

Government Printing in Ontario.

In answer to a correspondent, who wants to know the scale of prices paid by the Ontario government for its printing, we would state that the following information is all that we have at hand at present, and that perhaps it will be sufficient to answer his purpose. At the same time we would add that we are sorry his letter was just a few hours too late for the March number. The public accounts committee, which met in Toronto on January 1st, 1877, in considering the printing account of Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., called before them Mr. Notman, the Queen's printer. He gave evidence to the effect that the government printing was done by arrangement made between the firm of Hunter, Rose & Co., and the government, in the fall of 1868. The contract would expire next year. The printing was done under the contract up to the time of the printers' strike, by which public business was very much delayed, and the matter for printing accumulated in the hands of the printers. The contractors offered to pay the forfeit and give up their contract, but the printing committee, finding that the work could not be done so cheaply anywhere else, changed the contract price from twenty-eight to forty cents a thousand ems, on the demand of the contractors. The press work was to be done at thirty cents to thirty-five cents a token, and the journals had to be bound at eighteen cents a copy. The committee refused an increase in the price of the press work, but increased the price of binding to twenty-two cents. The arrangements of the committee were sanctioned by the House. The increased prices had not been paid for 1875, as an order to that effect had not been made. He did not think Hunter, Rose & Co., were losing money, but they complained a great deal about the price, and were willing to give up the contract. He further said that before the printers' strike they (the printers) were paid twenty-five cents a thousand, but since that, Hunter, Rose & Co. had paid them thirty-three and a third cents. The work for which forty cents was paid would cost, at least, fifty cents anywhere else.

BACK NUMBERS of the *Miscellany* cannot be supplied beyond December. A few kind friends will accept our gratitude for the numbers (two and five) sent to this office in response to our request. They have enabled us to complete our files, and it is but fair to state that they all refused the proffered remuneration.

Journalism in St. Louis, Mo.

A correspondent writing from St. Louis, Missouri, gives us a glimpse of journalism in that city. In speaking of the *Republican*, he says it has been an accurate metometer of the growth of the West. Col. Knapp, its owner, holds in the country the same honorable prominence that his journal does among newspapers. Entering the office as a boy, he has grown with its growth, and is a prominent example of the success of honest industry and integrity. The editor of the *Republican*, Hon. Wm. Hyde, is one of the clearest and most sagacious journalists. The *Globe-Democrat*, like the *Republican*, is a misnomer, being republican in its politics, while the *Republican* is of democratic proclivities. The *Dispatch*, an independent political paper, is edited by Mr. W. R. Allison, from Ohio, who, for twenty-seven years, edited the *Stubenville Herald*. Mr. Allison brings to St. Louis journalism, a ripe experience and elevated standard. The *St. Louis Times*, boiling over with traces of confederate spirit, is but a feeble echo of the celestial strains of its godmother, the *Chicago Times*, and has, in epitome, all the vices and none of the virtues of that sheet. Its energies are mostly spent in abusing the *Globe-Democrat*. In fact, it renders itself one long-drawn-out advertisement of the great *Globe-Democrat*; and if Mr. McCullough (editor of the *Globe*) doesn't pay it for its feeble wails, he ought to. *Fiat justitia ruat cælum!* The *Times* is as good for the *Globe* as "My Intimate Enemy," mentioned in the *January Atlantic*. The brightest paper here is the *Morning Journal*, a good, thorough-going republican paper, fearless and honest, quick at *repartee*, sparkling with witty things, and also feeling the graver responsibilities of journalism. And this is much. The journals are the educators of the people. Let them never lower their art to "suit their stature," but rise to its loftiest height and purest views.

The Caxton Quarcentenary, London, Eng.

It is to be hoped that the printers of Canada will not allow the Caxton Quarcentenary Exhibition to pass off without making an effort to be represented. We will give fuller particulars next issue, but, in the meantime, advise them to get any thing they would care to exhibit ready for the occasion. It will open on the 11th June, 1877, and remain open for two weeks, closing on the 25th June.