

But alas! all this is changed. Look at me now; a mere wreck. In an evil hour I was made 'devil' in the *Mercury* office; I was given some of that 'copy' to set, and—and I swore. That was the beginning. I soon learned to smoke, then to chew; soon I left off going to Sunday School; my fall then was rapid. But why repeat the sad tale; you know how it is yourselves; from cards to dice, from dice to billiards, and from billiards to base of virtue by trying to get me to join a lacrosse club, but I was lost—lost. Here his grief became unbearable, and they had to give him some brandy and creosote to revive him. Moral:—What kind of a conscience must the newspaper man have who won't write a plain list?

Mr. Gid. S. Climie, who was, until about the 20th of April, a job hand in the *Mercury* office, died at Oshawa, on Tuesday, 15th May. His age was twenty-nine years. He was a first-class printer, and was also a good poet. His death has cast quite a gloom over the printers of this town.

The cigar makers of this town and the *Herald* boys had a game of base ball last month. The printers knocked the cigar makers into pi by a score of thirty-six to seventeen. The boys can pi anything.

Mr. John Mortimer, the much-respected ad. setter of the *Mercury*, has gone—and got married. For further particulars see page 220.

Sid. Schofield, who served his time at the biz in this town, has gone to Texas for his health, and has started a paper out there.

An eighty horse-power engine was shipped from the Worswick Engine Co's works, here, to Nanpance, for the use of the paper mill there.

Tramps are "few and far between." The name of the last arrival is Jackson, who is making his second annual tour in these parts.

W. Kennedy, *Mercury* pressman, lately resolved to try the speed of a Payne double-royal Wharfedale press, and in the space of ten hours he printed fourteen thousand copies of a quarter sheet form. He "fled" the sheets with one hand and fed with the other. Who comes next?

Business is pretty good here just now. G.

"Art Preservative of all Arts."

BOSTON, May 20, 1877.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

SIR,—In the April number of the *Miscellany* there appeared a lengthy letter from your Philadelphia correspondent "Hair Space," in which he styles the above quotation "a misnomer, a delusion, and a cheat," and otherwise assails the art of printing. I fully expected that the May number of the *Miscellany* would contain at least one reply to "Hair Space," from the pen of some able old typo, showing him the erroneous view he had taken of the "art preservative of all arts;" but as my expectations were not realized, I will now give my idea

of the quotation "art preservative of all arts," though I am but a few years at the business. I do not see how the quotation can be "a misnomer, a delusion, or a cheat." It certainly is all it appears to be—if anything it does not present an adequate idea of its position at the present time, for it has preserved a record of all the arts, and is also the most useful and indispensable agent employed in human affairs. It is increasing all the time. Civilization scarcely advanced at all till printing was generally spread, but since it has become cheap its advances have been without parallel, as we can see by comparing the world at the time of the invention and the nineteenth century. I do not see why it is not the "art preservative of all arts" just the same, even if those who are employed in it are poorly paid. It accomplishes just as much good; it is not the fault of the art. Printers, as a general thing, do stand higher than other mechanics where they pay the same attention to their trade. Before the invention of printing, arts were discovered and then lost to the human race, but since its invention, in the fifteenth century, when any great discovery was made it was transmitted to the next generation, and so on. The triumph of mind over matter is seen more plainly in the daily workings of the different printing offices than any where else. Instead of being merely the "art preservative of all arts," it is the employer of all arts and the leader of mankind. "Hair Space" seems to be looking more at the pecuniary benefits reaped by those who are employed at the printing, than he does to the real meaning of the quotation.

This, Mr. Editor, is my opinion of what the quotation "art preservative of all arts" means.

M. E.

"Art Preservative of all Arts."

ST. JOHN, N. B., May 25, 1877.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

SIR,—While looking over the April number of the *Miscellany* I observed a communication under the heading of the "Art Preservative of all Arts." I at once "went for it" and commenced its perusal, expecting to find something elaborate and instructive—something that would show how broad and truthfully the quotation could be applied when speaking of the preservation of the arts and sciences, both past, present, and future: but, instead of that, I found the writer calling the quotation a "misnomer, a delusion, a cheat," etc., and to prove that his flagrant assertion is true, he in very strong language points to the financial and social position of printers, as a class, compared with masons, plumbers, etc. Now, I should like "Hair Space" to explain in what way such remarks tend to prove the misapplication of the said quotation when applied by men of intelligence and learning to the preservation of art and science, or what connection any part of his article has with the heading over it. It must appear quite clear to every intelligent person that he has put the wrong head to his communication.

The writer of this piece of eloquence invites "friendly discussion." On what point? Does he mean on the verity of his sharp and acrimonious references to the status of printers generally, or is it on what he calls the misapplied quotation? If on the latter, I see no room for "discussion." I am inclined to think "Hair Space" is laboring under some delusion as to the true interpretation of the sentence—"The Art Preservative of all Arts," and I hope he will, at some future day, enlighten the readers of the *Miscellany* by giving them his definition of it.