

# The Printer's Miscellany.

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Mr. ARTHUR BROWN, proprietor of the weekly *Herald*, Morrisburg, Ont., has made a firm and decided stand against sending out any paper to his subscribers who have not really paid their subscription in advance. We wish all Canadian newspaper men were like him in this important matter.

## "CASTING OFF" COPY.

Comparatively few, if we except those holding positions as foremen of book-printing establishments, know anything about the "casting off" of copy. Yet, it is one of those things of which no printer should be ignorant. Very few of the apprentices of the present day are taught how to "cast off" copy, in fact, few are let into the way of making any kind of calculations whatever, in connection with the art of printing. Consequently but a small number of the journeymen of the present time know the *modus operandi* of this very simple yet often recurring and necessary operation. Most of them, after they have served their apprenticeship have to find these things out for themselves through endless experimenting and often to the great loss of the employer. In order that none of our subscribers may plead ignorance of this duty, we copy from a standard authority the few simple rules laid down for the guidance of those who may wish to know. Let none think it too trifling a matter to be worthy of their attention, for most assuredly the time will come (if they do their duty in the noble calling they have chosen to follow) when a little knowledge of this operation will be "handy to have in the house :"

"To cast off manuscript with accuracy and precision, is a task which requires great attention and mature deliberation. The trouble and difficulty are much increased when the copy is not only irregularly written (which is generally the case), but also abounds with interlineations, erasures, and variations in the size of paper. At times, so numerous are the alterations and additions as to baffle the skill and judgment of experienced calculators of copy.

"The first step necessary is to take a comprehensive view of the copy, noticing whether it has been written even or has many interlineations, etc., and observing also the number of break-lines, and whether the work be divided into chapters and sub-heads, in order that allowance may be made for them in the calculation. These observations may be noted on a separate piece of paper, to assist the memory and save trouble in re-examining the manuscript.