

PRINTER'S DEVILS.

A great many persons are in the habit of looking upon and speaking of printers' devils in a manner that reflects no credit on themselves. Those same printers' devils, in nine cases out of ten, are three times as well posted on the issues of the day as the person who slights and speaks lightly of them. There is no class of boys for whom we have a more profound respect than well behaved printers' devils. They know something and are practical, which is more than you can say of all classes of boys. Young Woman, before you again elevate that delicate nose at the approach of a printers' devil, get some one who knows something of history to tell you the names of a few characters that were once printers' devils.

For fear that you will dislike to show your ignorance we will give you a short list of ex-devils of printing offices. If you have heard of any of them quit your flirting, and all nonsense in general, and go to studying. Did you ever hear of Benjamin Franklin? Ben was once a printers' devil. He was also one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President under Lincoln, was a printers' devil. —Schulyer Colfax, who has been Speaker of the House of Representatives for a number of years, was "Nothing but a devil in a printing office" at one time. Horace Greeley who is one of the first journalists on this continent, and an ex-congressman, was a printer's devil. United States Senator Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, was a "Devil." Thurlow Weed, one of the most influential men in New York, and editor of the *Commercial Advertiser*, was a penniless "Devil" in a printing office. United States Senator Ross, of Kansas, commenced his career as a printers' devil.

Two-thirds of the editors of the "States" were once printers' devils.—Permit us to tell you that the men who once did duty as printers have done more to advance the interests and sustain the good name of America than any other class.

ENLISTING A LAWYER.

Well, mind now, for this is true as Gospel. It was on the 11th of May, 1820, I enlisted a recruit in Dublin, and put the question to him, gave him the shilling, and walked him off to the barracks as fine as a fiddle. Well, in a few days he was claimed as a 'prentice, and so he was had up before the Mayor, and he committed him for trial.

Well, at the following 'sies I was called as a witness, and the lawyer that defended him told me that I did not 'list him.

"I did," says I.

"Did you put the question to him rightly?" says he.

"I did," says I.

"By the virtue of your oath, now," says he. "Just ax me the question, for I don't believe you axed him."

"How do you know?" says I, "for by this and by that you wern't by."

"None of your business," says he; and he held out his hand, and accordingly I pulled out half-a-crown and clapped it in his fist, and then I axed him the questions, and he said, "Yes" to them all.

"Were these the same questions you put to the prisoner?" says he.

"Yes, they are," says I.

"Well, here's yer half-crown back for ye," says he.

"I can't take it, sir," says I.

"Why not?" says he.

"Why not?" says I; why, sure I can't take it back till ye go before a magistrate and pay the "Smart money."

"You be hanged," says he, and he put the money in his pocket, and I called to his lordship on the bench for a witness that I had 'listed him.

And oh, holy biddy, but there was a roar in the court! Begorra, the judge laughed till the tears ran down his face.

Well the decision of the court being in my favor, I axed the judge if I might take away my new recruit.

And they all roared again, and the counsellor got as red as a turkey cock, and as mad as a bull with the colic; at last he made the best he could av it, and says I to the counsellor, says I, "Don't 'list in the Line next time, sir."

"What then," says he, snappishly.

"Oh, yer 'oner," says I, "stick to the Rifles; that's more in your way."

Well, begorra, when I told the Major, I thought he'd die, and when he'd done laughing he bid me keep the "Smart Money" for my elf.—*Irish Humor.*

EXPLOSIVE MISSILES.

The following is a portion of the report of the St. Petersburg convention.

Considering that the progress of civilization ought to result in diminishing as much as possible the sufferings inseparable from war; that the only legitimate object pursued in war is to weaken the force of the enemy; that to attain this it suffices to place as many men as possible *hors de combat*; that to make use of expedients which shall unnecessarily enlarge the wounds of the men placed *hors de combat*, or entail inevitable death, is incompatible with the before mentioned object; that to make use of such expedients would, moreover, be contrary to the teachings of humanity.

The undersigned, in virtue of the instructions given them by the Government, are authorized to declare as follows:

I. The contracting parties engage, in the event of war between any of them, to abstain from the use of missiles of any description possessing explosive power, or filled with explosive or inflammable material weighing less than 400 grammes. This restriction to apply to the army and navy alike.

II. They likewise invite all those States not represented at the deliberations of the Military Commission assembled at St. Petersburg, to subscribe to this mutual engagement.

III. In the event of war this engagement is to be observed only towards the contracting parties, and those that may subsequently subscribe to it. It need not be observed towards any who have not signified their assent to the above stipulations.

IV. The engagement likewise ceases to be valid, if a State that has not signed it takes part in a war between parties that have signed it.

V. Whenever the progress of science results in any new definite proposals being made for improving the equipment of the troops, the contracting parties, as well as those who have subsequently joined the engagement, will assemble to maintain the principles laid down to reconcile the requirements of war with the demands of humanity.

GARRISONMENT OF INDIA.

India, it is clear, must be held mainly by British troops; and the distance of India from this country makes it inexpedient to relieve the regiments which are stationed there more frequently than once in every ten or twelve years. At first sight, then, it seems suicidal to enlist men for less than ten years, when their regiment will probably be sent abroad, before their term of service has expired. But surely if, on general grounds, it is advisable to enlist men for short periods, the fact that such an arrangement would be inconvenient, so far as India is concerned, does not necessarily prove that short enlistments are a mistake, though it possibly indicates that it might be advisable, as indeed has been more than once suggested, to have two armies; one for home and one for foreign service. I am far from saying that I believe the adoption of this alternative to be necessary. On the contrary, even with a system of short enlistments, I think that there need not be any difficulty in garrisoning India. Two deviations from our present practice are required to effect this object. The strongest of our line regiments comprise now about 980 non-commissioned officers and men; the weakest about 600. While the regiment is abroad it is kept up, as a rule, at its full strength; when it returns home is allowed to fall to its minimum strength. The effect of this arrangement, of course, is that the heaviest recruiting goes on when the regiment is abroad, and when, therefore, the cost of the recruits' travelling expenses is heavy; and that the least amount of recruiting takes place when the regiment is at home, and when the expenses are proportionately small. The practice clearly demands a remedy; and the remedy is a very simple one. Let a regiment on leaving England always muster its full quota of 980 men; let it, during its foreign service, be allowed gradually to dwindle till, on its return home, it can only muster 600 men. The process should then, of course, be reversed, and the strength of the regiment should gradually be raised till, on its again sailing for foreign service, it should comprise once more its full quota of 980 men. Under this arrangement the expense of replacing 380 of the casualties while the regiment is abroad will, at any rate be avoided.—"Army Reform," in *Cornhill Magazine*.

RE-ARREST OF "CAPTAIN" O'BRIEN.

O'Brien who committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Mill street in the guise of a Fenian captain, and subsequently effected a daring escape from Marlow bridge-well, was recaptured at the foot of Musher mountain by a constable and sub constable of the Rathcoole constabulary. O'Brien at the time of his capture, was riding a horse he had stolen the day previously. On being searched, he was found to have possession of a perfect armoury, including a single barrelled gun, a horse pistol, shot pouch, strap, and box of percussion caps. The prisoner was placed in a cart, when he commenced cursing, kicking, plunging, and doing everything he possibly could to escape. In a few minutes a considerable crowd collected, and the prisoner began to call on them, in the name of the "Irish Republican Brotherhood," to rescue him, roaring out "I am captain P. O'Brien, of the Fenian army;" "I am a relative of O'Brien, the Manchester martyr." The Crowd became very much excited at this language, and