

A Few Facts Regarding the Educational Advantages of Printers.

It must be admitted that the art of printing confers more intellectual benefit on those who are engaged in its manipulation than many other vocations by which man is forced to earn his daily sustenance. From the superabundance of original and selected matter passing through the compositor's hands he must always find much that will help to improve his mental faculties. No matter what a youth's educational acquirements may be when he enters the printing office, he will find, if he has a retentive memory, not only much that will instruct and edify, but he will also be enabled to store his mind with subjects that may prove useful and amusing. It brings into activity his knowledge of orthography, etymology, syntax, prosody, punctuation, and many other things that will utilize and strengthen his knowledge of those elements of education which he has acquired at school. Compositors who may be partially deficient in the branches referred to will also find something to draw out and improve the latent talents they may possess, which, if engaged in some other calling, might forever lie dormant. In fact, from the very nature of the art, the perceptive, the reasoning, and the moral faculties are ever brought in contact with something that must, more or less, tend to "polish up" even the dulllest intellect, provided it has not a touch of idiocy about it.

The book and job office also contributes its quota towards the intellectual improvement of those employed in it. We refer to such as take an interest in their work. Requiring much thought and care, it draws out all the ability for good taste and display which the operator may possess; and as he proceeds, day after day, to form combinations of the different fonts of type at his disposal, new ideas frequently force themselves upon his mind, which tend to improve his judgment, good taste and artistic acquirements.

Much valuable information may often be obtained by those employed on book work. The manuscripts placed in their hands are frequently replete with useful and instructive matter. He, in turn, must be careful of the punctuation; so that it will bring out clearly all that the writer intends to convey, by which means he imperceptibly improves his own mind, and is enabled to perceive and understand much that would

otherwise appear obscure and uninteresting, not only to himself but to others also.

It is much to be regretted that too many who are engaged in this intelligent profession do not more fully realize and appreciate its many advantages, but appear quite willing to ignore them all, provided they can only make it work well financially.

It is announced that a large number of the publishers of Ontario have determined to make a move towards the abolition of the unrestricted and long credits which prove so great a trial to country newspapers. Proprietors of journals in Lindsay, Peterboro, Port Hope, Coburg, Belleville, Bowmanville, Oshawa and Whitby, forming a convenient group, purpose working upon the same general policy—"to encourage the cash system, to insist upon more cash payments, to restrict long credits, and in most cases, probably in all cases, to abolish the pernicious system of running yearly accounts, which, in many cases, result in longer credits still." It is gratifying to find so considerable a movement among the publishers of Canada in the direction of cash payments; and it is to be hoped that they will not relinquish their efforts until they have fully and finally conquered and put down this incubus on printing.

One of the most notable features of the Canadian display at the Paris Exposition, says the *Montreal Witness*, will be the magnificent booth that is being constructed by the Government for the display of Mr. George P. Drummond's printing machinery. Mr. Drummond is an Ottawa gentleman, who has devoted his remarkable mechanical genius for many years past to the perfecting of processes for printing to supercede the present one of "sticking type." He had a type-setting machine at the Philadelphia exhibition which was probably much in advance of anything ever accomplished in that direction. He is now, however, perfecting a process which is to do away with the use of types altogether. Mr. Drummond has already exhibited one result of his labors in the form of a pamphlet published without the use of either types or printing press, the letters being placed in succession on a sheet from which they are photographed and then reproduced by photolithography. Another process is, we believe, to be exhibited by which surfaces are prepared without the use of types that can be used on the ordinary printing press.