

trations, including portraits, with brief biographical pen-etchings of distinguished American editors and publishers, views of celebrated printing houses and *fac-similes* of ancient and modern newspapers. A brief history of the rise and progress of printing and journalism comes next, and is followed by the lists of newspapers in the United States and British American Provinces, which have been prepared with unusual care and thoroughness. Then follows a series of maps of the States, etc., of North America; specimens of the typography of about 160 different languages; a unique and curious collection of *fac-similes* of English, French, Spanish, Italian, Egyptian, South American and Australasian newspapers; a series of articles descriptive of the United States as a whole, and of its various States and Territories separately, closing with complete statistics of the Press of the United States and British American Provinces.

The second volume opens with the polyglot title-pages, a view of the publication office, and an introduction in English, German, French and Spanish, reviewing the press of the world, and referring to the summary tables at the conclusion of the work. Immediately following this are unique and interesting diagrams, illustrating by zones the latitudinal distribution of the press. A few pages are here devoted to showing how the information for the Directory was collected and to returning thanks to contributors and helpers. Then comes the lists of newspapers of foreign lands, the list of each country being prefaced by a brief explanatory introduction in three or more languages, and the names of publications are not only given in their own vernacular, but their significations appear in English. Following the foreign lists, we have a series of gazetteer articles descriptive of all foreign countries, in which the names of the various countries of the world are given in all the leading modern languages. Next come maps of all foreign nations and a condensed and convenient table of coins and currencies of all nations. "The Responsible Banks of the World" is the caption of a list embracing about twenty thousand banks. This is the first time the banks of all countries have been so fully and so methodically catalogued. A comparative table, showing the growth of the press of the United States during the three decades from 1850 to 1880, and a large amount of statistical information

concerning journalism in the United States in 1879-80 follows, with an "Exhibit of the Newspaper Publications of All Nations," and a "Summary of the Publications of the Globe by Grand Divisions." These are given in English, German, French and Spanish. Carefully prepared indexes of both volumes are given at the close, by means of which every desired point or subject within the work may be easily found. An addenda follows, containing names of publications received too late for incorporation in the body of the work.

The task of H. P. Hubbard, Esq., in the production of this Directory, has surely not been a light one, and we are satisfied that it has been performed with a conscientious thoroughness, ability and success that deserve high praise, and ensure the success of the Directory—for it has no competitor, and it is an indispensable source of information for all.

We tender the author and publisher our hearty congratulations.

Fire Escapes.

Printing offices, especially composing-rooms, are generally placed in the upper stories of buildings for many good reasons. This being the case, means of escape should be provided for the employes in cases of fire. In witness of the truth of this statement see the large loss of life at the burning of the old *World* building, in New York, as recently published in these pages. Had proper means of escape been furnished or on hand, it is safe to assert that not one life would have been sacrificed on that occasion. There is no excuse for their absence excepting parsimony on the part of the employers, and why should human life be put in the scales with dollars and cents? If, in case a workman lost his life in a burning building, the employer was tried for manslaughter, at least, more appliances would be furnished, and, as a consequence, the danger to life in burning buildings would be reduced in proportion. We notice that the New York *Herald* has taken the matter up and recommends the employment of rope for ladders as fire escapes, these being less expensive and more easily managed than wire, which is in use in many places. The Boston Fire Commissioners have ordered the owners or occupants of buildings to provide rope ladders wherever five or more operatives are employed above the second story. There can be no doubt