

and strengthening day by day, leaving little undone that can possibly extend the sway of her sceptre for very many years to come."

As relevant to the subject, we should like to refer to some of the late productions of the American type-founders—in every particular, marvels of skill and taste—and to the incongruous effects produced by their use in much of the job-work of this city.

All the printing offices, with one or two exceptions, were completely annihilated four years ago; and in replacing their outfits the proprietors had open to them all the productions of the English and American foundries. The work now turned out in not a few of these offices justifies the opinion, we think, that they lacked the requisite enterprise or knowledge to embrace this opportunity; and hundreds of dollars were invested in *type*—as we have read of thousands being invested in *books*,—the privilege of selection being altogether unappreciated, or, if appreciated, evincing a most lamentable want of judgment; and, in some cases, where a selection has been made with some regard to the fitness of things, those to whom the execution of the work has been entrusted have produced a ghastly array of typographic abortions. The demand for *cheap* work will doubtless be pleaded in extenuation; but that plea is no justification, and time will demonstrate other evil effects. To stock an office with such material as now constitutes a first-class establishment, place it in charge of men who are not only deficient in mechanical ability, but who have neither pride or faith in their art, and then allow the prices to be fixed by unappreciative customers *may* be legitimate business; but it does not commend itself to us as such, and we believe has had—and is having—a most depressing effect on the craft and its interests in St. John.

We believe the subject deserves earnest consideration at the hands of both employer and employed, and, in closing, would ask: How is it that so much of our fine work at present goes to the lithographer, when the lithographer himself will admit that it could be done cheaper and better on the printing press?

At a meeting of the "Colored Press Association," held in Chicago August 23d, there were eighteen papers represented, the delegates coming from Kentucky, Mississippi, Washington, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas and Texas.

#### Christmas Card Competition—Four Thousand Dollars Offered in Prizes.

L. Prang & Co.'s Christmas Card Prize Competition, which takes place in the American Art Gallery, in New York, in November, will be an attractive occasion for artists. In order that such of our readers as may be in a position to compete may know the rules guiding this competition we give the following summary:

There are two sets of four prizes each offered this time, amounting in all to \$4,000. The \$2,000 of each set is divided as follows:—First prize, \$1,000; second prize, \$500; third prize, \$300, and fourth prize, \$200. The first set known as the "Artists' Prizes," will be awarded by the votes of artists and art critics. The second set, known as the "Popular Prizes," will be voted for by the lay visitors to the exhibition. One design can take both an artist's and a popular prize, and the amount received would thus in the case of the first prize amount to \$2,000. The circular says that "it is hoped to secure not only the best artistic judgment, but also the true expression of public opinion."

The competition is limited to "artists residing in America (Canada included) or American artists residing abroad."

The designs, which must be carefully worked out in every detail, must be original and appropriate to the Christmas season. They may be made on paper, cardboard or canvas, of a shape to suit the designer, "but within the limit of 7x9 inches as the largest and 5x7 as the smallest size, or if below this size, two, three or four designs will be accepted as belonging to one set, and such a set will be treated in the competition as one design." The cards of a set should be of equal size, relate to each other in conception, and be in keeping as to execution. Each design or set of designs must be mounted on cardboard 11x14 inches in size. No design must bear an artist's name. The device of the ornamented letter and motto and sealed envelope will be adopted. If an artist contributes more than one design or set of designs each must bear a separate letter and motto, and be accompanied by a separate envelope. Names of competitors will not be made public if such a wish is expressed. The firm offering the prizes reserves the right to purchase, prior to other parties, any of the unsuccessful designs at the price stated in the envelope containing the competitor's name and address. The management also reserve.