

Literary Gossip.

The Paris Figaro pays a yearly dividend of over half a million dollars.

The average salary of a "leader writer" on a big London daily is \$6000 a year.

Boston, the cultured, is to be honored by the publication there of a Chinese newspaper.

An old Mississippi river pilot says Mark Twain was the laziest man he ever saw in a pilot-house.

In the United States and Canada 22,228,750 papers are printed every week, besides 6,653,250 dailies issued every day.

Dickens portrayed his father in "Mr. Micawber" and his mother in "Mrs. Nickleby." Leigh Hunt was taken off by the same author in the character of "Harold Skimpole."

The circulation of the Salvation Army journal, the War Cry, is over 600,000 copies weekly. It is now printed in some thirty languages.

One of the latest additions to the world of newspapers is entirely in Latin, advertisements and all. Its object is to prove that Latin should again become what it was in the middle ages, the universal language.

All the members of the firm of Harper & Brothers are practical printers. It is a rule of the house that each member of the family who expects to be taken into the firm must first become proficient in type-setting or presswork.

More than a hundred writers in England, male and female, have written the life of Gladstone, and have the manuscript all ready so they can rush to a publishing house with it the moment the Grand Old Man's death is announced.

THE following epitaph was inscribed to the memory of Benjamin Franklin: "Benjamin Franklin was the * of his profession; the type of honesty; the ! of all; and although the Zth of death has put a . to his existence each \$ of his life is without a [."

Professor Huxley's autograph, attached to a letter containing this paragraph, is offered for sale: "I look upon autograph hunters as a progeny of Cain, and treat their letters accordingly; heaven forgive you if you are only an unusually ingenious specimen of the same race."

The Reason Why.

IN conversation with some printer friends the other day THE IMPRINT asked why printers made so little money out of their work considering the capital and experience required in their business.

"CARELESS AND UNBUSINESSLIKE."

one replied. "If printers do not make the return they should it is their own fault, and principally because they are careless and unbusinesslike, not alone in doing their work but also in keeping their accounts. Want of system in all the details of his business is the printer's great enemy to profit. I do not agree with you that the printer is poorly paid—or if he is it is his own fault through conducting his business on lines that would ruin the Bank of Montreal."

IT IS IN THE COMPOSING ROOM.

A Toronto printer said the greatest loss is in the composing room: that time is wasted by the compositors on almost every job, even under the most favorable conditions. "And this loss of time is incalculably multiplied when distribution is not properly looked after, and the type and material kept in their proper places."

"THEY DON'T READ."

said another. "If printers would carefully study reliable works upon their trade they would learn a great deal that would enable them to make more money. My experience is that those who keep pace with the age by reading their trade publications do make money."

CHANGES in Toronto printerdom are becoming frequent, not to say startling. Following close upon the heels of the James Murray & Co. liquidation comes the transfer of Brough & Caswell's plant to Messrs. Bryant & Co., the former firm intending to open up a brand new office, all on the point system. W. S. Johnston has completed arrangements with Messrs. Pim and Collins, lately with the Barber & Ellis Company, to commence operations as printers and binders on a large scale. Mr. Johnston's reputation as a good printer is an enviable one, and our recollection of "Jack" Collins' preternaturally red fingers gives us the idea that he knows something about handling a ruling machine. Before the next number of THE IMPRINT is published other changes may be expected, which we hope will be for the benefit of the trade.