

out all the long and difficult operation, perfectly clean, and the gold brilliant! What patience, what natural aptitude, what acquired skill, what fortitude!"

With the demand for heavy gilt decoration—a demand induced by titled persons who sought to have their own tastes reflected in the binding of their books rather than those of the artist-workmen—the roulette, or roll, came into use. The roll is a brass wheel, upon the edge of which is cut the device to be impressed, and thus, as it is rolled over the leather, the same design is repeated indefinitely. This instrument, though still used, is restricted largely to blankbook binding, and is seldom employed on fine work where "the play of the hand is the very essence of handicraft."

Care should be taken that good bindings are not wasted on worthless books. "To be strong-backed and well bound is the desideratum of a volume," writes Charles Lamb, "magnificence comes after. This, when it can be afforded, is not to be lavished upon all kinds of books indiscriminately. I would not dress a set of magazines, for instance, in full suit. The deshabelle, or half binding (with Russia backs ever) is our costume. A Shakespeare, or a Milton (unless the first edition), it were mere foppery to trick out in gay apparel. The possession of these confers no distinction. The exterior of them (the things themselves being so common), strange to say, raises no sweet emotions, no tickling sense of property in the owner. * * In some respects, the better a book is the less it demands from binding. * * * But where a book is at once both good and rare—where the individual is almost the species—no casket is rich enough, no casing sufficiently durable to honor and keep safe such a jewel."

MR. BARR RECOVERS DAMAGES.

Robert Barr, the novelist, on the 12th inst., recovered a verdict of \$1,000 damages in a libel suit against The New York Sun in the United States Circuit Court. The suit has been pending for some time. On May 17, 1896, The Sun published a paragraph in its London cable news, saying that "Robert Barr, the novelist," had been sent to an asylum for inebriates. It turned out that the Robert Barr who was sent to the institution mentioned was a former Canadian politician, and not the novelist. A retraction was demanded, but it was not forthcoming until the following November, when, The Sun, in the course of a review of one of Mr. Barr's books, alluded jokingly to its mistake, and explained how it occurred. In the meantime many papers throughout the country had published The Sun's story as a fact and commented on it editorially.—New York Publisher's Weekly.

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

The postage stamps issued by the Post Office Department may, for use by the public, be all right, from an æsthetic point of view, and reflect credit on the artistic taste of the Postmaster-General, but the values are not sufficiently legible. It almost requires a microscope to discover whether it is a one-cent, three-cent, or five-cent stamp.

The Postmaster-General has recognized this difficulty, and in the next issue numerals will be placed on the corners in place of the maple leaf. This will, to a certain extent, obviate the difficulty, but a more pronounced color for the one, two, and three-cent stamps would be an additional convenience.

COMPETITION FOR MUNICIPAL PRINTING.

THE STAYNER SUN has been indulging in some pointed remarks regarding cutting rates to obtain the municipal printing. It says: "We have cut our own throats and been bossed by municipal councils long enough. Business men do not boss us. They do not try. We would not submit. Why be bossed by corporations? Let us stand together like honorable men and demand fair prices. We can easily do it. Let us have some show of professional etiquette, instead of undercutting and mistrusting each other."

The Sun urges the printers of Simcoe county to unite and "refuse to tender for any job of municipal printing, and only to do such work at the prices that business men pay."

Commenting upon this, The Coldwater Planet declares itself in sympathy with The Sun's views upon "this cutthroat practice of municipal corporations trying to get their printing done for nothing, or next to it. The municipalities well know that the local newspaper does much good for the township, and gives many a column of advertising free. But point us out the man who works one day for a municipality without his day's big pay. Of course, we know he is entitled to a set sum for his work, and if he is entitled by law to a schedule rate for his labors, the printer should also receive a fair price for his work. No, we do not believe in the miserable, Cheap John business that some offices in Simcoe County are doing. We admit that we tendered once, but only once, for municipal work, and then did not get the printing, because another man put in a 'second tender' and got the plum, at \$10 less than we would do it for, and he was welcome to it. If the publishers of Simcoe County were to put their heads together and form an association such as other counties have, it would be better for the printers and the public as well. We would then have a fair price for our work, and the money would be spent at home where it is paid out."

A FAMOUS EDITOR'S CRITICISM.

One of the most curious things about the newspaper, says E. L. Godkin, editor of The New York Evening Post, is that the public does not expect from a newspaper proprietor the same sort of morality it expects from persons in other callings. It would disown a bookseller, and cease all intercourse with him, for a tithe of the falsehoods and petty frauds which it passes unnoticed in a newspaper proprietor. It may disbelieve every word he says, and yet profess to respect him, and may occasionally reward him, so that it is quite possible to find a newspaper which nearly everybody condemns and whose influence he would repudiate, circulating very freely among religious and moral people, and making handsome profits for its proprietor. A newspaper proprietor, therefore, who finds that his profits remain high, no matter what views he promulgates and what kind of morality he practises, can hardly, with fairness to the community, be treated as an exponent of its opinions. He will not consider what it thinks when he finds he has only to consider what it will buy, and that it will buy his paper without agreeing with it.

Ault & Wiborg's inks are kept in stock at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, by their agents the Toronto Type Foundry Co., who report large sales, and state that these inks are giving universal satisfaction.