

Thoughts on Type.

The printing press is the greatest invention since the days of Tubal Cain.

"It is a printing press," said a boy standing by the ink trough, with a careless turban paper on his head. "A printing press," I queried, musing to myself. "A printing press?" "What do you print?" I asked. "Print," said the boy, staring at me doubtfully. "we print thoughts." I slowly repeated after him; and we stood looking at each other for a moment in mutual admiration, he in absence of an idea and I in pursuit for one. "But, my boy," I asked in sober earnest, "what are thoughts, and how do you get hold of them to print them?" "They are things which come out of people's minds," he replied. "Get hold of them, indeed! Why, minds aren't nothing you can get hold of, nor thoughts either. All the minds that ever thought, and all the thoughts that mind ever made, would not make a ball as big as your fist. Minds, they say, are first like air, you can't see them; they don't make any noise, nor have they any color; they don't weigh anything. Bill Deepsett, the sexton, weighs as much when his mind is gone out of him as he did before. No, sir; all minds that ever lived wouldn't weigh an ounce, troy." "Then, how do you print thoughts?" I asked. "Thoughts make tracks," he continued, arranging in his left hand a score or two of metal slips, "and with these here letters we can take the exact impression of every thought that ever went out of the heart of man; and we can print it, too. Talk about the minds living forever!" exclaimed the boy, pointing patronizingly at the ground, as if mind were lying there incapable of immortality until the printer reached it a helping hand. "why, the world is brimful of live, bright, industrious thoughts, which would have been dead if it hadn't been for boys like me who have run the ink rollers. Immortality, indeed! Why, people's minds," with his imagination climbing into the profoundly sublime, "people's minds wouldn't be immortal if 'twasn't for the printer at any rate in this planetary burying ground. We are the chaps what manufacture for the dead men. * * * Give us one good healthy mind to think for us and we will furnish a dozen worlds as big as this with thoughts to order. Give us such a man and we will insure his life: we will keep him alive forever among the living. He can't die, no way you can fix it, when once we have

touched him with these bits of inky pewter. He can't die nor sleep. We will keep his mind to work all the minds that live on earth, and all the minds that come to live here as long as the world stands." Rounds' Printers Cabinet.

THE last number of THE IMPRINT, a Canadian journal devoted to the interests of the "art preservative," published by the Toronto Type Foundry, has a full account of the annual meeting of the Eastern Ontario Press Association recently held at Arnprior, and an excellent portrait of Mr. J. A. Macdonald, the genial president. The Herald is also indebted to THE IMPRINT for a complimentary notice which modesty prevents our repeating. Thanks, brother Elder, Carlton Place Herald.

Printers' Supplies.

Although there are about a hundred different printing plants in the Canadian Northwest, and some fourteen in the city of Winnipeg, some of the latter being large and extensive, no house handling printers' supplies has until recently opened up a branch establishment in this country. One has been opened recently by the Toronto Type Foundry Company, with Mr. H. C. Stovel as manager. The institution is not merely an office, where a supply of specimen books from which to order are on view, but it is a well fitted and supplied salesroom in the Stobart Block, on Portage Avenue, in which an extensive stock of printers' supplies is carried, and from which type, tools and almost any class of supplies for the trade can be selected. Besides, Mr. Stovel has a full fledged stereotyping and electrotyping outfit, and is ready to do any class of work in these two branches of the trade.

If it was for nothing but the convenience of getting sorts and other supplies wanted in a hurry, this institution will be a great boon to the printing trade throughout Manitoba. — Winnipeg Commercial.

Ontario Printing Contract.

THE Ontario Government has awarded the contract for printing and binding to Warwick Bros. & Rutter, who had the contract during the previous five years and gave excellent satisfaction. Their tender was \$600 below the next lowest, and some \$10,000 below the highest.