

of this class should at any time be prostrated by sickness, both himself and family would be subjected to many privations, and, in the event of his death, those dear to him would be left either destitute or with very limited means of support. Under such circumstances, pecuniary aid would indeed be a blessing. Then again, in the case of the young man, who is also liable to disease, similar aid, no doubt, would be very essential.

Such a society might be made entirely local. The funds could and should be placed in safe hands, and only dispensed to each contributing member in case of his illness; and, should he die, means could be provided for his interment.

If such a society should be formed, probably the proprietors of the several offices in the city might be induced to contribute something to its funds. Indeed, I think they should be the first to move in the matter, and render all the aid they can in behalf of those who are wearing out their lives in their service, and who, when unable to work any longer, can only look forward to the cold charity of friends or the alms house, while they (the proprietors) can lay by in comfort and luxury, derived from the incessant toil of their employees.

I hope this subject will meet with approval and be ventilated by more able hands than mine, and that some of your readers, through the columns of the *Miscellany*, will express their views as to the practicability of such a movement. By giving your own opinion in reference thereto, you will oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

St. John, N. B., Jan 9th, 1877.

"Subscriber" has put the matter so plainly and stated the points so well that we find very little left to remark upon at the present time. However, we would call his attention, as well as that of the craft, to an account of the organization of a "Benefit Association" in the Boston *Herald* office, which will be found in another part of this paper. There is not the slightest doubt but that the formation of such a society would be of incalculable benefit to the printers of any city, and would also enlist the support and encouragement of all employing printers as well. We hope soon to hear of some such association of printers in every city in the Dominion, and sincerely trust that some of the "older heads" will take the initiative in the matter at once. We offer the free use of the columns of the *Miscellany* to that end.

#### A Falsehood Nailed.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

Sir,—I see by an item in the January number of the *Miscellany* that "a recent despatch from Toronto to the Montreal *Witness* states that the Printers' Union of that city propose seceding from the International Typographical Union, under whose jurisdiction it now exists." In making this statement, the Toronto correspondent of the *Witness* simply utters what is not true. Our Union never contemplated secession, since our connection, with the International Typographical Union. We have existed as a Trades' Union some forty years, and we have every prospect of living forty years more—"under

whose jurisdiction we now exist." The correspondent must have been put to his wits end for news when he sent the above paragraph all the way to Montreal; but it seems he made the "noble" venture, knowing, perhaps, that such an item would go well with the palate of the *Witness*, it being an non-union office.

Yours truly,

JOHN ARMSTRONG,

Cor Sec. Int. Typ. Union.

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 21st, 1877.

We could hardly think there was much truth in it when we published it, but felt compelled to give it as an item of news, no matter how disagreeable it might be. We are extremely glad to have a denial from such good authority.

#### Cheap Book and Job Presses.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

Sir,—I see by an advertisement in the last number of the *Miscellany* that Hasler & Fairbank, London, quotes the price of a double royal "Excelsior" Wharfedale printing press at £190, which is only about \$950. Now, I know of several double royal Wharfedale presses that have been purchased in the provinces lately, which their owners say cost from \$1,200 to \$1,700. What I want to know is, have the owners above mentioned exaggerated the price of their presses or is Messrs. Hasler & Fairbank's offer a *bona fide* one, and are their presses really so much cheaper? If so much cheaper, can they be as good every way as the higher priced ones? By answering the above, you will much oblige,

BOOK AND JOB PRESS.

Messrs. Hasler & Fairbank of London, are first class engineers, and are not among those who would make any offer which they are not prepared to carry out. They do not occupy a second position to any other firm in London in their lines of business, which is machinery of all kinds; but they make a specialty of that used by printers and bookbinders. We do not think the owners of presses, already in the provinces, exaggerate in the least as regards the price of their machines. The presses made by Messrs. Hasler & Fairbank are very generally used in the city of London, which of itself should be considerable in their favor. From cuts which we have seen of their presses, we should judge they were much simpler (the pieces being fewer and the movements being made more directly) than any of the Wharfedale presses we have seen. Their work is guaranteed and we are, therefore, of the opinion that they are as good, if not better, than any other. The only reason that can be assigned for their not being previously introduced to the trade of these provinces, is, so far as we know, because the manufacturers have been hitherto fully occupied by the home market. We hope the above will prove explicit enough for our correspondent.