

The Art Preservative and its Machinery at the Centennial.

Machinery Hall, one of the largest buildings at the Centennial, was, by all odds, the most attractive place to any one interested in the art of printing. In one place could be seen the printing press formerly worked by Ben. Franklin, and on the opposite side of the passage-way were the presses of the present time worked by steam. What a contrast! The old, unwieldy piece of, apparently useless wood, however small and insignificant it seemed beside its modern neighbors, was looked on with great curiosity and veneration by some. The writer of this gave the printing machinery more attention than any of the many exhibits, remembering that if it had not been for Franklin's press we might still be in the dark about many of the discoveries (which now we cannot see how we did without before) so useful in the many mysteries of printing.

Great Britain had but five exhibits under the head of "machines and apparatus for type-setting, printing, stamping, embossing, and for making books and paper making." John Walter, of London, had a printing press; John Lilly & Co., London, showed perfecting and single cylinder printing presses; Francis S. Beatty, Dublin, had on view lithographers' manifold transfer machines for the reproduction of printed matter of enlarged or reduced dimensions from that of the original, and the specimens shown looked well; there was a printing machine from Greenwood & Batley, Albion Works, Leeds; and Wm. Shaw, of London, exhibited logotypes and cases in operation, as well as a printing press.

Seven exhibitors are from France: Tucker, of Paris, sending different type and cuts; there are electrotypes, printing machines and rollers for lithographic presses that are ingeniously made. Germany has but two representatives, in a ruling machine and some lithographic machinery. Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Spain, and the Netherlands show nothing whatever. Belgium is represented by a display of wooden type, while Sweden has paging and ticket-counting machines, date stamps and paper cutters. One exhibit is from Italy. While Brazil has nothing in this line, the Argentine Republic has on view specimens of printing, type, electrotypes, corners, and an album of typographical inks. Russia has three, while the United States has the very large number of eighty-one. Let any person call to recollection

all that he *has* seen and imagine all that he *has not* seen relative to the plant of a printing office, and he would have beheld far more than even that on viewing the variety from the States united.

It was amusing to see the crowds of people stand and gaze at the men and women sticking type. Everything imaginable was depicted on their countenances, which were a study. As it is a safe estimate to say that not one in a hundred knows how his morning paper is prepared for him, there is no wonder that the interest was great. All the processes of production were gone through with, from type-setting to running the paper off the press, and as the culminating point was reached, the curiosity increased.

Plenty of job presses were kept constantly employed in printing cards for those about, and orders would frequently be repeated, so that those giving them would be enabled to stand alongside and thus get a better view because they had an interest. Every one was anxious to have his or her card "printed at the Centennial," and if there ever was a time when printers felt a little superiority over ordinary mortals, it was at such times when those employed would be asked what seemed to them silly questions.

There is not a bit of use to go on and describe or speak of any exhibits, as the *Miscellany* has not space, but what your correspondent does regret is that every printer in the universe did not see the improvements which have been made in the "art preservative" since the time of Benjamin Franklin. P.

As announced in last month's *Miscellany*, a change has been made in the Sec.-Treasurership of the New Brunswick Paper Company. Mr. T. P. Davies now occupies this important position, and from what we know of his business capabilities and integrity of character, the company and its business will not suffer any detriment through him. It is said that the company expect, and are ready to fill, some very large orders from the upper provinces. We hope this is so, and we also hope that some of this good luck has come through the *Miscellany*, for we like to feel that we have been the means of doing our patrons good. Therefore, we hope those writing from advertisements in the *Miscellany*, will mention the fact, so that our advertisers may know, as well as ourselves, the value of our large and rapidly increasing circulation.