power press, of Boston, obtained great vogue. The Christian Guardian secured the first in Toronto, and it was used to print other papers. Strings had to be run down alongside of middle column rules in each page to carry the sheet,