

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

SPECIMENS.—The *British Whig* Steam Job Printing House, Kingston, Ont., sends a fine specimen in the shape of a business card. It is done in colors and gold, and displays taste in arrangement as well as in the choice of colors.

The *Leader* Steam Printing House, Bloomington, Illinois, furnishes a specimen of plain printing in a business card.

Munson's Canadian Phonographic News is the title of a very useful publication devoted to the phonographic art. It is published semi-monthly in Toronto, Ont., and each issue contains a number of practical lessons, accompanied by a key, which must prove invaluable to those interested in the study of phonetics. We should think printers would gladly avail themselves of this chance to acquire a knowledge of this almost necessary adjunct to printing. It can be had for two dollars per annum, by addressing Morton & Company, 40 Church street, Toronto, Ont., Canada.

The *Western Paper Trade*, of Chicago, Ill., is a very neatly printed and valuable sixteen-page paper. The occupant of the editorial chair evidently knows something of catering for the paper makers, dealers, etc.

The *American Bookseller*, of New York (semi-monthly) is a valuable publication to publishers, and also to buyers and sellers of books and standard stationery.

The *Printers' Circular*, of Philadelphia, Penn., is, as usual, full of facts and figures interesting particularly to printers of the United States.

The *Tyfo*, of Syracuse, N. Y., (bi-monthly) is neatly printed and well edited, and no printing office should be without it.

The *Specimen*, of Chicago, Ill., is beautifully printed, and the editor deals deftly with the crudities of the craft.

The *Quadrat*, of Pittsburg, Penn., is a publication printers should patronize.

The *New Zealand Press News and Typographical Circular*, January.

The *Scottish Typographical Circular*, January.

La Typologie-Tucker, February.

The *Press News*, January.

L'Imprimerie, January.

A patriotic Servian has translated "Yankee Doodle" into his native tongue, and the air is so popular that it bids fair to become the national anthem of that struggling race. It runs as follows:—

"Yenghijovitch Dhoodalovitski camerowsk tetovvnepi,
Ridingelensk onovitch penelodowsk;
Stuckorelskeno fheatheromonk inter his hatovitch,
Adensk colladarovosk macharonitovenski!"

THERE is something refreshing in the absolute astonishment that visitors to a printing office sometimes display at the commonest things. "What is that black looking thing standing up in that corner?" is sometimes asked by an unsophisticated observer; and the nearest typo answers: "That is the printing office towel. We always stand it up in the corner."

The very latest novelty—blue glass sticks.

The Proof-Reader.

That much-abused person, the proof-reader, seldom has roses thrown in his way in the shape of pleasant words. Perspiring under blazing gas jets for three hundred and sixty-five nights of the year, cursed by writers on one hand and type-setters on the other, the proof-reader's life is not an easy one. The proof-reader is probably the most unanimously imprecated man in the world. It is impossible that he should satisfy anybody, and it were the sheerest folly for him to expect to please everybody. Through weary hours he must apply himself intensely to matter which does not interest him; he must follow, not mechanically, but with his mind, disquisitions which are quite likely to be odious to him. He must correct the numerous blunders of writers, and rectify the manifold embellishments of the intelligent compositor. His information must be large and varied; he must possess an acquaintance with foreign terms in use in the language which he corrects, and must be able to rectify errors in orthography, grammar, geography, and history. His task is the most thankless one under heaven, for no writer ever admits the possibility of an error on his part, preferring to make the proof-reader a scape-goat for every fault.

Five Hundred Sheets to the Ream.

This is a question that has often been discussed through the press and otherwise, but the relief sought for has only been but partially obtained. The paper maker could just as well, without any injustice to himself (as most paper is sold by the pound), make his quires twenty-five and reams five hundred sheets. The convenience of such a state of things would be great. If you have a bill to print and you want one hundred copies, your paper cuts four to the sheet, you take a quire (twenty-five sheets) and you have just the desired number; otherwise, the way we get the paper now, you have to get the extra sheet from another quire; and so with every job you do. Fifteen or twenty years ago the custom was to put up cards in packages of six hundred, but now you invariably buy them in packages of five hundred, this change was made no doubt for the convenience of all concerned; and why not make the change suggested in regard to paper for the same reason?

A large number of letters have been received too late for this issue.