

faces should be relieved of the burden of distribution; and as it is an undeniable fact that there is a wide difference in cleanliness of distribution, common fairness to each other should induce the selection of a "clean" and "swift" to case all such matter, the cost to be equally apportioned. The benefits arising from such a procedure—non-mixing of fonts, etc.—would surely prove remunerative.

Book-keepers' Accounts, etc.

Objection is frequently raised to paying an advance on transcripts of accounts, etc., because the proof-sheet seemingly indicates that it is fat at a single price. This might be true if the work was set from *reprint*, but when in manuscript and copied by a person ignorant of the method adopted, it is quite the reverse, and many hours have been spent by compositors in unraveling entanglements and producing work comprehensive in all its details. Perhaps the amount earned at an advance is far in excess of what would have been due for the same length of time on plain work. This should not alter the case, for, possibly, there may not be another man in the office who could execute it properly in double the time—he is only reaping the reward of skill and knowledge.

Points of Punctuation.

If there is any good and sensible reason why punctuation points should not be cast on bodies of uniform thickness, I have failed to discover it, unless variableness may be claimed as such, because of ease in distinguishing certain points from others by the "feel," and the avoidance of the use of hair spaces.

The points of some fonts vary as much as a 5-em space. They are cast to "nothing," and are a constant source of annoyance, impeding progress on tabular work by causing irregular justification. It may be urged that only the period and comma enter extensively into this character of work, and that all offices should be furnished with the requisite supply of these *two* cast on en-quad bodies. Admitting the force of this observation, yet the fact remains that but few employers go to the expense necessarily entailed, though, as a consequence, their cost is consumed over and over again in wasted time. But in body letter there is no substantial reason why the points should not be cast with a view to uniformity, say on a 3-em space body. One advantage they would then possess would be facil-

ity in correction, without lifting or rejustification. To be smaller than a 3-em space would result in additional trouble in overcoming "springing" and slipping past the leads in removing the cord from the page after new type has been used awhile.

General Hints.

If a chase will not slide smoothly in the rack, pour a little water in the groove and the difficulty will be overcome. Water is cheaper and cleaner than oil, and will answer equally as well.

Distribute all pi as soon as made, and all jobs when free from the press. "Dropping" and "picking" is false economy.

When matter is to be tied up and packed away, glean for distribution all lines containing italic, small caps, quadrats, and other common or scarce sorts. You will then be prepared for emergencies.

In drawing leads from small type, the most expeditious plan (taking mishaps into consideration) is to galley the matter, hold a lead against the upper side with the left hand for a "feeler," and raise the leads from the lower side with the "nick head" of the composing rule, occasionally withdrawing a lead entirely to give proper play.

Keep bevel and straight furniture separated, and thus avoid loss of time when imposing jobs.

If a form is imposed in a chase on *one side only* of a cross-bar, brace the other side. If you do not, the bar will surely "spring" and render a perfect register impossible when the chase is used for a book form.

In taking up surplus space in composition, don't throw it all between words in the centre of the line, line after line, no matter how equally divided. To avoid this, if necessary, even disregard the rule governing long and short letters.

To Sister Unions of the United States and Canada.

VICKSBURG, MISS., Aug. 31, 1878.

On account of sickness and deaths from yellow fever in Vicksburg Typographical Union, No. 105, we hereby appeal to you for such aid as you can render us. We have lost two of our members within the past week, and at the present time have three down with the fever. Remit to

MICHAEL F. BATTLE,

Secretary Vicksburg Typographical Union No. 105.

The above circular is self-explanatory, and we sincerely trust there will be a hearty response. Those wishing to make small donations, to assist their afflicted brethren in the South, can do so through the editor of the *Miscellany*, who will take charge of and forward the same. All sums will be acknowledged in the pages of the *Miscellany*.