

PAPER OF "YE OLDEN TIMES."—A correspondent of a contemporary says he found the paper of 1453 in perfect condition—strong, flexible, of a pearly-white colour—but on looking through it he discerned a water mark, beautiful for its clearness and delicacy. The correspondent propounds the query:—Will a hand-made paper of to-day stand the test of an age of four hundred years as satisfactorily? Without any fear of successful contradiction, he answers himself in the negative, giving as his reason his lack of faith in the enduring quality of modern paper, and the employment by our manufacturers of more or less chloride of lime for bleaching purposes. He takes it for granted that the influence exercised by this chemical exists after the pulp is made into paper, no matter how thoroughly it is washed, causing our best paper to become hard and brittle, and lose its colour with age.

This correspondent belongs, says the *Printer's Circular*, to one of the classes whom Gilbert, in the "Mikado," puts on the public executioner's list—the men who praise every century but their own. We have examined old books, very few as ancient as 1453, but many of the sixteenth century, the paper of which, instead of being a "pearly white," was a dirty yellow; instead of being flexible, was brittle. Most of the books that have come to us ages before paper makers employed chloride of lime are discoloured, many being a saffron-yellow, and nearly all have the margins more or less disfigured by breakages due to brittleness. We believe that the good qualities of hand-made paper produced to-day, will endure as long, under the same favourable conditions, as that made in 1453. The correspondent fails to state how or where the few very old books that came under his close observation were kept during the four centuries since they were printed. Opulent book collectors will gladly pay a fancy price for gynecunabula, printed on flexible, pearly-white paper. Even the illuminated missals, carefully written on paper made a quarter of a century before 1453, are of a decidedly yellow hue, and neither flexible nor strong. The modern paper-maker has no need to fear the competition of bygone ages.—*The British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*.

NEW USE FOR PAPER.—Another application of paper is to be noted, viz., its use as a substitute for wood in blocks or bars whenever a knife is employed in a mechanical cutter. It is found valuable in paper mills where an under cutter is used; also in the cutting of blocks of envelope work, one outlasting a dozen of the wooden blocks. In its manufacture, sheets of paper are compressed by enormous force into blocks or bars, harder than wood and far more durable.

## PAPERS OLD AND NEW.

The publication at Hagersville, Ontario, of a fortnightly paper in the interests of the Indian, and edited by Dr. Peter Jones, himself one of the aborigines, marks a new era in literature. Now that the Indians of Canada are admitted to a like right with their fellowmen to vote for our legislators, it is well that they should be educated, politically, to give an intelligent vote when called upon to exercise the

franchise. The editor evidently understands this, for neither he nor his contributors aim at fine writing or learned disquisitions, but in clear, homely language seek to enlighten the least learned. We wish *The Indian* the success such a venture deserves.

*Grip*, in its new dress, presents a very pleasing appearance. Very much of an improvement, with its really artistic cover, and engravings showing to fine advantage on the superior paper now used. The illustrations seem to us better than formerly, more refined, as it were, while the smaller ones here and there are of real merit. Doesn't the bird, when looking at the different parties in politics, just sometimes peep over his shoulder instead of looking straight ahead?

OUR PICTORIAL JOURNALS, the *Graphic* and the *Illustrated London News* are splendid specimens of printing, but they are not equal, it must be admitted, to some continental ones, like the *Stuttgart Ueber Land und Meer*, which is done on a rotary. We have, positively, no rotary that would produce such work. Mr. Ingram, of the *Illustrated London News*, spent a vast deal of money in trying, along with his engineer, the late Mr. Brister, to make such a machine, but the effort was futile, and the cut forms are now entirely done on a machine with a flat bed. During the last few months, the printing of this journal, and of its great rival, has been enormously improved by the adoption of the American system of printing on dry paper without blankets, but the idea of doing it on a rotary seems to have been abandoned. The question may well be asked, why cannot English engineers produce something as good as what we can get from the Augsburg Engineering Works.—*The Stationery Trades' Journal*.

"FISHING," a 16pp. folio, on toned paper, and illustrated, will shortly be issued from the office of *Land and Water*. It will be published at one penny weekly, and, from time to time, chromo plates in colours will be presented to subscribers, the first series to embrace the fresh-water fish of Great Britain. There ought to be room for such a journal, and those who subscribe may feel satisfied that its pages will be filled by men competent to write upon the matters they treat.

THE most carefully edited journal is fallible. In the *Times* office, it is said, proof readers are fined for every blunder that eludes them. On the *New York Herald* they have been suspended for weeks. In spite of this severe discipline, the *Herald* once made the astonishing announcement that "a long line of scorpions' feathers filed into the church," instead of "surpliced fathers." A reporter on that paper had occasion to quote a verse from a familiar hymn in which the word "herald" occurred. The proof-reader dutifully underscored the word, and the verse appeared. "Hark! *The Herald* angels sing." It was in the *World's* report of a political meeting that the word "shouts" was so ludicrously misprinted as to make the blunder famous. "The snouts of ten thousand Democrats rent the air," read the report. A few years ago the journalist, who is widely-known as "Gath," wrote a Fourth of July article. With fervid eloquence he told how the effete monarchs of the old