

# The Printer's Miscellany.

AN EXPONENT OF PRINTING AND ALL THE KINDRED ARTS.

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## PRACTICAL MATTERS.

### Punctuation---How to Use the Hyphen.

(Continued.)

**NAMES OF PLACES.**—Names of cities and other places, when formed of common nouns, are consolidated; as, *Barnstable, Southbridge*. When the second of the primitives is in itself a proper name, it should be set apart from the first; as, *North Britain, New York*; though, in spite of analogy, there are a few exceptions; as, *Easthampton, Southampton* (the *h*, in the latter word, being omitted), which usually appear as undivided words.

But those parts of the names of places which, according to the usual construction, are disconnected, should be united by a hyphen when they are employed as adjectives; as, *the South-Boston foundry, the New-England people, the East-India Company*. This remark is well illustrated as follows: "In modern compound names the hyphen is now less frequently used than it was a few years ago. They seldom, if ever, need it, unless they are employed as adjectives; and then there is a manifest propriety in inserting it. Thus the phrase, *the New London Bridge*, can be understood only of the new bridge in London; and, if we intend by it a bridge in New London, we must say, *the New-London Bridge*. So *the New York Directory* is not properly a directory for New York, but a new directory for York." So, also, the word *street*, when forming part of a compound epithet, is connected by a hyphen with the word preceding it; as, *a Washington-street omnibus*; but, when otherwise used, it is better written or printed separately; as, *Washington Street, Boston*. The same rule will hold good in respect to such words as *place, square, court*, etc.

**THE POSSESSIVE CASE.**—When the possessive case, and the word which governs it, do not literally convey the idea of property, or have lost this signification, they are connected by means of a hyphen; as, *Job's-tears, Solomon's-seal, Jesuit's-bark, bear's-foot, goat's-beard; Jew's-harp, St. Vitus's-dance, the king's-evil*. As com-