

CORRESPONDENCE.

**The International "Wayzgoose" at Paris--
A Successful Co-operative Society of
Printers--Meritorious Machines, etc.**

From our Regular Correspondent.

PARIS, FRANCE, Aug. 23, 1878.

One of the most unique ideas suggested by the Exhibition was the International *wayzgoose*—the first of its kind—held at the Grand Hotel on the 20th August, when some 220 representatives of every department of the printing trade, and belonging to various nationalities, assembled to celebrate the progress of typography.

The notion of the banquet originated with M. Gebel, of the Stuttgart *Journal für Buchdruckerkunst*, who found in M. Charavay, of the journal *L'Imprimerie* of this city, not only a warm, but better still, a practical partizan. Adhesions followed, and the labors of the committee have culminated in a magnificent success. Dinner had been fixed for half-past seven, but so great had been the anxiety to assist at the ceremony, that tickets were being purchased "up to the moment of going to"—table. A kind of "stop press," of an hour's duration, thus ensued, necessitated by a change of the dining hall. The delay only afforded the guests more time to know each other, exchange views and form excellent friendships. It also enabled them to do extra justice to the splendid *menu*, drawn up by M. Van Hymbeeck, the director of the hotel, and whose father was a craftsman, being the inventor of the lithographic pencil. The card was elegantly printed, and its colors—a drab ground with tasteful silver border—were very chaste, and reflected great credit on Mr. Symmonds, the popular and leading English printer in this city. A card in chromo-lithograph, with a fantastical design, recorded the number of each guest's place. M. Mame, of Tours, the head of the French printing trade, was unable to preside owing to an accident; he was replaced by M. Charles Laboulaye.

Post prandial oratory in France is ever brief, and the speeches were limited to eulogizing typography here and elsewhere. The attraction was not in the speaking, but in the simple gathering together of so many professionals, all distinguished in some branch of printing and its sister arts, and to even enumerate whom would necessitate a catalogue as long as Homer's. However, not a female compositor was present. At

the late cosmopolitan press *réunion*, only three editresses attended, although they are as plentiful as blackberries in Paris, and as ephemeral.

The horse-shoe table was occupied by the leading international representatives of typography; the second was reserved to English and Americans on one side, having *en face* Germans. The latter mustered very strong, and were deeply interested in the event, and seemed anxious that the assembly should develop into an annual and rotatory association. M. Theodore Gebel, the originator of the banquet, was warmly received. He is a gentleman of about fifty-two years of age, of medium height, and the leading authority on printing-trade matters wherever German is spoken or translated; he is an earnest, keen, and faithful judge, who insists on examining with his own eyes; who rejects all hearsays; who has hammers, rules, and tests to examine machinery, type, paper, ink, etc., and his decisions are as searching and matured as they are proverbially independent. Prince Bismarck could neither cajole nor terrorize his summings up. He visited Mr. Kelly's now famous model American printing office; composed a circular for him in German to enable himself to say on returning to Vaterland: "I set up a few sticks in the Exhibition building itself."

The *Imprimerie Nouvelle* is situated at 14 Rue des Jeuneurs in this city. It is strictly co-operative. I am indebted to its directors, Messrs. Masquin & Lacôte, for being shown over the premises and every information placed at my disposal. This workmens' association is both an Odyssey and a typical success. Its history is not only strange and eventful, but contains lessons that printers ought to profoundly study. The association commenced practical work the 10th May, 1870. Up to 31st December last, it transacted a total business to the extent of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions francs; bought plant for $\frac{1}{4}$ million francs, and realized a net profit of 217 millions francs. The premises are most unpretending, and situated in a courtyard. Not a centime is expended on show. The staff numbers sixty-five persons; there are six printing machines, one hand-press, one steam engine, and 30,000 sheets can be struck off daily. Strictly, it is a job office, capable of executing the finest work or the fattest posters. The workmen had for aim to be their own capitalists, and to create capital they subscribed from ten