The Printer's Miscellany.

AN EXPONENT OF PRINTING AND ALL THE KINDRED ARTS.

Vol. III.

ST. JOHN, N. B., CANADA, SEPTEMBER, 1878.

No. 3.

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PRACTICAL MATTERS.

BY JUL. L. WRIGHT.

Apprentices on Morning Papers.

The evil results to the human system attending a reversal of the order of nature, as evidenced by the lives of men who are so unfortunately circumstanced as to be forced to undergo this physical metamorphosis, should be sufficient in determining parents against sanctioning children earning a livelihood by service in the composing room of a daily morning newspaper.

Aside from the above there are other weighty reasons for discountenancing the perpetuation of this mind-dwarfing and body-destroying system: Vicious habits are contracted (the effects of which require years to eradicate), principal among them, and the one most readily acquired and hardest to overcome, being tippling.

While I am no apologist for drunkenness, yet in refutation of the aspersion cast on the craft on this account, I am induced to say a few words: Unless exercised, a caged bird loses the power of flight; transplanted from virgin soil to the close atmosphere of the house, if not given the benefit of air and sunshine, shrubs wither and die; when restricted to an herbivorous diet, carnivorous animals of the forest perish. So with man! He needs something to counteract the depression and exhaustion produced in battling with the forces of nature - in revolutionizing his very being. A stimulant of some kind he must have, even though the resisting power imparted be but temporary and fictitious. Thus the habit of drinking is acquired. At the beginning it is indulged but sparingly. By degrees the appetite increases, and calls upon the bottle are more frequent. Finally, the craving for liquor becomes uncontrollable, and another victim is added to the long list of sacrifices in the unequal contest.

While whiskey unfits many for an active pursuit of our calling and hurries them from the world, teaching the lesson of temperance in its destructiveness, the number assailed with lingering consumption and kindred diseases outnumber