

# Printer AND Publisher.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Our April issue was devoted to the discussion of typesetting machines and attracted much attention. We take this opportunity of thanking our subscribers and exchanges for their kindly notices.

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Just here we would like to say that the number of marked copies of local papers making changes which have reached us this month is much larger than the receipts of any previous month. We are thus enabled to present our readers with fuller information than usual. It is not egotism which prompts a man, at all times, to let the world know what he is doing. It is a desire to furnish his quota of information to the general fund from which he draws his inspiration. PRINTER AND PUBLISHER cannot exchange with any daily or weekly paper its limited sphere prevents this. Hence it must depend on the consideration of its readers to send special issues and marked copies when it is desirable that special mention should be made. This journal was never in a more successful condition than it is today, and this is due almost entirely to the friendly interest taken in it by the publishers of the various provinces of Canada. By their co-operation they have enabled us to pay a larger dividend on each \$2 share of stock.

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The printers of Albany, N.Y., are raising a row because the State printing office has introduced machines. This is needless and foolish. If the State Government can print more cheaply by the use of the machines, the members of the governing bodies in that state would be violating their oaths of office did they not introduce them. The Express and Journal introduced these machines (Linotypes) first, and then the state office took them in. The Argus then got machines, and now it is reported that the Press and Knickerbocker has contracted for Thorne machines, and these are now being put in. Fighting the machines can only be successful, as we intimated last month, by meeting cheapness with cheapness—that is, reducing the rate of wages.

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Male typesetters have certainly a great deal to complain of these days, for it is hard to adapt one's self to new conditions. Female type setters are, more and more, working their way into the trade. Typesetting is a pleasant occupation, not purely mechanical, but giving occupation for both brain and hands. Women's delicate fingers are peculiarly suited to the setting of fine type. In London, England, they have an office where women are taught the business in three years, and the society

which controls it has been quite successful. It is the Women's Printing Society, founded in 1883. Women do not receive as good wages as men in London; where men receive 38s. the women receive but 28s. The trade unions demand 8d. per 1,000 and the women work for 6d. per 1,000. If they can do equal work they should receive equal pay, or else they are worse than Chinese. It is hard to see how to overcome these difficulties with which the journeyman compositor finds himself confronted. The employing printer does not care to pay a man more for work than he would have to pay did he employ female labor or hire machines. It is not natural that he should do so. It is just as natural for him to desire cheap labor as it is for the employee to desire a high rate of pay. Each has something to buy. The employer wants labor and wants it cheap. The employee wants money, and he does not care to give more labor for it than he can help—he wants his money cheap. It is simply an economic problem which must be left to that all-pervading principle of free competition.

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Canada may be a nation of uncultured savages, and it may not. But when the Globe of Saturday, April 21st, speaks of "One of Toronto's Biggest Industries," we feel savage, indeed. If it occurred in small print it might be excused, but when it was in capitals we feel that the Globe has injured Canada's reputation. It is the little things that are the indicators. I remember once hearing my drawing teacher tell me how her father described a certain man whom she was asking about, and his brief description was: "He is one of that class of men who put their knives in their mouths at meals." That one act had written that man down as an uncultured person, whose acquaintance no gentleman or lady should desire to cultivate. So the small things of life mark us for criticism, and to these details we must pay especial attention.

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If Donald Murray, of Sydney, New South Wales, has invented what he says he has, we may soon expect the world to be operated and run so automatically that about three men—the Czar of Russia, the Premier of Great Britain, and the President of the United States—would be able to operate a machine that would keep the world running along suitable lines without any need of inhabitants, always excepting Boss Croker, of New York. By Mr. Murray's device an operator in New York, with a keyboard before him like that of an ordinary typewriter, not only can produce typewritten copy in New Orleans, but, it is claimed, can operate a typesetting machine in New York and deliver his matter in New Orleans in lead, ready for the forms.