

"grin and bear" the ridicule attending its introduction in the composing-room, for the comfort attending its use during sultry days and sweltering nights amply repaid the venture.

#### Sore Fingers,

resulting from ley, low cases, splinters, scratches in handling brass rule, paper cuts, type poison, etc., often occasion loss of time, expensive doctoring, and great pain. Though frequently meeting with these drawbacks, I have never lost an hour from business nor been put to more than a few cents' expense. Plentiful and frequent applications of laudanum has been my panacea. It also cleanses, draws the soreness, and rapidly heals old sores. Blood blisters may be prevented from forming by immediately rubbing the bruise briskly with any non-poisonous hard substance.

#### "Bum."

Under this head I quote from a recent letter from a valued correspondent in New York city :

"There is a very large element among our craft in New York known as 'bum' printers. It is needless to say that they are employed almost exclusively in 'bum' establishments. The expression 'bum' is entirely new to me, and, I believe, peculiar to this city; but it occurs to me that it is singularly appropriate. You must know, in the beginning, that this term is properly applied only when designating an establishment whose proprietors are willing to pay two or three times a day, if called upon, which, you must know, is a very great accommodation to the 'persepahetic' New York compositorial 'bum.' This genius will probably work three or four hours, hand in his slips, receive his pay, and post-haste start for Killgore's, 'the honest man's,' or Boss Thompson's, to 'bathe' himself in five-cent Leathean liquor. \* \* \* Scores of them can be seen every day in the City Hall park. They sleep in lumber yards, in vacant lots, or anywhere the police will allow them, and in the morning regale themselves from the lees of lager-beer barrels drawn off into old tomato cans. During the day you will find them around the offices of the morning papers soliciting a dime from their more fortunate fellow-craftsmen. \* \* \* I speak truly when I say that my heart has bled when viewing these poor creatures—stranded ships on the shore of Time. \* \* \* Many of them are men of superior intelligence and

worth, and who, but for the curse of liquor, would make their mark in the world. A more serious, solemn temperance admonition could not be given me than the sight of these wretched men. To me, strong drink has brought a great deal of suffering and unhappiness; but, thank God, strength enough has been given me, and friends have been near me, to see and to point out the danger to which I was exposed."

While I have no doubt that the inauguration of "bum" establishments was the offspring of the kindest intentions, the unsatisfactory results of their practical operation should call a *halt*. If, in this instance, philanthropy has not been misdirected and become a vindictive boomerang, surely it has not benefited the objects of its charitable purposes.

#### Digest of General Laws.

I have purchased a copy of this little book, and must confess my disappointment. When it was ordered I had not seen the *Proceedings*, and of course was ignorant of its limited scope. No fault can be found with the compiler—he has merely carried out the instructions of the International Union. Its publication will prove an expense without a corresponding benefit to the craft, and the International body will find it necessary to enlarge and make it what it should be—a Digest in reality: containing all decisions and the particulars of the individual cases on which they were based.

#### An Incident.

About two years since one of the prevailing impressions among the uninitiated in the mysteries of the "art preservative" was brought to my notice in the following manner: An old gentleman of benevolent bearing, the soft glances of whose kindly eyes were undimmed by Time, entered the office and inquired if a newspaper that he produced could be duplicated. I informed him that it was possible, but, being overrun with work at that particular time, would not be able to give it my attention until the following week. He expressed his satisfaction and retired. At the designated time he returned and inquired the cost, saying he would pay in advance, as he contemplated going to the country, where he desired the paper to be mailed him when printed. I made the estimate and handed him the figures \$83. I do not know whose face expressed the greater astonishment.—his, at the figures, or mine,