

TO BE A GOOD PRINTER.

PRACTICAL printing, attractive and artistic in conception, is the demand of an exacting public. Little does that same public dream what is required to make a thoroughly good printer, besides natural aptitude and earnest application such as few boys, or even men, are willing to give. It is not a trade where mere skimming will ever insure success; for all of its details require great exactness. Unlike the errors of the physician, which are buried in the earth, the mistakes of the printer come to light, and unless corrected remain as enduring monuments of his ignorance or stupidity. It means to know the proper handling of inks and the combinations of colors; the washing and care of rollers; the appreciation of the intent of the artist; the effect of light and shade; the qualities of different papers for different kinds of work; to so arrange his tools as to do his work with the least possible waste of time and labor, and many other things.

Yet these are only a tithe of what the modern printer must learn to be a good workman, and the list might be extended to an almost indefinite length.

The truth is, the lad who would grow to be a good printer must put his whole soul into it, and make his business the ruling idea of his life. He should count it as a loss when he has

not learned something new and good. He should profit not only by the success of others, but by their failures also. If another makes a mistake, he should take a note of it, and, if possible, avoid falling into the same error. He should study the masterpieces of the best workmen, even as the artist studies the works of those who become famous before him; and if he sees a bit of work which bears the impress of genius he should endeavor to learn the why and the wherefore of every line and dot of beauty in it. It matters not whether it be of the severely plain style, or ornamented with all the beautiful things which the artist may put into his work. He should gather a little library of practical technical books in his home, where he may add to his knowledge of the details of his work; for much can be learned from books, though much more can be gained from persevering practice.—Pluck.

ODD LOTS OF BOOK PAPER.

Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton, are offering 25 special lots of coated book paper, being the accumulations at a well-known manufactory of odd lots, mostly over-runs. These goods will be sold at from 25 to 50 per cent. discount off the original price, and printers will do well to get a list of samples, as every one of the 25 lots is a bargain.

**SENTIMENT VS. BUSINESS.****AN ENGLISH OPINION OF THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.**

John Bull. "Is it not strange, my dear Madam, that while he, who only takes 9,000,000 francs of your produce, should be your bosom friend, I, who buy sixty times as much, get nothing but abuse!"—Punch.

[Le Soleil, of Paris, France, says: "Whereas Russia bought 9,769,000 francs worth of produce from France for the first six months of 1897, England bought 590,000,000 francs worth."]