

first to whom he went offered \$100, and the poor author turned disheartened away; a few days later he went to Miller, an eminent publisher in the last century. Miller consulted a young lawyer, who generally advised him on law books, and was told that the book would be cheap at \$1,000. Burns cheerfully accepted the offer; Miller made \$55,000 out of the book, but had the decency to send Burns \$500 on each new edition making its appearance.

The author of "Out of the Hurly-Burly" dedicates his book in the following humorous manner:—I have resolved to dedicate this book to a humorist who has had too little fame; to the most delicious, because the most unconscious, humorist; to that widely-scattered and multitudinous comedian who may be expressed in the concrete as *the Intelligent Compositor*. To his habit of perpetrating felicitous absurdities I am indebted for 'laughter that is worth a hundred groans.' It was he who put into type an article of mine which contained the remark, 'Filtration is sometimes accomplished with the assistance of albumen,' and transformed it into 'Flirtation is sometimes accomplished by the assistance of aldermen.' It was he who caused me to misquote the poet's inquiry so that I propounded to the world the appalling conundrum, 'When are the dead the *varnished* dead?' And it was his glorious tendency to make the sublime convulsively ridiculous that rejected a line in a poem of mine, which declared that a 'comet swept o'er the heavens with its trailing skirt,' and substitute the idea that a 'count slept in the haymow in a travelling shirt.' The kind of talent that is here displayed deserves profound reverence. It is wonderful and awful; and thus I offer it a token of my marvelling respect."

We invite those who have any knowledge of printers, natives of the Dominion of Canada, who are working in any foreign country, to send in the names of all such, together with a short account of where they served their apprenticeship, how long since they left home, where they are working, and any other particulars that might be considered of interest to their former friends or companions, shopmates or acquaintances.

Correspondents and canvassers are wanted for the *Miscellany* in Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston, Ont. Write to the editor for terms.

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

PETTENGILL'S NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY AND ADVERTISER'S HANDBOOK FOR 1878.—It is a very difficult matter to get out a perfectly accurate newspaper directory, owing to the changeful nature of the field of journalism; but S. M. Pettengill, of New York, has so nearly solved the problem of how to make a correct and reliable list of newspapers, that those who follow will find it a difficult task to improve on this last effort. It is neat, simple and convenient, and is chock full of information valuable to newspaper publishers and advertisers. It contains a list of the newspapers published in the United States and the British Provinces, with full information as to character, circulation and proprietorship, and a list of the leading newspapers of Great Britain, Australasia and Europe. It is illustrated with portraits of Bayard Taylor, George W. Childs, the printer's friend, and Brete Harte among living, and Samuel Bowles, James Gordon Bennett, of the dead journalists of the United States, while an excellent steel engraving of Mr. S. M. Pettengill appears as the frontispiece. This volume should be specially attractive to enterprising business men.

Mr. Geo. M. Rose, of the firm of Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto, was before the printing committee of the legislature, and is reported to have made comparisons between the contract prices at Ottawa, Quebec and Toronto, claiming that as a whole the prices at Quebec were very much higher than those in Ontario, and that the prices in Ottawa were, on the whole, slightly higher than the increased rates in Ontario. He said it would cost from \$45,000 to \$50,000 for plant to start a Government printing office. With strict supervision, the Government might get the work performed at the same rates as they were paying now, except the annual sum of \$7,000, which would be for wear and tear, interest on capital, etc. Girls might be employed, and the cost of running the office would thereby be reduced. He confessed he saw no reason why the Government could not conduct such an office, but he did not believe it would be desirable in the public interest, as most politicians had so many needy friends who were or might be printers. These men might be incompetent and yet receive large salaries, a custom which usually prevailed in Government offices.