

ing; these attributes form important factors in attracting attention. In artistic printing it is absolutely necessary to provide wide margins.

To secure an effective contrast the main idea of the job should be brought forward, and then the subordinate details, lines or ornaments will not conflict with the central idea. An elaboration of the lesser lines spoils the effect of the main ones, and is accordingly to be condemned.

It will be seen from the foregoing that good judgment is oftentimes of much more value than years of experience, or rather of unmethodical plodding. Calculation must be put into work; if this is not done a man may work on for years and never become noteworthy for anything beyond the ordinary run. The non-use of brains is what we would advise all beginners to guard against. Let the mind help the hands, which is where the intelligent and thoughtful man has an immeasurable advantage over the mechanical plodder or the ignorant or illiterate. Workmen should cultivate the mind and thus acquire taste which may be used to advantage, thus rendering their services more skillful and themselves more valuable workmen. Only thus will work be easier, life happier, and status improved. Surely this is a laudable ambition for every young printer.—J.E.J. in *American Bookmaker*.

#### HINTS FOR THE MACHINE ROOM.

**C**LEANLINESS is one of the fundamental essentials of high-class printing. If the pressroom is dirty the rollers will get hold of dirt and good work cannot be produced.

If a clear and sharp impression of a block is required for a proof, lay about four sheets of paper on the press table, roll the block, put it face down on the paper, lower the tympan, and pull in the ordinary way. This is hard packing with a vengeance, so mind what you are at.

When using copying ink, if it is too thick and does not take, apply glycerine to the ink plate with the tip of the finger until the trouble is removed. If the ink is too thin add powdered gum arabic. It is absolutely necessary to have rollers, forme, and press perfectly clean.

To prevent damaging type when printing envelopes open the flaps. If the envelopes are high cut, an even paper surface will be presented to the type. Tags and envelopes should be locked up with the head to the top of the chase, and, to prevent the forme from springing, the quoins should be placed at the top.

More harm comes to stereotype plates through washing, sorting and putting up than through printing. Plates should not be shuffled and cut and dealt out like playing cards. Cut some old glazed boards up to the size of a plate, and always insist on putting them between.

#### PROPOSED VISIT TO CANADA.

The Minnesota Press Association are thinking of visiting Toronto on their usual summer excursion. They have written the local pressmen in that city, and arrangements are being made to give them a reception. Some two years ago the Michigan Press Association passed through Toronto on such a trip, and spent several hours in that city. They were given a drive about the city, and a special luncheon at the Queen's was prepared for them. Montreal newspaper men also entertained the same party. Canadian journalists are never negligent on such occasions as these.

#### THE PROGRESS OF THE ENGLISH PRESS IN 60 YEARS.

Frederick Greenwood in *Blackwood's Magazine*.

**R**EVIEW the newspaper press as a whole, and the most remarkable advance appears first in the number and excellence of the provincial journals, and next in the multitude and variety of interests which have been brought under its surveillance. Sixty years ago, the total number of daily newspapers in the United Kingdom was no more than twelve; and the sale of the whole twelve, (Times included) was probably less than any one of half-a-dozen daily papers now current. Of such journals there are to-day about two hundred—most, if not all of them, taking a larger scope than any of that period, and the best of them showing but very little difference between country and town. For many years the most masterly newspaper in English, after The Times, was a colonial journal—The Melbourne Argus. Out of Printing-house Square, it is still as good, probably, as any in existence; but if so, it must have gone on improving, for our great provincial journals have advanced by quick degrees to very high excellence. One or two Scottish journals, two or three English provincial journals, only lack what Price One Penny cannot supply—the fine paper and more open reading of the Walter press.

But whether the influence of the newspaper press in public affairs has increased with the multiplication of its forces is doubtful. There are reasons for thinking (one of them in particular shall be mentioned presently) that the clamor of so many voices in competition makes too much of a babel to be impressive. And there is something, perhaps, in the remark that down to Palmerston's time the machinery of government was more limited, more compact, more capable of being influenced by any single powerful agency from without, than in these days of diffused and confused authority. The discussion of affairs proceeded upon simpler lines then than now. The questions of the day presented themselves in less complexity. The faddist had not yet arisen to start cross currents of perversity in every stream of political action. Therefore the business of government was more simple and direct, as also was that of the political critic in corresponding measure. His best play is made when he is able to go straight to the main points of the question in hand. He is lost if he has to run into a dozen "side issues."

Thus when we compare an older day with the new we find ourselves in presence of a greater (but more manifold) bulk of force, while yet the means of political power are in no small measure weakened and confounded. So it seems to me, at any rate. I still believe that one journal alone had more influence on Government in Lord Palmerston's day than the whole press has at this moment. And that brings me to the particular reason for thinking so which was mentioned above—it is that Governments are far more indifferent to the newspaper press than they used to be. They can be annoyed by the press; they can be embarrassed by the press; on a balance they can be helped or otherwise by its multitudinous contention. But there was a fear of the press, and an anxiety to stand well with it, which are by no means what they were, though not yet utterly destroyed.

Of one sort and another, however, there is power enough, and a fine prospect of future prosperity. Yet as to the future of individual writers, I should think better of them were fewer gentlemen and ladies going into journalism as a calling more hopeful than wine-agency and more genteel than governnessing—an influx from which no good of any kind can be expected.