

The Printer's Miscellany.

AN EXPONENT OF PRINTING AND ALL THE KINDRED ARTS.

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PRACTICAL MATTERS.

BY JUL. L. WRIGHT.

"Off its Feet" and "Bottle-arsed."

What causes matter to get off its feet? is a perplexing question I have been accosted with on more than one occasion.

There are many things conspiring to produce this defect, and the cause operating in one instance may be entirely removed in another. If the interrogatory be put abruptly concerning a particular case, it is rare, indeed, that the true reason can at once be given.

Generally, the compositor comes in for the full measure of responsibility, even though the controlling cause may be beyond his power of correction, and in nine cases out of ten he will shoulder the *onus* simply because he is impressed with the belief that it is the direct result of his haste or carelessness.

Hasty judgment is apt to be more or less defective, and I have awakened to a realization that (in common with—I take it for granted I may say all—others similarly situated) errors arising from the above cause have led me into injustice of thought concerning my fellow-workmen.

The causes usually ascribed are—

1. Irregular justification;
2. Careless emptying;
3. Slovenly placing the side-stick and improperly quoining the galleys;
4. Rough handling in taking the galley-proof;
5. Disregard of the care essential to a preservation of even compactness in the raising, lifting, and rejustification consequent upon correcting;
6. Carelessness of the maker-up in shifting from one galley to another;
7. Stupidity in removing page-cords and closing-up;
8. Improper locking-up.

Reflecting on the frequency of this annoyance in the daily experience of life in the composing-room, I undertook to give the subject a more