

ENIGMA.

Good reader, I wish you could tell me my name,
For, strange as it is, I've forgotten the same.
Now look at me well, and you'll see I've a face,
But I haven't a head my shoulders to grace.
Neither eyes, nose nor mouth my beauty enhance,
Yet a head I possess—not on my countenance—
For a chin I have not; more wondrous, I ween,
Be my beard large or small, not a hair's to be seen.
I've a body like most other people I know,
And a shank that's as thick as my body, altho'
Not an arm nor a leg can I say is my own;
And though two feet I boast, yet I can't stand alone.
With kindred companions my power is great,
And yet we are sold at no very high rate.
Without voice, we can talk; and our manner of speech
Will suit every one whom our language can reach.
Though never at college, good linguists are we,
And can talk my language, whatever it be.
To eat us most people are too wise to try,
Yet though never in pudding, we're often in pie.

ANSWER.

Our "Devil," sir, says (and an oracle is he),
That your clever Enigma a Type must be.

THE JOHNSON TYPE FOUNDRY.

THE MOST COMPLETE IN THE WORLD.

MACKELLAR, SMITHS & JORDAN, PROPRIETORS.

The art of printing has made wonderful strides of late years. From the few copies per hour printed by Gutenberg's and Caxton's presses to Hoe's lighting press, is indeed a wide gulf, and from the isolated printing houses or offices of the seventeenth century to the myriads of to-day, shows very vividly the advancement we have made.

Type-founding, an art inseparably combined with printing, was first commenced in America in the year 1735, when one Christopher Sower established a printing office in Germantown, Philadelphia, and cast his own types. Shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war, a Mr. John Blaine, of Edinburgh, established a type foundry in Philadelphia, and was the first who regularly carried on the business of type-founding in the United States. In 1760, Mr. Blaine died, and Archibald Binney and James Ronaldson established another foundry unconnected with any other business, and were imminently successful. To them is the world indebted for the first real improvement in the art of type-founding since the days of Peter Schoeffer. This was the type-mould, enabling a caster to cast six thousand types in a day as easily as he could four thousand by the old process. In 1808, Mr. W. M. Johnson patented a machine for casting type by which he was enabled to give a sharper outline and better face to the letter, by using a pump to force the liquid metal into the mould. This idea subsequently passed through many modifications and improvements.

The quality of Philadelphia type is generally superior to that of Europe, and is cheaper. Some of the most beautiful specimens of printing in the world have issued from the Philadelphia press, executed with type supplied by Messrs. MacKellar, Smiths & Jordan, the Philadelphia type founders. Their establishment, known as the Johnson Type Foundry, of Philadelphia, was founded in 1796, by the Messrs. Binny & Ronaldson, before mentioned, who came to that city from Edinburgh, of which city, the modern Athens, they were natives, and there Mr. Binny had

carried on business. They were persevering, attentive and obliging to the wants of their patrons, and in some twenty years had accumulated a fortune. About this time, 1816, Mr. Binny retired from business, and was succeeded by his partner, who gave place to his brother, Richard Ronaldson, who carried on the business until 1833, when he in turn was succeeded by Lawrence Johnson and Geo. F. Smith. Mr. Johnson, a gentleman of great energy and enterprise, had introduced stereotyping, and at that time both callings were combined. Ten years afterwards Mr. Smith retired, and, in 1845, Mr. Johnson associated with him Thomas MacKellar, John F. Smith and Richard Smith, who had, as it were, grown up with the business, the two last named being sons of his former partner. On Mr. Johnson's death, in 1860, the three junior partners associated with them Peter A. Jordan, and those four gentlemen constitute the present firm of MacKellar, Smiths & Jordan, whose type foundry, located at 606, 608, 610, 612 and 614 Sanson street, is the most complete in the world.

In variety of types, in plain, fancy and music, made in this foundry, they excel any house in the world. The specimen books in which they are displayed form massive and voluminous quarto volumes, no less remarkable for the exceeding great beauty of their typographical execution than for the original reading matter which they contain. They exhibit only articles manufactured by the establishment. The metal used is a mixture composed of lead, antimony, copper and tin, mixed in proportion to the kind of type required. The different processes through which the metal goes until it comes out a perfect type or letter, are most interesting. We would like to recount them, but have not space in this issue. Any one visiting Messrs. MacKellar, Smiths & Jordan's foundry, would be well repaid by the increased knowledge he would gain, and would be somewhat astonished at the immense extent of the operations, the peculiar nicety and exactness apparent in every detail; the number of employees, all evidently skilled workmen in their peculiar branches, and all seemingly taking a pride in the institution which leads the world in an industry so necessary to the well-being of the peoples of the globe.

The machine room of the establishment is completely furnished with the finest tools and machinery for building and repairing its own machines, and for the production of brass rules, ovals, circles, and other furnishings for printing offices. Since the enactment of a law by Congress protecting new designs of printing types against piratical reproduction in the United States, this house, with other American founders, have evinced great activity in bringing out types of exceeding beautiful styles, and so enabled American printers to resist the encroachment of lithographers on the legitimate domain of typography. Artistic punch-cutters are kept constantly at work in the production of plain and ornamental types, of designs so elegant and popular that most of them are reproduced in Germany and other foreign countries.

The electrotyping and stereotyping are both most interesting processes, especially when conducted on a large scale. To stereotyping and its twin sister art, electrotyping, is due the exceeding cheapness of our publications, allowing any number of editions to be struck off. During the past ten years this firm

have set up and stereotyped more than eight hundred considerable works, besides a multitude of smaller ones. Among them we may mention two quarto Bibles (one of them published by Peck & Bliss, the grandest ever got up in America,) Lippincott's two great Gazetteers, Dr. Kane's Explorations, The North American Sylva, Thiers's Napoleon and Macaulay's England, Allibone's magnificent Dictionary of Authors and Books, etc., etc. They have published for over twenty years a quarterly periodical called the *Typographic Advertiser*, which is sent to all the printing offices of North America, and circulates extensively in North America, Europe, Australia, and in some portions of Asia and Africa. It is the oldest periodical of its class in the world, and still under the charge of its original editor, the senior member of the firm.

That the firm have reached as near to perfection in their manufacture and system as possible, very few who have been over the works would deny; but it is likely that, as time travels on, further discoveries and improvements will be made; however, we have no fear but what this house will continue to be the first-house in the world in its line. The upbuilding of a complete type foundry is a work of generations, and we shall no doubt see this "credit to our nation" carried on for centuries hence, and advancing in renown and prosperity year by year.

Messrs. MacKellar, Smiths & Jordan have a very interesting exhibit in Machinery Hall, Centennial Exposition, in north aisle, Section No. 5, Column No. 38. The machines shown were built by them and are probably the most perfect ever made, producing type dense and compact in body and perfect in face, and at the rate of from 90 to 180 per minute each machine. They have also on exhibition a type rubbing machine, invented and built in this foundry probably the most effective rubber yet produced.

It is such industries as this which makes Philadelphia known far and wide as what she justly claims to be, viz., the largest manufacturing city in the United States. — *Philadelphia Commercial Reporter*.

THE office of the Cornwall FREEHOLDER was totally destroyed by fire on the 26th July. The order for a complete new outfit was given to us, and was promptly executed. We quote from the FREEHOLDER, Aug. 4th:—"There was no time for regrets as numerous and large job orders had to be filled, and accordingly long before the fire was put out, orders were given to the Dominion Type-Founding Co., for an entirely new outfit to be forwarded by express. There are few, if any, such instances of despatch in refitting a printing office as was accomplished in this instance. Within four days after the fire, not only was an immense quantity of type received from Montreal, and a large Press from New York (a Potter), but this office was in full running order in the extensive premises above the Dry Goods establishment of D. McMillan, Pitt Street. No trouble or expense has been spared to furnish the FREEHOLDER office with the most recently improved presses and new type of all kinds. Great credit is due to the Dominion Type-Founding Company of Montreal, who on this occasion rendered every assistance through their agent, Mr. Crossby, whose energy and promptitude enabled the FREEHOLDER to be re-established in so short a space of time."