

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM COMPTON.

AN old Halifax newspaperman, Wm. Compton, has passed away at the age of 74, and his death leads 'The Herald to deal with some events in the Halifax publishing world a generation ago. Mr. Compton learned his trade in the old Halifax Journal office. In 1847 he was engaged on The Post, then edited by J. H. Croskill, and a few years later he worked on The Sun, under the management of Ritchie and Nugent. He and his brother started The Halifax Catholic. In 1858 Mr. Compton and his brother John founded The Express and ran it at that time as a tri-weekly paper. Its principal editorial writer was John Costley. The Express soon took its position as the leading evening newspaper in the city, and maintained it for a great many years. M. J. Griffin and Robert T. Murray graduated on that paper. Mr. Compton was appointed a Dominion arbitrator on the creation of the board in 1869, was removed in 1874 and reinstated by Sir John Macdonald in 1878. He was spoken of by his colleagues, and, indeed, by all who knew him, as a very able man—a man of mature judgment, and who saw the point of a case at once. John Bowden, John Dunn and Alpin Grant, who still live, were contemporaries of Mr. Compton in the publishing business. The others are gone.

LESLIE E. MACLEOD.

Leslie E. MacLeod, formerly of Summerside, P. E. I., died in New York last month aged 37. Mr. MacLeod was one of the most brilliant writers, particularly on equine topics, that Prince Edward Island has produced. He was for some years associate editor of The Summerside Journal and Prince Edward Agriculturist. About thirteen years ago he went to New York and took a position on Wallace's Monthly and The American Trotting Horse Register. When these publications were discontinued he went to Chicago, and for some time held an important position on one of the great trotting papers of that city. Later he returned to New York, where he was employed on one of the daily papers, and for some months past he has been associate editor of The Trotter and Pacer, a leading turf paper. Mr. MacLeod, while connected with the Wallace publications, traveled extensively among the great stock farms of the United States, especially of California, and he was the editor of Charles Marvin's popular book on training and trotting topics, as followed at Pa'o Alto.

OTTMAR MERGENTHALER.

The inventor of the linotype, who died lately in Baltimore, was born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, May 11, 1854. After studying under his father, the village schoolmaster, he learned the trade of watchmaker, and in 1872 went to Washington, entering the employ of A. Hahl & Co., manufacturers of electric clocks and similar works.

It was while he was in their employ that James O. Clehane called on Mr. Mergenthaler's employer and

suggested the invention of a typesetting machine. Young Mergenthaler was struck with the idea and set to work at once. In 1882, after he had been admitted to partnership with Hahl, he left what was a very lucrative business in order to devote his energies to the machine which had become his hobby.

He persevered, and in 1886 his efforts were crowned with success, when the first machine was placed in the composing room of The New York Tribune. It was in comparison with the present machine, a crude affair, but it worked, and showed the possibilities of further invention. From that time the history of the Mergenthaler machine was one of steady improvement. The inventor first conceived the idea of making a typesetting machine that would work by means of indentations in papier mache, with the stereotyping separate. This proved a failure, as also was the second one, which was made on the same plan, but was an improvement on the first. The last machine he made was the linotype.

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