

## AN EPOCH IN PRINTING.

The "art preservative," as it is fondly called, has proved itself the most conservative of arts. Revolutions have, indeed, taken place in the printing press, but the mode of setting type remains precisely what it was in the days of Faust, Gutenberg and Caxton.

This changelessness has, however, resulted from no stupid indifference to change, such as has often stood in the way of progress in the case of arts less valuable and more progressive. Probably at all times, and certainly as long as the present generation can remember, the most anxious study has been given, by unnumbered enthusiasts, to deliver the world from the toilsome and limiting task of taking letters one by one out of separate boxes and placing them in order by the hand. I have known one of these devotees of progress who showed me year by year, as I visited him, always a completely new, but not completed, machine, designed to fulfil in some new way the type-setter's task. Night, as well as day, his active brain worked incessantly, till at last it could work no more and he fell a martyr to a noble purpose.

In the buildings now in use as the Linotype factory there was found, preserved apparently by the reverence which true mechanics naturally paid it through a suc-