

## HINTS TO COMPOSITORS.

BY A COMPOSITOR.

I.

In giving a few hints to compositors relative to their daily avocation, it will, perhaps, be necessary to state that they are not meant for *all* of the craft, but merely for those who, while thinking they are benefitting themselves by a disregard of the rules of order and neatness, and a desire to defraud their fellow-workmen of their just rights by underhand ways, are really in the long run, not only doing themselves injury, but also losing the esteem and confidence of their employers and fellow craftsmen. It might be as well to state here that the writer of these articles does not arrogate to himself the office of teacher, nor is he of the opinion that all goodness concentrates in himself, nor that he is blessed with extraordinary abilities above his fellow-workmen; but he will affirm this much, that he has a sense of order and neatness, is fully alive to what is due his employer as well as himself, tries to know his business, and knowing it, puts his knowledge into practice.

Without occupying further space in explanatory matters, let us enter the office with the compositor who knows, and also does, his business thoroughly—one who acts from a consciousness that he is doing justice alike to his employers and those associated with him in his daily labor. The first thing on entering the office in the morning, he carefully cleans up all the "pi" lying about his stand, overhauls the quadrat boxes (the general "hell box" of the slatternly compositor), and put things generally in order. He then collects whatever "objectionable" matter there may be "dead" belonging to his frame, and either distributes it at once or before composition hour. He gets his cases well up—ready for a draw on any font. He now takes copy in his turn, and when near out, if, by any means, he knows that the next "take" in order is a very "lean" one, he does not "lay," but finishes his "take" at once and takes the copy in turn whatever it may be. If a very bad "take" (as one sometimes happens to get), he does not spend five minutes or so growling about it and bewailing his luck (that does no good), but takes the matter philosophically, for he knows that it pays so to do; for what compositor does not know that crossness brings on nervousness, and then, good-bye to rapid composition. He fully appreciates the necessity of confining his conversation to matters pertaining to the work in hand (general con-

versation annoys the average compositor), has a courteous answer for all, is ever ready to assist in deciphering bad manuscript or in the composition of a complicated table, etc., if his experience happens to be more extensive than that of the enquirer, and, finally, while endeavoring to earn an honest livelihood for himself, is ever ready to assist others in the struggle. He is thus held in the highest regard by his associates and employers, not only for the manner in which his labor is performed, but also for those excellent traits of character which are always sure to bring their true reward.

The printing interests of the Dominion of Canada are represented, in Machinery Hall at the Centennial, by five exhibitors, viz.:

Burland, Desbarats & Co., Montreal—Stereotyping and Electrotyping.

Dominion Type-Founding Company, Montreal—Specimen book of its manufactures.

George P. Drummond, Ottawa—Type-setting and distributing machine.

John Fleming, Toronto—Electrotyping machine.

Charles Lawson, Fredericton, N. B.—Printing stand.

Great Britain is represented by four exhibitors, France by six, Germany by three, Belgium by one, Sweden by one, Italy by one, Argentine Republic by three, and the United States by seventy-five. There are, no doubt, many exhibits pertaining to printing in other departments and of which we expect to have a description from a special correspondent.

The advertising department of the *Religious Intelligencer* has been placed under the able management of Melbourne McLeod. The change took place on the 1st of July. When Mel. was accountant in the *Telegraph* office he was deservedly popular with every person with whom he came in contact. Since he left the *Telegraph* we have not seen so much of him, but have no doubt he will carry with him, into whatever walk of life he may choose, the same kind, genial and gentlemanly manner which always made it a pleasure to do business with him. He has our best wishes.

Job printing in this city is fair, some offices being comparatively slack while others have almost more than they can do. Wages—\$8.00 per week, extra good hands \$9.00; piecework 25 cts. per 1,000.

In Halifax, job printing is very dull, owing, it is said, to the transfer, from that city to Ottawa, of some \$20,000 worth of printing.