

and clinched. The under surface of the shoe was the color of meteoric iron—the edges like gold. I shall refer to the sword and hoof again, but for the present I wish to moralize a few minutes for the benefit of our young friends. Rag-chaw, fill my pipe. Cranksey, call the waiter."

After Pop had conquered his asthma, he began mournfully: "Gentlemen, 'how have the mighty fallen.' I weep when I consider the decadence of our craft. Think of Caxton wearing a sword!—and us umbrellas! Of course, he did not wear a sword to whop the other fellows with, but as a badge of honor, as the insignia of a gentleman, as the companion of princes, and as a professor of the fine arts. He also had his coat of arms. His "red pale" over the door of the Almonry at Westminster proclaimed him the gentleman and scholar. All printers in those days were gentlemen, and wore swords and coats of arms. It's likely they only wore them on the street, or when they attended court; When they wrestled with old-style pica or heaved at the levers of their old screw presses, they doubtless hung their coats of mail, or arms, or their swords, on the antlers of some noble stag near the office towel. Just think of me wearing a sword on Park Row! As for the bourgeois of the perfesh! Police! ! !

"When my reverend ancestor William Caxton returned to England from Bruges, where he became a typo, he set up his press at Westminster in A. D. 1476. Caxton moved in good society, gentlemen. King Edward the Fourth was in his set, also the Duchess Margaret of Burgundy—his sister. The Earl of Arundel, the learned Earl of Worcester—in fact, all the elite of the Early Renaissance were proud to drop in and chat with Billy Caxton at the old stand. But the Chairman of this select club was the Duke of Gloster—afterwards King Richard the Third, of Bosworthian memory. History belies this gentleman, and Shakespeare used him to illustrate the superiority of mind over matter. However, Richard, of the House of York, was a patron of Caxton and a sub-hero of this little sketch.

"It was fortunate for Caxton and the world that he had such backing. Although a few powerful churchmen lent their aid to our craft, yet others, including the Vicar