

# Printer and Publisher.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

In another page will be found a criticism on the methods of the wholesale trade in Toronto. The paper men and type founders by their loose methods of giving credits are responsible in a great degree for the downfall of men, who, had they been restrained and limited in their buying powers, might have worked up a paying business. Put a man, who has only ability to look after five thousand dollars worth of liabilities, to finance for ten thousand, and he struggles frantically and recklessly like a drowning man. But the printing trade generally throughout Canada may be thankful that with the dawn of the new year of 1894, the possibility of securing credit among the paper men will be very slight, unless a man has good assets, and has sound business principles. The type founders and press manufacturers will no doubt follow suit, either from inclination or necessity.

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Another article which should interest the trade throughout the country and which, like the one already mentioned, should be thoroughly discussed by the trade through the columns of this and other journals, is taken up under the heading, "Printers and the Tariff." It is similar to an article which appeared last month, but cites instances for reform more explicitly. These are points on which the trade should speak out. Every man who can use his pen and has public spirit enough to be interested in the welfare of his craft should speak out boldly and clearly. The duty on presses and type is one which has been felt by every employing printer and publisher in Canada. If they want it removed the opportunity now offers, and yet it will need a decided and concerted action on the part of publishers generally if any change is to be secured.

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"Are party papers the ideals which newspaperdom generally should have?" is a question of the hour. The bitterness of the press is calling forth more and more comment and adverse criticism. The personal attack of one editor on another is now considered an undignified procedure, and only allowable in the editor of the Arizona Kicker. Still it exists in Canada. Dan McGillcuddy, up at Goderich, is a master of the art, and just now he is having considerable sport with a young editor who crossed him. But "Dan" doesn't do it so much for spite as for his pure love of devilry: but he ought to quit, seeing that his hair is getting grey. There are other editors whom we might mention, but they are well known. These are the representatives of the old school. The more modern editor is a

different stamp of man. Of late the Toronto Globe has had a philosophical attitude in its editorial columns that has done much to popularise that paper among the thinking men of the community through which it circulates. The Toronto Mail has a good tone; so has the Montreal Star and the Winnipeg Free Press. The Toronto Empire, Montreal Gazette, St. John Gazette and Halifax Chronicle may be mentioned as journals whose editors have a little to learn yet before they will be as dignified and circumspect as a judge. Their philosophical or scientific attitude towards the question they treat is not on the highest plane.

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But listen to the following harangue, delivered by a Toronto minister, Mr. Hossack. In a recent sermon, he is reported to have said:—"How shall we describe the party organ? Its aim seems to be to impute improper motives to opponents. It aims not at finding a proper motive for the equivocal act of an opponent, but an improper motive for a commendable act. Shall we describe the party newspaper as the party dredge which plunges into deep, polluted and forgotten rubbish to heave up only mud and slime? Is the party organ published only to misrepresent? If the political foe hold a large public meeting he is said to have held a small gathering—only a few score present. If there be great enthusiasm, the party organ says it was the coldest meeting held in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. If an opposing leader make a brilliant speech in parliament, the organ, true to its nature, for the leopard cannot change his spots, describes it as two hours of drivel, the old stock of party platitudes, or cold and monotonous as December rain. If a leader, for private reasons, retire, or, in old age, die, according to the organ his successor has driven him into obscurity, or so betrayed him that he has been forced, with a broken heart, to lie down and die. In our time we have seen directed towards a leader abuse so persistent that the minds of even some of the followers were poisoned, and they have joined in the nefarious work. If a prominent man, out of the goodness of his heart, addresses a church meeting, the party organ declares that he is pandering to denominational bias that he may gain the denominational vote. One half of the organ is falsely flattering its friends; the other half is equally untrue in misrepresenting its opponents. Need we wonder that many able and honest men shun public life? He is a bold man who, in our day, will enter upon the journey of public life with its pestilential swamps by the way, its deserts of ingratitude, cruel ambushes, storms of abuse virulent and vile, skies not bright with merited praise, but black with calumny, a journey through the region where the