

Too many printers sell their work too cheap. "I am actually ashamed to quote figures on this job," said the manager of a large printing house, "but if I don't make them away down to nothing, I know of a house that will." In our opinion this is not right. What good does it do to work for nothing? It's a conundrum we have never been able to solve. It does not require any great business skill to work for nothing.

Our attention has been drawn to a curious mistake in a very large number of the calendars for 1881. In a majority of those noticed by us (both Canadian and American) September is credited with thirty-one days, while almost everybody, even to the small school-boy, has heard and knows the old rhyme commencing with "Thirty days hath September," etc. In those calendars in which the mistake occurs, October commences all right with Saturday. We hardly know how to account for such a silly blunder on the part of the printers, and must put it down to gross carelessness.

A German has succeeded in compounding a cement for attaching metal to metal or to wood. The new cement is in every respect well adapted for securing stereotype plates to their wooden base. He hopes to be able to apply the composition in question to the surface of linen or canvas, so that in mounting a plate it shall only be necessary to cut a piece of the fabric or plaster to the size of the block and insert it between the wood and the metal. After the surface has been weighted for a short time with a piece of warm iron, the adhesion of the two substances, the one to the other, will be complete.

Dr. Mackie is making some fresh experiments with his composing machine. Among other improvements is an entirely novel arrangement which practically supersedes spelling, the operator acting in a manner much like hand-setting upon syllables, words, and phrases, by one motion, which will admit of no "literals," as they themselves are of permanent matrices. Dr. Mackie's composers are also to be made larger, in order that they may hold 750 different divisions, enabling combinations in every variety to be secured by one movement, and a ceaseless flow of some 30,000 types an hour from one machine. Dr. Mackie also thinks that he will, by the aid of type-casting machinery, eventually do away with distribution.

A correspondent of the *Typologie Tucker* recommends a plan which is in use in some printing offices, of cleansing forms by a jet of steam, instead of with ley, to which he considers it preferable. Steam, he says, has the advantage of rapidly boiling the oil of the ink, which condenses it, gets rid of all dirt, and leaves the type perfectly clean. Types cleansed by this means always look new, and the oxidation produced by potash, which is so injurious to the skin, is avoided. Let the form be subject to the jet of steam for two minutes. The heat will dry the types almost instantaneously, and much facilitate distribution. As no brushes and potash are required, the expense of fixing up the piping is very soon saved.

One of the most famous printing establishments in France—that of the Lahures—has eighty tons of type, and the following working plant: Three of Marinoni's rotary presses; two presses of two colors; twenty reiteration machines; five white paper machines; seventeen hand-presses; four Minerva presses; four steam engines; one gas motor; twelve Muniman damping machines; three rolling mills for wetting and glazing; in the folding room, five *massicauts*, one hydraulic press, three percussion presses; stereotype rooms, a carpenter's shop, six thousand punches, fifteen thousand matrices, ten thousand wood-cuts. Five hundred workmen are employed, and many of the grandest works in French literature are manufactured.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lugin were very much surprised on Saturday evening, October 1st, when a large party of ladies and gentlemen marched into their house and took possession. On enquiry, they were informed that the company had come to assist them to celebrate their "crystal" wedding, the anniversary of which, they had been credibly informed, was October 2nd. There was no help for it, but Mrs. L. had to put away her ironing, while Fred. did "his level best" to dispose of the company to the best advantage. A very pleasant evening was spent, conversation, vocal and instrumental music, recitations, games, etc., forming the principal amusements indulged in. The party broke up at a seasonable hour, and the host and hostess found themselves the possessors of a large number of valuable presents in crystal. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Lugin many happy returns of the anniversary.