

the same time for the nick of its follower. It is perfectly evident and natural that the latter will compose 12,000 ems in even less time, and with greater ease, than the former will be able to compose half that number.

We can, therefore, only say to compositors, who are guilty of these irregular and nonsensical habits, "Reform!" for if you only realize a saving of 10 per cent., *i. e.*, if you, who formerly composed, in a given time, 10 types, can, by good and firm will, bring it to 11 in the same space of time, you will gain a hundred types in every thousand, say 7 or 800 daily, 4 to 5000 in a week, 16 to 20,000 in a month—*more than a month's pay in a year's time!*

Now, is this worth consideration and reflection or not?

May all those who feel that the above lines touch them and their bad habits, bring to bear all the firmness, all the resolution they can command; it is their own interest we advocate. Combine the look-out for, the grasping and the composing of, the type into one quick and secure movement; stand quiet and upright, as a man should always stand, before your frame; have the needed reform continually before your mind's eye—and be sure, the good effect will soon show itself: a fortnight, a month, will witness a wonderful, an unexpected improvement.

There is another (and a *very sore*) point about which we would say a few words—*bad distribution*; and another still—*want of scrupulous order*, and also the principle, "Oh! that I will do to-morrow!" but we will close for to-day; reserving, however, to a future paper those sore points and bad principles, which, in their consequences, predispose the compositor to asthma and consumption (through being more bent over the stone than standing before his frame); or which make him lose his time by setting up pi, which would never have been made if the above quoted bad principle were not, alas, so universally held in honor.

A correspondent of an English paper gives the following mode of making ink for the new copying process. He says: "Take a small quantity of aniline dye—violet is the best,—mix with a pennyworth of acetic acid, and then add a small quantity of boiling water. Mix it well and let it cool, and it will then be found to be very bronze when written with. I have found this to be far superior to any ink which I have bought."

#### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

THE PRINTER'S MISCELLANY is issued monthly at \$1.00 per annum, *in advance*, or ten cents per number. Price to apprentices—50 cents per annum, *in advance*.

The name and address of subscribers should be written plainly, that mistakes may not occur. All letters should be addressed to

HUGH FINLAY,  
St. John, N. B., Canada.

## The Printer's Miscellany.

ST. JOHN, N. B., CANADA, MAR., 1880.

#### The Newspaper Business in Halifax.

The newspapers of Halifax, as they are at present managed, are at a low ebb. A gentleman who has had a large experience in this line, both in the old country and in most of the principal cities of the Dominion, and who has recently made special enquiries into the state of the newspaper business in Halifax, assures us that he was astounded at the result of his investigations.

Advertisements are accepted regardless of any consideration of the value of space, or any calculation as to their actual cost. Some of the publishers have made a complete and thorough surrender to the advertisers, and will scarcely refuse an ad., no matter how ridiculously low the price offered. The result is just what might be expected; business men, finding that there is no fixed standard of value for space or position, have learned to doubt whether there is really any value, and many who would have been valuable customers to the papers, had they been conducted on common sense, business principles, absolutely decline to advertise. Those who do advertise, do so with an air and a belief that they are conferring a personal favor and an obligation on the proprietors of the papers for which they doubt whether they receive an equivalent.

The causes that have brought the business to this lamentably low state are several, among the principal of which may be mentioned that persons, destitute of an understanding of even the primary principles of the publishing, or indeed of any, business, have obtained the opportunity to waste the money of other people in competing unfairly with those who have endeavored to maintain prices at a paying standard, and to run the business legitimately.

There is but one paper that at all pretends to