

Some of these facts are in "Bennett's Life," issued by Stringer and Townsend in 1855. My father used to tell me that he very often saw Bennett personally selling his "Heralds" off the top of a barrel at the corner of Fulton and Ann streets, New York, the first few weeks after the issue of the paper (after the fire, September, 1835).

My father started a small job printing office in a little frame building, corner of Frankfort street and Chatham (now Printing House Row) upon the exact spot and lot where the great "New York World" building now stands. After a year or so he obtained a little credit and began to issue illustrated works (the first ever published in America). His first work was "Illustrations of the Bible." He had hardly courage to issue a first edition of one thousand copies, but they all sold very quickly and before five years he had sold over twenty thousand copies, an unprecedented sale at that time; and in the meanwhile he was issuing other works of a historical and biblical character, profusely illustrated. He was the first one to encourage wood-engraving, and paid thousands of dollars to young artists for their work on wood to illustrate his books.

P. T. Barnum, afterwards the great showman, at that time hardly had bread to eat; he applied to my father to be agent to sell his works. My father gave him a credit of \$100 or \$200 in books. He sold an immense number, enabling him to get a small capital, with which he bought out a small museum of curiosities and laid the foundation of his great wealth.

I forgot to state that the owner of the lot on which the little printing office stood offered it to my father in 1833 for \$2,500. A few years ago the "World" paid \$425,000 for the same lot exactly, on which they built their immense building. Naturally I am a bit sorry my father didn't buy the lot and keep it, but no one then had any idea of what New York was to be.

Believe me,

Very cordially yours,

GEO. EDW. SEARS.