

HINTS ABOUT TYPE.

In an article with the above caption, *Casson's Circular* says some good things relative to the proper spacing of displayed lines in posters and other styles of work. The following extracts are taken from it, and are the more worthy of attention from the fact that it is directly against our own interests that the advice is offered. No journeyman but he who looks upon his profession as merely mechanical will be guilty of the delinquencies charged, and employers will do well by endeavoring to prevent them:—

"The principal cause of wear and tear in a font of type is not necessarily in the presswork. With carefully adjusted pressure, the face of founts may be long preserved; but we know that much more pressure is usually put on than is required, especially on cylinder machines, and the result is that the type is ground down. But we are confident that the most destructive agents are in the composing room. In distribution, type is thrown with force into the cases instead of being allowed to drop into them; and it is generally shaken up, when low in the case, with unnecessary violence.

"In setting, unfortunately, most compositors contract habits of tapping their types on their case, scraping them against their setting rule, or otherwise butting, subjecting them to friction, which cannot fail to impair the sharpness of face, more speedily than legitimate wear would do.

"The quantity of type dropped on the floor and then swept up is enormous. Unless type is picked up it is of little use to return it to the case at all; the sweeping process renders it unfit for use. 'Pi' is another fruitful source of loss. The temptation to avoid the disagreeable process of distributing it—especially to the piece hand—by hiding or throwing away, is almost irresistible.

"The bodkin is a great friend of the type founder. Watch its destructive work in the hands of your skillful compositor. He corrects by sticking the point firmly into the literal or other deleted sort, forcing it out by leverage, spoiling the abstracted letter completely, and, in nine cases out of ten, damaging some surrounding types at the same time. If a form will not rise perfectly, the bodkin goes to work again, and stabs the offending quad or line until it is jammed tight.

"We have been astonished at the impunity with which iron shooting-sticks, metal-tipped shooting-sticks, mallets, hammers, planers and wrenches are dropped carelessly on the face of type forms. And then, the planer! Who can estimate the amount of damage done by the planer? We have thought before now that the object of the workman must be to get as much noise out of it as possible: he rattles out a sort of *feu de joie*, to announce that the form is ready to be locked up. The planer comes down first with a sharp preliminary tap, and then comes the heavy mallet, with its series of loud reports, banging home the planer with sufficient force to produce an impression of the type on its under surface.

"There is no necessity for all this, and we would strenuously urge all master printers, in their own interest, to take our hints, and to insist on greater care being taken in the use of type, and to inculcate reform in these matters, which so materially affect the wear and tear of their valuable founts."

Most printers of experience appreciate the advantages of thorough competency; but there are a great many who have no idea why it is that they can never succeed so well as their brother craftsmen in accomplishing a great deal in a short time. All the difference is attributed to the nimble fingers, when, in fact, a great deal is due to nimble brains, the quick eye, the well-stored mind. To "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" has always been considered the climax of artistic effort; but to make a really good printer out of one of the indifferent class referred to, requires mental and moral qualifications of the highest order.

BIBLICAL ALLUSIONS TO IMPRIMATION, Etc.

THE Bible is frequently referred to as a source of information in regard to the ancient methods of engraving, preserving records, making books, etc. Below will be found some of its most striking allusions to such topics:—

And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand.—*Genesis xxviii. 18.*

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal.—*1 Kings xxi. 8.*

And because of all this we make a sure covenant and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.—*Nehemiah ix. 38.*

In the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.—*Esther iii. 12.*

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.—*Daniel vi. 17.*

With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel; and thou shalt make them to be set in ounces of gold.—*Ezekiel xxviii. 11.*

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.—*Ecclesiastes xii. 12.*

Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written.—*Ezra vi. 1-2.*

The paper-reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.—*Isaiah xix. 7.*

Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink; but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face.—*Second Epistle of John, 12.*

Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever.—*Job xix. 23-24.*

Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.—*Job xxxi. 35.*

The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond; it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars.—*Jeremiah xvii. 1.*

MACKIE'S TYPE COMPOSING MACHINES.—Mackie's steam-driven composing machines are rapidly nearing perfection. One of a number, now in the London office of the *Warrington Guardian*, we watched, some days ago, setting minion at the rate of 8,000 an hour, with only a lad to attend it, whose duty was to supply it with type, and remove what was set in long lines. Apart from that, the machine might have been in a locked-up room. We also saw Mr. Mackie's new perforators, worked by a young woman, who had no difficulty in keeping up to 8,000 an hour. One composing machine of a large size was setting a nonpareil edition of the New Testament, which is to be sold in the shape of a newspaper, *Globe* size, for a penny.—*Printer's Register.*

Oberthur, the great printer of Rennes, gives his work-people, after 25 years' service, and if then over 60 years of age, a pension of 400 fr. (£20). Orell, Fussli & Co., of Zurich, one of the largest firms in Switzerland, grants a pension of 600 fr. (£30) a year to every workman who has passed 25 years in their service.

EXCHANGES.

WITH pleasure we acknowledge the receipt of current numbers of the following magazines and publications:—

L'Imprimerie, Paris.
Pacific Specimen, San Francisco, Cal.
Pacific Printer, San Francisco.
Printers' Miscellany, Saint John, N.B.
Round's Printers' Cabinet, Chicago.
The Chicago Specimen, Chicago.
The Electrotyper, Chicago.
The Electrotype Journal, Chicago.
The North-Western, Milwaukee.
The Quadrant, Pittsburgh.
The Printers' Circular, Philadelphia.
The Proof Sheet, Philadelphia.
The Printers' Register, London.
The Paper and Printing Trades' Journal, London.

PERSONAL.

SINCE New Year we have been visited by Mr. Yorkston, Agent for the Campbell Press; Mr. McIlroy, Agent for the Potter Presses; Mr. John D. Lockwood, Agent for R. Hoe & Co.; and Mr. E. Wickersham, Agent for Chas. Eneu Johnson & Co.'s celebrated inks. We hope all these gentlemen had pleasant and successful trips.

HYDRAULIC PRESS.

WE offer for sale a No. 2 Tangey Hydraulic Press (new). Has two pumps; ram, 4 inches with 14 inches run out, and 46 inches between. Platen 32 x 22. Tested to 30 tons. Price \$325.

PAPER CUTTER.

WE have a 30-inch Minerva Paper Cutter (second hand), which we offer for \$175. A bargain.

THE most expensive newspaper published in Paris is the *Art*, the yearly subscription to which is \$24 gold, and the cheapest is the *Bonne Pensée*, a religious weekly, which costs only twelve cents a year. The oldest of Parisian journals is the *Journal Général des Affiches*, which is now in its two hundred and forty-seventh year of publication.

WE have taken wood, potatoes, corn, eggs, butter, onions, cabbages, chickens, stone, lumber, labor, sand, calico, saurkraut, second-hand clothing, coon skins and bug juice on subscriptions, in our time, but now a man writes us to know if we would send the paper six months for a large owl. There are few things an editor would refuse on subscription, and if we come across any fellow who is out of owl, and is in need of one, we'll do it.—*Kansas paper.*

NEW LETTER will sometimes cling together with a persistence, in these days of hard metal, most painful in its effects in distribution. The editor of the *Brunswick Journal* states that type which has been papered away a couple of years, and acquired an adhesiveness which resisted all ordinary means, was successfully treated with glycerine. A little glycerine was poured on the letter overnight, spread out with a soft brush, and left till morning. The glycerine was washed away with warm water, and the type was ready for distribution.

A new Double Deny Campbell Combination Press has lately been erected in the office of A. A. Stevenson, of this city.

A pet tabby, brimful of curiosity, jumped upon a big printing machine to see how the darned thing worked: the next few impressions thrown off contained an 'airy but sanguinary history of the feline race.