

if he was not a good scholar, so much the worse for the master, who had this difficulty to overcome in learning the boy, and the less profitable he would be as a workman. The employer, therefore, found it to be to his interest to exercise great care and judgment in the selection of apprentices, and generally chose those whose education had been the least neglected:—

"It is unnecessary to inform our readers that the standard of education among printers has, within the last twenty-five years, been materially lowered. Formerly a thorough knowledge of orthography, a fair acquaintance with the rules of grammar, and a reasonable amount of general information, were esteemed indispensable qualifications for a compositor. Fifty years ago, it is safe to say, the majority of printers were competent to edit the paper on which they worked, if not to write its contents, at least to put them in type correctly. Then a printer was looked up to as a man above the common—as one possessed of an extraordinary degree of learning, and to whom questions of spelling and grammatical construction were referred, as to high authority. Then the office of proof-reader was an easy charge, and compositors took pride in making "clean proofs," and a pride in their avocation, which was aided by, as it was an aid to education. Now we have changed all that. The ranks of printers in city offices are crowded by men who having gone to school long enough to get a smattering of "reading, writing and arithmetic," and served perhaps a year's apprenticeship at the case, join the honorable company of journeymen on a footing of equality with veterans of thirty years service. A good deal can be learned in a printing office, but the rudiments of a fair education must be gained before the scholar enters it."

The Christmas number of *Bow Bells*, containing several engravings, was worked on a rotary press. This is a step in the direction of applying the rotary system to book printing. This should be good news to printers and publishers, for as facilities are increased, and, consequently, cost reduced, so books will multiply. There is not much doubt but that in a few years there will be three books printed where there is only one done now. For the cheap and quick production of books there is something required besides fast presses, *i. e.*, a low-priced, simple, and serviceable composing and distributing machine. Our printing machinists should bestir themselves in this matter. There would seem to be no reasonable doubt but that a machine will yet be invented that will accomplish satisfactorily all the work of setting and distributing type. There is surely some latent genius in our printing offices that would go a great way towards helping the world out of this difficulty, if our printers would only take the trouble to think of it. There is a fortune in it for the fortunate one who works out the problem to a successful solution.

According to Rowell's Newspaper Directory there are issued in the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, the following papers:—

	D. of C.	U. S.	Nfld.	Total.
Daily.....	44	738	....	782
Tri-weekly.....	18	70	2	90
Semi-weekly.....	9	121	5	135
Weekly.....	353	6,235	4	6,592
Bi-Weekly.....	1	33	1	35
Semi-monthly.....	2	105	....	107
Monthly.....	44	747	....	791
Bi-Monthly.....	2	13	....	15
Quarterly.....	3	67	....	70
Totals.....	470	8,129	12	8,617

The same authority gives the following as the average circulation in the Dominion and Newfoundland:—

	B. C.	Ma.	N. B.	N. S.	Ont.	P. E.	Que.	Nfld.
Daily.....	550	....	2934	1650	2345	....	3537	....
Tri-weekly.....	....	....	600	1210	2000	....	1503	411
Semi-weekly.....	250	....	....	....	1800	1450	987	338
Weekly.....	800	828	1471	1286	1427	1102	3184	246
Bi-weekly.....	....	....	....	550	....	....	....	450
Semi-monthly.....	....	....	....	....	900	....	2700	....
Monthly.....	....	....	700	700	2323	....	2936	....
Bi-monthly.....	....	....	....	1600	....	....	....	....
Totals.....	534	828	1546	1272	1570	1250	3255	328

The following table exhibits the number of newspapers issued and the number of copies printed, per year, for each inhabitant, as also the average area for each publication in the Dominion and Newfoundland:—

	No. of copies.	Average number of copies for each inhabitant.	Average area for each publication in sq. miles.
British Columbia.....	6	14	38,823
Manitoba.....	5	10	3,200
New Brunswick.....	28	16	960
Nova Scotia.....	41	12	455
Ontario.....	29	20	420
P. E. Island.....	10	9	215
Quebec.....	97	21	2,105
Newfoundland.....	12	2	3,350

If the above table is correct, and we have no doubt it is so far as Messrs. Rowell & Co. are concerned, it would show that New Brunswick ranks third on two counts and fourth on the other. British Columbia has the largest area for each publication, while Newfoundland prints the lowest number of copies for each inhabitant.

St. John Typographical Union, No. 85, was dissolved by resolution of the Union on Saturday, the 8th inst. Its property is to be held in trust by its late Financial Secretary, Mr. Chas. Ferguson, to be by him handed over to any Typographical Union that may hereafter be formed in this city.