

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Notes from New York.

*Business—St. John Boys in Gotham—Prices.*

NEW YORK, April 17.

Having "laid off" to-day on account of a momentary lull in business, I thought I could not employ my time better than penning a few notes for the *Miscellany*.

Business in the newspaper, book and jobbing lines is very brisk just now, and prices of composition in law and book work have been advanced in many places, in a few cases from 25 to 35 cents, the latter being the Union scale for day work; but New York Union is about as useful, in the matter of prices, as some Unions the writer is more familiar with. These advances have been conceded, in many cases, to non-Union men. One large law printing establishment, which was formerly under the ban of the Union, paying but 25 cents, now floats the Union flag, the proprietor lately having announced that hereafter none but members of the Union would be employed. This was done voluntarily and without any solicitation on the part of the Union.

While business is brisk in all the offices, yet the supply of comps. is fully equal to the demand, and around the bulletin boards, the City Hall Square and the Union room on Chatham street, large numbers of them may at any time be seen. Quite a number of these, though, are not selfish or ambitious to amass wealth, and they are unconcerned whether they work or not, a day now and then sufficing.

The St. John boys, of whom there are many here, are all employed, in good sits., and are loud in their praises of New York city, more especially the "freshest" of them, or those who have been here but a few months. One night recently I dropped in on one of them and found him in a meditative mood. On inquiring the cause of his apparent gloom, he said: "Oh, no, I'm not gloomy; but was just thinking of the vast difference between the systems of running offices in this city and St. John. Here, a man can call his soul his own; while there, he was an abject slave, not daring, lest dire consequences might follow, to open his mouth during the long hours of work, except strictly on business, and some of the offices (happily but few) bear a striking resemblance to prisons. Of

course," added the speaker in a bitterly sarcastic tone, "it might be that a young man who has served his time setting quack medicine sheets out of a bag, or an old man with antiquated ideas, knew their business better than men in similar positions in this city."

Your St. John readers, possibly, may be interested in knowing who these St. John boys are who are here and where they are employed. Of those mentioned in a former number as having left for New York, being part of the *Sun* gang who went out on strike, viz.: Geo. Thomas, Geo. Maxwell, J. J. Ryan and Wm. J. Clark, George Maxwell, as you are already probably aware, returned home on a very pleasant mission, Geo. Thomas is now employed in S. W. Green's Sons', 32 Beekman street, where George has ingratiated himself into the good graces of the foreman, is very popular among the hands and blesses the cause of his leaving St. John, J. J. Ryan runs a frame on *Turf, Field and Farm* and W. J. Clark holds cases in Frank Leslie's Sons'. Frank Murphy did not come beyond Boston, and is doing well there.

There are three other St. John boys, also, on *Turf*, namely, Jas. Cain, who prior to leaving St. John was slinging antimony on the *Sun*; James Boyd, who worked on the *News, Globe* and other St. John papers, and John Fitzpatrick, who graduated from the now defunct *Herald* office.

Jere. Sullivan, formerly of the *Freeman* and latterly of the *Sun*, holds a sit. on the *Sunday Times*; John McConachey, also latterly of the *Sun*, is at present in the office of Goodwin & Baker, Park Row; Samuel J. McCready, formerly foreman of the *Christian Visitor*, is now a jobber at 22 Vesey street.

Possibly, some of the "old-timers" in St. John will recollect the name of John Ross, who served a portion of his time there and finished it in Fredericton, soon afterwards leaving the Province. This occurred twenty years ago, and when I first met that genial gentleman, his interest in St. John seemed as lively as if he had but left it twenty days previously. He has a "soft snap" in the *Spectator* Company's office, 16 Dey Street.

The many friends of Mr. Chas. A. Power of Portland, who served his time in Roger Hunter's and worked on the deceased Fredericton *Star* prior to his coming here, will be glad to learn that he has completely recovered from a