

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Welcome Magazine.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

SIR,—In looking over the columns of a late copy of the *Printer's Miscellany*, which happened to fall into my possession the other day, and after scanning its pages closely, I cannot but arrive at the conclusion that it is ably edited, well "gotten-up" typographically, and nicely printed. On the whole, it reflects a great deal of credit upon all who take a part in its finished construction, and especially on the editor, for the amount of mental labor furnished in collecting such a large mass of miscellaneous reading matter, both domestic and foreign, and is just such a journal as will interest the working printer. Practically, to the compositor who thinks any thing at all of his vocation, the *Miscellany* is the best magazine now issued; for its pages are indelibly impressed with the fact that it is gotten-up for his delectation only, and not in the interest of the employing printer, which cannot be said of any other journal now in existence. To be sure, there are a few magazines purporting to advocate the interests and upbuilding of the craft, but in reality they subserve the use of their columns for the benefit of the employer, while the craft as a body are forced into a subordinate position, and that, too, in a journal of their own, of which they should be the head and front. Being well acquainted with most trade journals, and knowing whereof I speak, I confess to the belief that the *Miscellany* comes up to the standard required by the average printer, for its pages are teeming with the right sort of matter that must undoubtedly prove interesting and valuable to them; it will prove so to those, at any rate, who desire to keep pace with events as they progress from month to month.

Not many journeymen printers in the United States, it is to be supposed, are aware of the new candidate for honors, as it is of recent origin, having just reached its seventh number. Typos are sadly in need of such an exponent, and there is no doubt that many would gladly subscribe for it, after once looking over its well-filled and interesting columns. I would suggest—if you do not deem me impertinent in offering the suggestion—that a copy be sent to every Printers' Union in the United States and the Dominion of Canada. By that method its existence will become more widely known, and perhaps its establishment on a firm and permanent basis may be insured by just such means. These are my views, and I give utterance to them, as I candidly believe by doing so, it cannot fail in good results.

At the last two meetings of the International Typographical Union, the subject was brought before that body relative to the Union starting a journal on its "own hook." The matter was tamely advocated by some and tamely opposed by others. Finally, however, the subject was dropped, and is now at rest. If it should come up again, doubtless it will meet the same fate and be sent to the same resting place as its predecessors. The move, however, shows conclusively that a craft journal, devoted exclusively to the wants of the printer, is needed. It also shows, that the printers could and would heartily support a journal of the right stamp, and it seems the *Miscellany* comes up to their wants in every particular. The bill of fare presented before them, in its columns, certainly must satisfy the most fastidious.

It has been asserted, over and over again, that printers will not support a paper even if it should be printed for

them exclusively. The assertion has not been proved, for no journal has ever been published of that character. Those who give such latitude to their expressions do not, seemingly, know the exact status of the printer. Printers, as a class, are far more intelligent, and devote more of their spare time to mental culture, than any other class of mechanics; therefore, such loose expressions can have but little weight with any one.

To printers I would say, here is a journal at last, that you can support heartily; a journal that gives up its columns entirely for your benefit, and one that you can read with pleasure and profit. So lend it a helping hand and stamp out the broad assertion, that printers will not support a paper published for their exclusive benefit, and show to those would-be boasters that they are on the wrong trail this time.

Typographically yours,

HAIR SPACE.

Philadelphia, Penn., Jan. 17, 1877.

We welcome "Hair Space" to our columns, and hope he will keep his promise to visit us monthly. We thank him for his kind words and wishes. We receive so many flattering letters that we are afraid we will soon be getting "too big for our boots." However, we will forgive our friends, (and enemies, too, for that matter,) if they will only send along large lists of subscribers accompanied by the cash. We are somewhat sordid in our views just now, through our anxiety to improve the *Miscellany*, but we are hindered from introducing improvements, to any great extent, until the receipts warrant such a step. So, brother typos, send along the subscribers as soon as possible, for, in the meantime, you are the greatest losers.

A Printers' Relief Society.

To the Editor of the *Miscellany*:

SIR,—Fully realizing the great uncertainty of life and health, and knowing the deleterious effects of our profession upon the constitutions of a large majority of those connected with it, I feel convinced that an effort should be made among the printers of this city to organize a society for the purpose of affording relief to those incapacitated by ill-health, and to aid, to a certain extent, the widow and children of any printer who may be left in indigent circumstances. Instances have already occurred in this city where the generosity of the craft has been put to the test, and such calls have always been generously responded to. This is as it should be and is highly commendable; but would it not be far better if our journeymen and apprentices would combine and form themselves into a PRINTERS' RELIEF SOCIETY, and contribute monthly a certain sum for such a praiseworthy purpose. The funds thus acquired could be judiciously applied to relieve the suffering when needed, while the recipient, being conscious that they were only getting back their own again, would not experience that sense of dependence attendant upon all acts of charity, no matter how freely bestowed.

Unfortunately, most journeymen printers—especially the married portion who have families—find it almost impossible to lay by any of their weekly incomes. If we