

careful perusal by the craft. Although probably standing alone in this matter at the present time, others may see it in the light that I do, and finally feel convinced, as I have for some time past, that the "art preservative" is a "misnomer, a delusion and a cheat."

I shall have further to say on the subject at another time, knowing that your columns are cramped, and that you want all the room you can get, I will subscribe myself, as usual,

HAIR SPACE.

From the "City of the Straits."

DETROIT, MICH., Nov. 17, 1877.

One thing or another has prevented the carrying out of my intention to drop you a line, since you phoenixed, until now. Your efforts in furnishing the printers of the country a medium through which they can discuss matters of general interest to the craft, and also find much information as to the whereabouts and doings of old-time acquaintances, deserve substantial encouragement, which I certainly hope you will receive.

Within a month past two of our leading morning papers—the daily *Post* and the *Tribune*—have consolidated. Before consolidation the former employed some eighteen men (regulars) in the newspaper composing room, and the latter about an equal number. The consolidated paper runs twenty-six cases; thus their joining together throws out eight regulars, which with subs. leaves some twelve or fifteen men "on the town," as it were. As few have left the city, Detroit has quite a surplus of printers, so that members of the craft in search of employment have no encouragement to visit the City of the Straits.

The *Evening News*, the most successful venture in Detroit journalism within your correspondent's knowledge, is just giving a new evidence of its prosperity in the erection of a handsome new office, which is being laid out with every convenience for a first-class—though not large—print shop. It will have one of the neatest composing rooms in the West—each man will have good light, having an entire window to himself in a room with exceptionally high ceilings.

Detroit Typographical Union is in fair condition—in fact, I may say, excellent condition, compared with the organizations of various other Union cities. It has at the present time one hundred and fifty active members. A grand

ball, under the auspices of the Union, is being arranged, to be held at St. Andrew's Hall, on Christmas Eve, to which the members who "trip the light fantastic" are looking forward with much pleasure, while the affair receives the best wishes and encouragement of the older and more staid of our membership.

We are looking forward to the next meeting of the International Typographical Union with much interest. It will meet in Detroit, on the first Monday in June next, and as then will be the first time Detroit will have been so honored by the craft, our wishes are that the session may prove a most beneficial one; and while Detroit, through her delegates, has ever opposed extravagance in the reception and entertainment of the International body by the subordinate Union with which for the time meeting, and will not herself stultify her record in this regard, we wish it to be understood that a wholesome, hearty welcome will be extended all who come—and we hope every Union may be fully represented—and every facility be afforded for the proper transaction of business.

Some specimen copies of the *Miscellany* received by me have been distributed among our membership, and I certainly hope to see a respectable-sized club gotten up for you soon.

I notice by your September number, just received, that you have printed my remarks to the last session of the I. T. U. on the apprentice question. I sincerely wish that discussion may be evoked on this all-important subject. I assure you I feel very deeply upon it, being satisfied that the manner in which the apprentice system is at present conducted, not only in our own trade, but in all trades, will eventually result in widespread disaster socially. It is useless for employers to find fault with apprentices and the incompetency of journeymen, or ascribe the cause of the present state of affairs to trades unions. The fault begins with themselves. But this scrawl is already too long, and I will shut off on this subject for the present, after stating that I have, during two or three months past, sent to various States copies of the apprentice bill I had the honor to draft and to have presented to the last session of the Michigan Legislature, but which was defeated in that body, of course, though it did receive twenty-two votes in its favor in the House. The last I had I sent yesterday to Washington, where the printers have joined with other trades to try and induce Congress to adopt a judicious apprentice law for the