

Changes in Binding.

A glance at the booksellers' shop windows will convince any one of the great change which has taken place in the public taste in the matter of bookbinding. It is comparatively quite a short time since cloth binding was introduced, yet to what perfection has it been brought! The vast majority of books now come out in this familiar cover, and the price at which they are done would altogether astonish a publisher of the last century, when calf and morocco, the cheap sheep-skin and the expensive Russia, were almost the only bindings. The tendency of the past few years has been to embellish these cloth covers with artistic designs, in colors as well as in gold, and to make each color as distinctive as possible, and, as far as practicable, appropriate, in the style of their ornamentation to the class of literature to which the book belongs. Various mechanical improvements in the bookbinder's art have made possible what before could not have been attempted, and the adaptation of typographic plates to the blocking-press by means of electrotyping have completely metamorphosed the "barebacks" which were so common previously. Designers of first-rate ability are now engaged in this work, and of course high prices are charged for it. The last season's gift-books surpassed all previous accomplishments in this direction; but while some of them were real works of art, marked by taste and spirit as well as ingenuity and appropriateness, many of them were extremely tawdry and vulgar.

Among the many new appliances, in connection with the printing business, we note letters patent have been applied for on an improved composing stick, which claims many advantages over those now in use. A new jobber, much like the Ruggles' rotary, with the addition of an automatic delivery for the printed sheets, has made its *debut*. We believe it is called the "Monarch." We hear of a new chromatic press and a new cylinder being almost ready. Messrs. Hartnett and Menamin, of Philadelphia, Pa., have patented an improved milling machine or dressing out the inside of chases.

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Composing Machines.

About one hundred composing or distributing machines have been ordered from Mr. Kastenschein, by the printers of Rome. In order to answer to some credulous manifestations on the results obtained by these machines, a sort of jury was formed, composed of master printers, foremen and mechanics. A president and secretary were named. The following questions were put:— Will these machines answer the wants of Italian printing? Are they of practical utility? At how much can we value the benefit derived from them on the manual composition? All the members of the jury agreed on the fact that these machines were of an ingenious construction, were very solid, but highly susceptible of getting out of order. Passing to the questions put, two members resolved them in the negative. The other members enunciated a favorable notice, declaring that these machines answered perfectly the wants of Italian printing in the large establishments; that they can be applied to the composition of newspapers and all other works not complicated with different types; that they produce an economy of 33 per cent. on labor; and, last, that the advantage would become more perceptible in employing several machines. The *il Tipografo*, of Rome, an organ of the Compositors' Society, has furnished the above details, followed by a long letter, the conclusions of which are altogether contrary, and laughs at the idea of the master printers in forming a jury.

DEALERS in and manufacturers of printing machinery, paper, ink, type, and any article used in printing, or by printers and editors, will find the *Miscellany* an excellent medium through which to advertise their stock. It will prove itself the cheapest and best medium they can adopt if they wish to put their materials into the hands of the printers of Canada and the United States. The *Miscellany* is sent to every printing office in the Dominion, and it has also a large circulation in the United States. As will be seen by reference to the advertising rates the figures have been made very low in consideration of the fact that the terms are cash.

Secretaries of Typographical Unions will oblige by sending a correct list of their officers to this office for publication.