

especially I crave that you will repress your ire in case I make any statements already known to your omniscient wisdom. I am about to orate for the benefit of these two young neophytes who have sought our society this evening, seeking to imbibe at the fountain head its sparkling drops of truth. Mr. Fellowcraft, call the waiter."

Pop resumed: "First permit me, gentlemen, to say a few words on the origin or invention of printing. Those terms are not correct. Every printer is critical as well as sceptical. I mean on universal questions, not on matters of soul-plasm—solely. Even figures are deceptive. I have often set up a semi-annual statement of some financial concern in this burgh and when the proof was sent and returned, the figures were bowled down and set up again like ninepins. \$1,782,433.02 of gilt-edged assets became in a few hours \$2,347,553.01, signed B. Munchausen, Esq., Sec. But I digress. I should have used the word 'adapted' or 'impressed' instead of the word 'invention' in reference to our art. 'There is nothing new under the sun,' said Solomon, the polygamist. I have no doubt, gentlemen, that printing as we have it, and as it is yet to be developed, was equally known in the Printing House Squares and in the Paternoster Rows at Baalbec, Thebes and Babylon, ten million years ago.

"It is not so much the invention of printing that strikes judicial minds like our as its adaptation. Invention! Ha, ha! Why every duck since the carboniferous age, that took up the trail of an angle worm after a warm June rain, was a printer. 'His footprints stamped the clays of time.' (Quoted). Printers? Printers always existed. But we have nothing to do with Chinese printing—antedating ours thousands of years; nothing to do with the Assyrian tablets, seal printing or block printing. As to the alleged founders of our guild—Gutenberg, Faust, Schaeffer or Koster—we will dismiss them by saying that the mightiest lever to lift our race out of the ooze and miasma of the dark ages was first USED by them about 1450-1455.

"Allow me to point out that it was, and is, the especial province of our mother tongue to hold sole possession of an UNCENSORED PRESS! Yes, Germany may have