

The very work of the compositor, and also of the proof-reader, is calculated to store the mind with knowledge. And the same is the case with every department in the office, to some extent. In addition to this the numerous periodicals and books, new and old, which are continually finding their way to this literary receptacle, afford the greatest opportunity to improve the mind in learning and knowledge. There is always enough of novelty and excitement on the subject to cause every one to read; and to prevent any from losing the relish for books or thirst for information. The Printing Office, therefore, becomes an excellent school. The moment a boy enters it he begins to become acquainted with mankind — with the world — with the civil, political, and religious condition of the various nations spread over the globe; and should he remain a typographer for four score years he will continue to enhance his treasure of knowledge.

Printing is a work of mind: it has to do with mind; it provides the means for the improvement of the mind, and it spreads out before mankind the many and important productions of mind. It was mind that gave rise to this great art; and, Printing does more toward the march of intellect and the proper developement of the powers of the human soul than any other agency. Had it not been for the existence of this invaluable art, few would have known up to this day, that they possessed minds at all; and the great majority of the human race would have remained ignorant alike of their origin and of their end. How great then — how big with interest must the business of the Printer be! Let the son of the Type and the man of the Press feel their importance, and while in their own school they are their own instructors, let them know that they are teaching the civilized and enlightened world, and sending bright rays of intelligence into the dark and ignorant portions of the earth.

The following remarks respecting a "London Printing Office," are from the *Quarterly Review*: they too, illustrate our statement that the Printing Office is a School:—

"A LONDON PRINTING OFFICE IN THE MORNING.—By eight o'clock the whole body

have arrived. Many in their costume resemble common laborers; others are better clad, several are very well dressed; but all bear in their countenance the appearance of men of considerable intelligence and education. They have scarcely assumed their respective stations, when blue mugs containing each a pint or half a pint of tea or coffee, and attended either by a smoking hot roll stuffed with yellow butter, or by a couple of slices of bread and butter, enter the hall. The little girls, who, with well-combed hair, and clean shining faces, bring the refreshments, carry them to those who have not breakfasted at home. Before the empty mugs have vanished, a boy enters the hall at a fast walk, with a large bundle under his arm, of morning newspapers. This intellectual luxury the compositors, by a friendly subscription, allow themselves to enjoy. From their connexion with the different presses, they manage to obtain the very earliest copies, and thus the news of the day is known to them; the leading articles of the different newspapers are criticised, applauded or condemned; an hour or two before the great statesmen of the country had received the observations, the castigations or the intelligence they contain. One would think that compositors would be as sick of reading as a grocer's boy is of treacle; but that this is not the case is proved by the fact that they not only willingly pay for the newspapers, but often indemnify one of their community for giving up his work in order to sit in the middle of the hall on a high stool and read the news aloud to them while they are laboring at their work; they will moreover, even pay him to read to them any new book which they consider to contain interesting information. It of course requires very great command of the mind to be able to give attention to what is read from one book, when men are intently employed in the creation of another. The apprentices and inferior workmen cannot attempt to do this but the greater number, astonishing as it may sound, can listen without injury to their avocation. Very shortly after eight o'clock the whole body are at their work, at which it may be observed, they patiently continue, with only an hour's interval, until eight o'clock at night.