

Composing Machines.

As these very interesting and intricate contrivances are again intruding themselves upon the trade and public attention, it will be as well just here to remind the reader of a few obstacles to their general use, as well as to accord to their inventors and introducers all the justice that truth and enterprise undoubtedly demand at our hands. And first, it must not be forgotten that you can get rid of your workmen in a very short time, if loss of trade renders their further services unnecessary; but with these costly machines, the case is far different. They must be kept in constant use, or they will sustain injury by idleness and involve a great loss on original outlay. Again, the repairs of such mechanical aids will prove something considerable in the year's expenditure. And lastly, we presume that, under ordinary circumstances, they will only do plain work—where the letters of one size follow each other in the usual "newspaper" succession, without the introduction of braces, two-line letters, or fancy lines of any kind. These, therefore, would have to be put in afterwards by hand. It should be borne in mind also that it is often the illegibility of the "copy," or the difficulty of understanding it, and making it read correctly, which stops the progress of the hand labor; and if the machine picks up the types—or, rather, lays them in due position—much faster, it is possible that the difficulty of understanding the copy may not always be got over sufficiently quick for an uninterrupted progression in a correspondingly rapid ratio. Still, the contest is simply one of demonstration, and these trials should be made at once on ordinarily difficult MS. in order to prevent an outlay by employers that may subsequently disgust, and prevent the composing machine from afterwards receiving that fair attention and patronage to which, for certain purposes, it may presumably be entitled. The question of entire cost must be especially taken into consideration, and the fact that a large amount of work must still be done by hand. We are not very sanguine as to the triumph of mechanism in this department of industry, and shall be very much surprised if, taking all things into consideration, composing machines are found to be a paying speculation, except in certain very exceptional cases. Should it prove otherwise, the enormous outlay involved will necessarily be borne by all the men of capital, and competition will speedily roll the savings away into the pockets of a "confiding public." There is plenty of hand labor to do the work in the market. —*London Stationer and Printer.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

A Boston man has invented a machine for the cancelling and stamping of letters.

The Boston *Advertiser* donned a new dress and came out as an eight-page paper on the 4th of July.

In Wisconsin, compositors receive .25 and .35 per thousand, and job hands \$10 to \$15 per week.

Rev. Abbe Chandonnet, editor and proprietor of *La Revue de Montreal*, dropped dead recently while writing in his office.

The Providence (R. I.) *Journal* has been changed to eight pages, and is now the largest daily in New England.

John A. Appleton, of the publishing firm of D. Appleton & Co., died at Clifton, Staten Island, July 13th, in his 65th year.

The price of composition on morning papers in Dallas, Texas, is 32½ cents; on evening, 30 and 25 cents. Job hands get \$12 per week.

The death is announced in Edinburgh, Scotland, of Mr. Thomas Constable, the well-known printer and publisher, at the age of sixty-nine.

Charles Kelly, son of Wm. J. Kelly, editor of the *American Model Printer*, was married on Monday evening, June 13th, to Miss Hannah O'Neil.

John C. Johnson, a "tramp" printer, known throughout America as the "Terror of the Lakes," has turned up in London.—*Toronto World.*

New York city has 540 printing and publishing establishments, having 11,803 employés, and representing capital to the amount of \$16,907,210.

The Napanee (Ont.) *Express*, in new form and well got up, has made its appearance under the management of W. M. O'Beirne, late of the *Lindsay Post*.

Miller & Richard's branch house in San Francisco, Cal., have disposed of their interest in presses, and will hereafter devote their attention exclusively to the sale of type and printing material.—*Ex.*

A company has been formed in Paris for working the new celluloid process of stereotyping, under the name of La Clicherie Nouvelle. The patentee has received £16,000 in cash for his patent rights.