

the point is finished up. The point is not exactly a stub, nor yet is it sharp, but it is rather a cross between the two styles. It is in fact rounded, the peculiarity of the point being due to grinding. In the process of grinding also the edges are ground away for nearly eighth of an inch from the extreme point, making the end of the nib narrower, and preventing the ink from flowing clear to the point and dropping off, except when the pen is put to the paper. This style has been christened the "Iridium point," and is intended for mercantile use and rapid writing.—*Exchange.*

On the 1st of May, A. L. Bancroft & Co's handsome five-story brick structure at No. 721 Market street and the entire stock were destroyed by fire. This firm was the most extensive manufacturing wholesale and retail stationer and bookseller on the Pacific Coast. The loss of Bancroft & Co. by the fire amounts to considerably over half a million of dollars, and the insurance upon the building and stock was about \$200,000. By the prudence and foresight of H. H. Bancroft, senior member of the firm, in recently erecting a fireproof building at 1538 Valencia street, and removing his library thereto, the latter is yet safe. This loss of this collection of book and manuscripts, many of them of great age and value, would have been irreparable.

Referring to this *The Publishers' Weekly* says:—The fire which recently destroyed the printing establishment of Mr. H. H. Bancroft, the Pacific Coast historian, we are glad to learn, will fortunately result in no interruption in the work of the historical department. The loss, which was a heavy one, fell almost entirely upon Mr. Bancroft, and the first volume of the "History of Oregon," the plates of which were destroyed, cannot be issued as soon as was hoped. The plates of seven other volumes were destroyed, and also an entire edition of a biography of Porfirio Diaz, by Mr. Bancroft. The next volume in the historical series will now be "California," Volume V.

A book store in good location in Toronto will have nothing over a 50-cent book in the place. They say "people don't come here for high-priced books."

A leading Hamilton house has given up Christmas cards. Too little room and more time needed to show other holiday goods.

A disastrous fire occurred in the large brick and stone structure at the corner of Congress and Wabash avenue, Chicago, May 26th. The loss will approximate \$1,000,000. The building was filled with material of the most inflammable description. The occupants were, Belford, Clark & Co., publishers, whose loss will be \$300,000; Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., in the same business; Donohue & Henneberry, bookbinders; R. H. Teal & Co., lithographers, and the Central Lithographing Co.

A. D. F. RANDOLPH & Co., as already noted in brief, have removed to a larger and more commodious store on the south side of West 23rd Street, at number 38. The interior arrangement of the new premises has been modelled on the plan of the old store so endeared to the hearts of scholars, clergymen, teachers, and literary connoisseurs for upward of ten years.

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