

### Modern Printing Presses.

The correspondent of the Washington, D. C., *Star* gives the best description we have met with of the trial of speed at Philadelphia between the four great modern printing presses of the day—the Bullock, the Campbell, the Hoe, and the Walter. He writes as follows:—

“Within the hour allotted to it the Walter press turned out the astonishing number of 10,455 complete and well-printed (eight-page) copies of the *New York Times*—having stopped six minutes and a half to supply a new roll of paper.

“In the same period of time the Bullock printed and delivered 14,840 complete copies of the *New York Herald*—eight pages likewise. Eight minutes were required here to make the paper shift, and about ten minutes were also consumed in substituting a new roller for a melted one; but as this seemed to be a legitimate contingency I doubt whether the loss ought to be deducted from the running time. In regard to the number of sheets printed, I must explain that the Bullock press is of double size, that is, it is wide enough to hold two full sets of forms— which were on it when the test was made, while the Walter had on it only a single set—so that the actual running capacity of the former as compared with that of the latter (of the same size, that is,) is as 7,420 to 10,455.

“The official test of the Hoe machine I did not see, but I have reliable information that it printed 21,000 perfect copies within its hour. In this case a double set of forms was also used, so that its running capacity as compared with that of the Walter would be 10,500 impressions per hour, or about one hundred to the hour more than that press.

“Far greater and more surprising things than I have mentioned are promised from the improved Campbell machine, which, so far as it was in place when I last saw it, looks rather more like a loom of some sort than a printing press. It impresses me, however, as too light in construction to stand the high rate of speed at which it must be run to meet the expectations of its sanguine inventor.”

Having stated that the price of the several machines is about the same, the correspondent gives his opinions on eligibility in these words:—

“Price and capacity being the same, or nearly the same, the controlling considerations in my mind would then be compactness, simplicity, and durability, and these requisites, it seems to me, are combined in a greater degree in the Walter than in either of the others. It possesses another advantage in an ingenious contrivance peculiar to it, by which the paper is dampened in its course from the original coil into the press by passing between two porous cylinders through which steam is forced, thus saving considerable expense in machinery as well as time and labor required for wetting the paper ready for printing. As to the quality of the work done by the different presses: My readers who have access to the *New York* daily papers can judge for themselves on that point when I tell them that the *Herald* and *Sun* are printed on the Bullock, the *Tribune* on the Hoe, and the *Times* on the Walter.”

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### A Bookbinder's Sewing Machine.

Sewing machines have recently been adapted to the stitching of books and pamphlets. The process is very simple, and in looking at the machine, one will involuntarily find himself wondering how the work can be done by hand and be made to pay. The sheets of printed paper are first folded and then passed into the machine in succession, and it stitches them, feeds them forward, and cuts the thread, after which they are conducted along down inclined guides, so that they fall between two rolls, which fold and smooth them. This machine is said to be capable of stitching sheets of any size or thickness; and however thickly the sheets may be folded, the rollers will give them the proper pressure, being united by an elastic connection which allows all thicknesses to pass through under their pressure. The machine stitches the sheets with great rapidity; and as each sheet is stitched separately, the binder can get the sheets ready for binding as fast as they come from the printer, the sheets being afterwards collected for insertion in the covers. Much time is saved by this method, as every one familiar with bookbinding will acknowledge; and the separate threads to the sheets insure elasticity to the back, which allows the book to open easily, and so contributes in an important degree to the durability of the binding.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.—The Stratford, Ont., *Herald* makes a few sensible remarks on the stringency of the money market. If business men would only look this difficulty in the face and resolve to remedy it by demanding their just dues, without fear or favor, the tightness would very soon be overcome. We venture to say the following will call forth many a “that’s so:” “The cry of hard times is a delusion and a snare; it is promulgated by men having other people’s money out at two per cent. a month; and the merchants don’t like to push this class of men for their money; the sooner they come to their senses on this subject the sooner they will have cash in their tills.”

BACK NUMBERS.—*The Printer's Miscellany* for August (No. 2) has run out. We can supply back numbers of the other five months to a limited extent only. Any person having No. 2 to spare, will confer a favor by sending it to this office.