

trade journal published in London, England, by Mr. W. John Stonhill, a man of large literary experience and ability. We extend a hearty fraternal greeting to the handsome new-comer and trust it may achieve a large measure of success. One important point (to our mind) in its management is the fact that it has no connection with a printers' furnishing warehouse, foundry, or press manufactory, being in this respect similar to the *Miscellany*. The *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*, in the United Kingdom, and *The Printer's Miscellany*, in America, have set themselves the task of solving the problem as to whether or not the printing and kindred arts can and will support a journal devoted solely and wholly to their interests. It remains to be seen how the experiment will terminate. As for ourselves, we must admit that our expectations have hardly been realized. Not that subscribers have been scarce—on the contrary they have exceeded our anticipations; but we have found it exceedingly hard to secure advertisements for cash—nearly all wishing to pay in trade. Our cotemporary seems to enjoy a large advertising patronage as, indeed, do most all English trade papers, although the majority of them being connected with a furnishing warehouse for printers, bookbinders and others, can just as well as not take pay in machinery and tools. We advise any of our friends, who may wish to have an English trade paper, to subscribe for the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*—it costs only 6s. (\$1.50) per annum: Address W. John Stonhill, 5 Ludgate Circus Buildings, London, E. C., England. At all events, send ten cents for a specimen copy.

Some time since we had occasion to remark that the day might come when the sign-painter would pay a little attention to punctuation in dashing off his signs, but we had no hopes that the time was so near at hand. A sign-painter saw the article, admitted the ground for it, and at once began posting himself. As the result, he yesterday put up for a grocer a sign reading: "Cash !! Store ! All : Kinds of !!! Produce, Wanted ??? Cheapest; Place —! In., Town !?!" That will do—even a printer couldn't beat that.

The foremen of printing offices are respectfully asked to canvass their offices for subscriptions to the *Miscellany*. Send for specimen copies and show them to all hands, not forgetting the boys.

For the *Miscellany*.

Amateur Job-Printing Offices

are of recent origin—they were rarely heard of until the late civil war, and with their twin-sisters, amateur newspapers, gained an impetus during the continuance of the sanguinary conflict; but, unlike many wild and visionary speculations ushered into existence at the same time, and for a brief period upheld and sustained by the excitement and activity incident to the occasion, and now lost in oblivion, the amateurs continue to flourish and increase in number.

Originating in the field of amusement, they have become a source of profit to boys and a damnable annoyance to the craft. Flattered and impressed by the deceptive inducements held out by the manipulators of amateur outfits, hundreds of boys are yearly influenced in investing their savings in printing material. So numerous have they become that in all quarters may be heard a prolonged howl for the suppression of the nuisance. So far as the fraternity is concerned, the opinion is unanimous, or nearly so, that—

1. Amateur job-printing offices do serious injury to typography as an art;
2. They impair and harass the business interests of the art;
3. They force an unjust depreciation of the value of the skill engaged in the prosecution of the trades constituting the art;
4. The evil should be eradicated.

While the first proposition is self-evident to the followers of the art preservative and the kindred arts, when we approach the outer circle and present the subject in this light our expostulations fall on unappreciative listeners—the niceties are inexplicable; the inequalities are imperceptible because incomprehensible.

The second proposition more directly concerns the employer, though the burden ultimately falls upon the shoulders of the employé. Mankind is prone to the mistake of *over-reaching*, and in business transactions seek to secure the most for money possible to obtain. The careful merchant keeps a sharp surveillance over the columns of profit and loss and contingent expenses. The grocer is directly interested in his particular line, concentrates his energies for a successful issue, and is keenly alive to all questions affecting that particular branch of trade; he knows very little concerning the fluctuations of other branches, and is unconcerned as to their prosperity or