



JUL. L. WRIGHT.

As the articles on "Practical Matters," by this gentleman, published in the *Miscellany*, have caused considerable and favorable comment, and awakened a desire among our readers to know something of him, we furnish a brief sketch of his life, accompanied by a portrait. We would assure our readers that neither the sketch nor engraving flatters him in the least, and we trust he will excuse the liberty we take.

JULIAN LESTER WRIGHT (best known to his fellow-craftsmen as "Jul." L. Wright) was born in Washington, D. C., on the first day of May, 1849. He commenced to attend school when he was between four and five years of age, and continued to do so until he was about ten; when, boy-like, he became tired of school life. Having learned his "boxes" with his grandfather, in Mr. Gideon's office (in Washington), Jul. prevailed upon his father, Mr. Benjamin C. Wright—who, at the present time, has charge of the printing office of the Signal Service Bureau at Washington—to take him into the office with himself. He remained there one year, receiving three dollars per week; but, at the end of this time, he left the printing office and returned to school, which he continued to attend until he was nearly thirteen years of age. He was then

indentured as an apprentice at the Government Printing Office for a term of five years (he being the only boy who ever was thus indentured), under the present able and efficient Superintendent, Mr. John D. Defrees, which apprenticeship he served faithfully and with credit to himself. Being now out of his apprenticeship, and only nineteen years of age, he united himself with Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, and became an active and worthy member of that body. He continued in the Government office for some time after he became free; but his political proclivities not being in accordance with those of the then Superintendent (A. M. Clapp), he was discharged. His reputation as a first-class workman being well established, he was out of employment but a very short time, when he was sent for to go to Richmond, Va., where he found awaiting him a position in the printing office at the headquarters of General Canby, then the Military Governor of Virginia. Here he remained until the removal of General Canby and the abolition of the office; and was an active and useful member of Richmond Union No. 90, filling with ability the office of Recording Secretary.

Jul. married a Richmond lady, on the fifth of May, 1870, and, on the day of his marriage, started for Nashville, Tenn., intending to make that his home. But the hand of Providence was laid on him. He was taken sick in Nashville, and returned to his father's, in Washington, where he remained until he recovered, when he soon found employment and went to work on the *Congressional Globe*. He was afterwards employed by Judd & Detwiler, book and job printers, with whom he remained until business became very dull; when he resolved to return to Richmond. He arrived there in September, 1872, and, after "subbing" for a while, was employed for a time in J. E. Goode's book and job office. Business becoming dull, he was put off; but was soon recalled to take the foremanship of the office, the gentleman who had filled that position going into business for himself. This position he still holds, and it is generally conceded that no one more competent to fill it could be found.

For some time after his arrival in Richmond, he was the regular correspondent from that place to the *Washington Gazette*; and was also a contributor to the *New York Weekly*.

During his latter residence in Richmond—as