

"Old Printers Passing Away."

NORWICH, CONN., Sept., 1877.

To the Editor of the Miscellany:

SIR,—As my eye fell upon the above caption in a late number of the *Miscellany* a feeling of melancholy came over me. "Passing away," thought I, and how rapidly. My mind ran back over the thirty and more years of my connection with the craft, and how many memories, both pleasant and sad came rushing into my thoughts. A youth at the case and the press, I soon learned to love the profession, determined to give it my best energies and wisest thoughts. Passing on in the line of improvement and promotion, I found at every stage and in every position the need of cultivating the precepts so heartily urged in your article to contributors in a recent number, not to "set down aught in malice," but to consider a brother, with a brother's feelings as subject only to like temptations and provocations with myself.

"Passing away." This is not always the saddest thought that comes to me when I hear of a brother gone. How has he lived? How has he filled the measure of his usefulness? There is not a craft or profession upon which lies weightier responsibilities than ours, and certainly none offers a better field of discipline and culture. Intelligence is the first requisite for a printer, a steady advancement in knowledge is the indispensable result of his pursuit, and the profession itself, if followed in view of all its advantages, is an open door to almost any walk in life. How many of the professions can count among their number those who had their earliest and often best training in a printing office? The law, the ministry, the schools, have welcomed this class to their duties and honors, and they have filled with credit high places in public trust, both in the government and in the nation. Why should we not do well amid such opportunities and responsibilities?

That we are passing away brings no sadness to him who has filled up his days with usefulness and honor. It is even a boon, when the feebleness of age creeps upon us, to be able to shake off our infirmities, and to be born into a life of unchanging youth, of ceaseless and untiring activities, with the assurance that nothing mortal can ever again set its seal upon us. But, alas, for the poor typo who comes to his end after having neglected all these opportunities—looking back upon a life misspent, and forward to one

that still promises everything, but in which he has to regain the foothold he has lost in this.

One by one we reach the common goal of all. Each one of us, whatever may have been our lives, will leave a name that will be cherished by our friends. Our faults will die with us and our virtues will be enshrined in many memories. May we hope that no poor typo is so low or humble that some good deed, some kindly word or act, some token of love, will not demand of his brothers, a tablet to his memory? Ah, when we remember that the motive is better than the deed, that the action is unwillingly forced by untoward circumstances or wrought in the midst of temptations he has not been able to conquer, we should remember the mantle of charity and throw it over our brother. What we owe to birth and early advantages, and to the power of will, let us not credit to ourselves with pharisaical importance, and what he owes to the disadvantages of early life and the lack of sustaining influences let us not be too free to debit him.

"Passing away." I shall ever aiter this be reminded of these words when the death of a brother craftsman comes to my knowledge; and whether he has attained my standard of rectitude as a man and brother, or fallen far below it, I will remember him only as a mortal, here entangled in the temptations and struggles of life, yielding or conquering as he has power within him, and pass him over for righteous judgment to the great tribunal that awaits us all and judges not amiss.

N. S. W.

Folding Machinery.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Aug. 26th, 1877.

To the Editor of the Miscellany:

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to ask some of your readers (who know) to give, through your columns, their experience with the different folding machines now in use, both for book and newspaper folding. I have no doubt it would be instructive to others, as well as myself, to know from others' experience the advantages and disadvantages of the several machines now in the market. Some are in favor of the English (Livesey, Harrild, and Chambers), and others in favor of the American (Forsaith). Also, please ascertain if there are any other makers of this class of machinery, and oblige

Yours, fraternally,

AN ENQUIRER.