



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE.

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NOTICE.

Subscribers to this paper will find the date their subscription terminates printed after the name. Those expiring at the end of the present month will please have the remittances mailed in time.

SOMETHING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS.

Every day the WITNESS Office where the MESSENGER is published and printed is visited by many visitors, who are generally delighted with what they see. That so much machinery, so many employees and so much skill and care is required to send forth the different WITNESS publications as they are issued surprises them greatly, and completely revolutionizes the ideas of many of them in regard to the publishing business. In the first place they are astonished to see a double building which occupies 7,300 feet of ground and 20,400 of flooring, in which one hundred and twenty-eight persons are employed. These are divided as follows: ten in the business department; thirteen on the editorial and reporting staff; three wood engravers; four in the "promotion department," which attends to the prizes, general correspondence, &c.; thirty-five compositors on the WITNESS and MESSENGER, including foremen; four proof-readers and "copy-holders," two electrotypers; thirteen job printers; eighteen folders and binders; four despatchers; three compositors to keep the mailing lists in order; fifteen pressmen and feeders; one engineer, and four drivers, whose duty it is to deliver the DAILY WITNESS in the city. Besides those there are newsboys, dealers, carriers, telegraphic and other correspondents who are also wholly or partly connected with this establishment.

Next to the extent of the office, the system manifest in every department of labor and the ingenuity and extent and perfection of the machinery employed causes most comment. A glance at the press-room on the fourth page gives some idea of the activity in that department. At the time the sketch given was taken, less than a month ago, there were in the press-room an eight cylinder Hoe rotary press, on which the DAILY WITNESS is printed, a four cylinder rotary press, a double cylinder for the WEEKLY WITNESS, a single feeder for the MESSENGER, two presses for job work, one of which printed L'AUBRE and another the DOMINION MONTHLY, and four for smaller work. The eight cylinder press referred to is capable of printing sixteen thousand sheets an hour, and is often run up to that number. Its catalogue price is thirty thousand dollars.

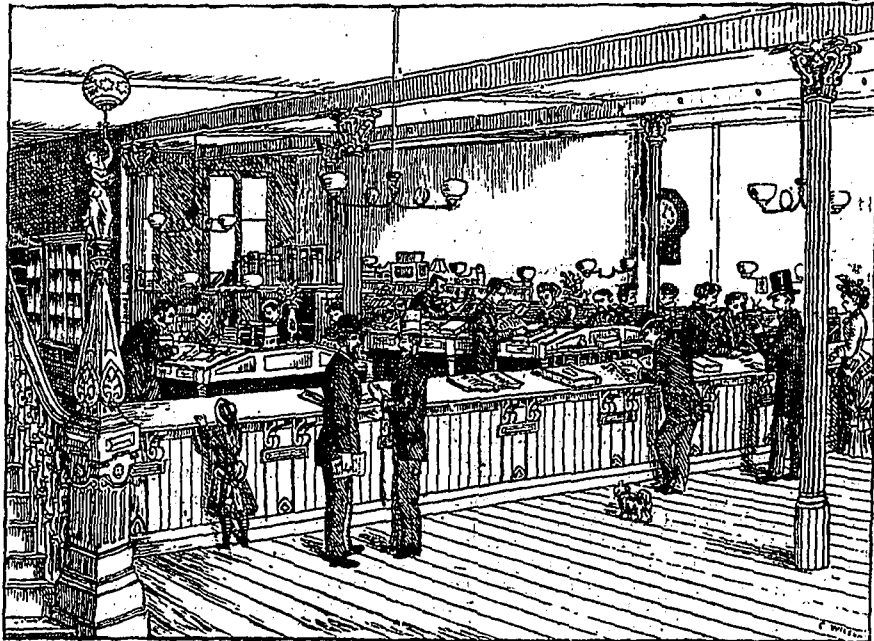
Just for a moment think of the amount of paper which runs through these presses in a year. Some 4,509,500 copies of the DAILY WITNESS, 1,412,000 of the WEEKLY WITNESS and 1,200,000 of the NORTHERN MESSENGER are issued in a year. If these were all piled up in reams they would make a column 3,560 feet, or more than two-thirds of a mile, high. If stretched out and pasted together they would reach four thousand four hundred and twenty-one miles.

To see that each one of this immense number of papers gets to its destination may well be considered a matter of care and difficulty. This will be better understood when it is remembered that during the year ending February, 1877, twenty-two thousand seven hundred and seventy-three money letters passed through this department in the WITNESS Office, while

to be sent is enclosed with no other intimation; but more frequently still the letters, names and all, are sent without the money.

Another department of some interest is the one having charge of the premiums, of which the MESSENGER readers know something. It is desired, as far as possible, to give some return for all favors done. But here arises a

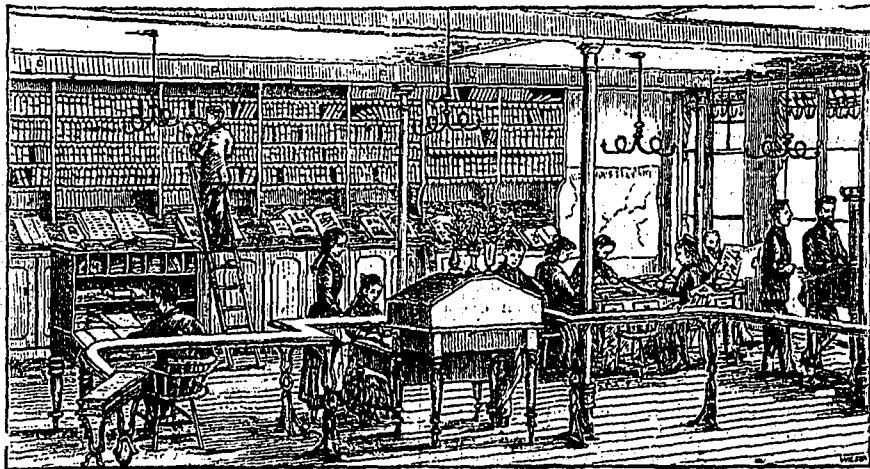
nothing inconsiderable. The following is merely a partial list of what were sent out in the winter of 1877-78:—236 pairs of skates; 30 gold lockets; 125 gold rings; 40 photograph albums; 82 Pool's weather glass and thermometer combined; 6 magic lanterns; 4 McKinnon pens; 298 chromos of Lady Dufferin and 327 of the Earl of Dufferin.



THE COUNTING ROOM.

as many more, having reference to changes in instructions, giving advice, etc., were attended to. Some of these letters are of an extraordinary nature. In one instance, on a day when some eight hundred money letters poured into the department, the writer signed his name after the manner of an enigma. It was interesting, but out of place. People some-

difficulty. Most of these favors are simply because of the good-will of the performers; and any direct return would be anything but pleasing to them. Thus the rule has been made that those who desire to work for prizes must, in some way, indicate their desire, and the manner considered most satisfactory is to have the words "In competition" written on the



THE LIBRARY

times send letters with the statement, "Of course you know my name, as you sent me a circular," or something similar. Others sign their names without giving any post-office address, while many again give two addresses, one at the head and the other at the foot of their letters. Sometimes the amount required

top of all letters containing money intended for the prizes. The names of those who send such letters are entered in a separate book ruled in columns, and the remittances are recorded one after the other, so that when the last is sent in the total can be checked in an instant. The number of prizes given in a year

AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

That was a funny man who said, "If all the world were blind, what a sad sight it would be!" but it is a serious question, "If one-fifth of our children have their sight injured at school, what are we going to do about it?" Nor is this merely a supposed case. Recent examinations in Germany show that a large share of the school children become myopic, as the doctors say: in plain English, short-sighted. At Magdeburg in the Kloster-Pädagogium, 23 per cent. in the sixth class were myopic; five grades higher, the rate was 70 per cent.; in the highest class in the gymnasium, or high school, the rate was 95 per cent.! The evil grew worse as the pupils advanced. Now German schools are notoriously ill-lighted and inconvenient; but are our schools faultless in this?

Mark this well: every cause of injury to the eyes in childhood is to be avoided. No one is unimportant; each error of fine-type books, bad posture, bad ventilation, bad light, and bad color of walls, should be noted, and reform should follow.

Ought we to have black blackboards and white walls and ceiling? Certainly not. Black and white are really high colors, as truly as vermilion, red and mazarine blue; and the glaring contrast is hard upon the eyes. Fine books are never printed now upon clear white paper: creamy, bluish, and pinkish tints are preferred. In the schoolrooms we find the strong-white walls, belted with a gloomy surface of dead black, each painful to the eye, and worse by contrast; even the furniture is red; the only neutral and easy color is that of the floor. How different is that from the soothing colors out-doors, where there are gentle greens, cool browns, and everything tempered with variety! There are high colors only in flowers, or in man's barbaric red and white houses.

School-room walls should be tinted with a pinkish, greenish, or bluish tinge; and the black-boards should be green, brownish, or drab in color. It is a mistake to think that the board must be black to make the chalk-mark distinct: a careful trial will prove to any one that, within the bounds of a school-room, a green or brown board shows as plainly as a black one. The relief and comfort to the eye may seem slight; but it amounts to a great deal, taking day after day. Try these tints and save the children from aching eyes, weak sight, glasses, premature old age, and blindness, by this and all other means in your power.

SAMUEL WILLARD, M. D.,
Chicago High School.

—In N. E. Educational Journal.

THERE IS JOY among the angels over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance. And apparently there is joy among evil men over one good man who falls more than over ninety and nine bad men from whom no good was expected. We understand why this is so. But why should people and newspapers interested in the public good give more time to the one or two men who bring scandal into the Church than to the ten times nine hundred and ninety-nine who are faithful to their vows?—*Christian at Work.*

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1878