

known to all sharp and experienced managers in large places who provide all necessary accommodations and appliances for the reporters either upon the platform or contiguous thereto, where every word of the speaker may be heard and noted down if desired. And the singular obtuseness which, in this age of the world, fails to provide these accommodations must be clasped with those by-gone cycles which in complimentary parlance we denominate O. S., ancient, antediluvian.

Our local reporters are so well and thoroughly known as modest, unassuming young men, with no attaching taint of supercilious importance, that it would seem to be a pleasure as well as public duty on the part of managers to afford them complete facilities for the discharge of all their functions in connection with the public press; and it is hoped that no further suggestions may be necessary in regard to this matter.

It may be well to here add that people who attend and enjoy public amusements of the kind above alluded to, also enjoy a correct and elaborate report of them in the village newspapers; and hence they will study their own interest as well as pleasure by preserving the most strict silence during a performance or lecture except the intervals devoted to applause, with the especial view of affording the most favorable condition for the accomplishment of the reporter's task.

XYLO.

Attleboro, Mass., March, 1882.

Obituary.

Oscar Henry Harpel, the poet-printer, died in Louisville, Ky., on the 13th of November, 1881, in the 54th year of his age. To him is due, in a great measure, the advance made in the art of job printing during the past fifteen years. Possessed of remarkable good taste in matters relating to his profession, he conceived the excellent idea of issuing a volume containing many of his best designs. This idea he carried out by the publication of his "Typograph, or Book of Specimens," a work of considerable literary merit as well as good mechanical skill. He also published many beautiful gems and leaflets. These, together with his latest work, "Poets and Poetry of Printedom," form a noble and lasting monument to his memory.

Mr. Harpel was born in Philadelphia, Pa., June 8, 1828, of respectable and intelligent

parents. His remoter ancestors were French and Hollandish. Until fifteen or sixteen years of age, he passed his life in Maryland, middle Pennsylvania, and on a Rancocas (New Jersey) river farm. His education meanwhile was obtained from ordinary schools, an academy and home instruction from his father, an educated professional gentleman. In February, 1845, Oscar chose printing for his future industry, and became the first indentured apprentice of Howell Evans, Philadelphia. During his apprenticeship, the lad always aimed to acquire the *art* thoroughly, as well as to understand the *trade* of typography. His position, and undivided attention to every part of the business, enabled him to make rapid progress, to attract the goodwill of Mr. Evans, and to assume responsibilities of importance with which he was soon entrusted.

When the original indenture was returned to the apprentice, at the expiration of his term of service, as the custom was, Mr. Evans (an exacting man) endorsed upon the paper that its obligations were "*fully and faithfully served out.*"

Mr. Harpel then took the job management of a large printing establishment, in Philadelphia, where he remained some time, but subsequently went into the job printing business on his own account.

He next went on a brief tour of observation through several of the Western and Northwestern States. Returning to his native city, after a few months, he went to Baltimore, Md., to take charge of a leading book and job printing establishment.

Mr. Harpel got married about this time and went to Wilmington, Del.; St. Louis, Mo.; Galveston, Tex.; and other cities, filling responsible typographical situations.

In 1856, his health and finances having become impaired while in Texas, through yellow fever and other causes, he left the South, and finally located in Cincinnati, O., where, in conjunction with his father or brother, he was engaged in the finer grades of job printing and gained considerable celebrity as a painstaking and capable typographical designer and printer. In 1866, he had the misfortune, with his relatives mentioned, to have a fine establishment and the fruits of the toil of many years swept entirely away by fire. In 1874, Mr. Harpel, then at the head of the well-known "Harpel Printing Company," of Cincinnati, induced the firm to dissolve for the reason that the *better*