

# The Printer's Miscellany.

Vol. II.

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## PRACTICAL PARAGRAPHS.

### Miscellaneous Hints.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING PROCESS.**—The object of this process is to make printing plates by means of the photograph; or, in other words, to produce electrotype plates of pictures, ready for common printing, like ordinary type printing, without engraving or other hand-work. The process is briefly as follows:—Upon the varnish side of an ordinary negative pour a solution of gelatine containing bichromate of potash. Dry and expose the uncoated surface uppermost to light, which fixes that portion of the bichromate upon which the rays fall. Dissolve off the unfixed portion by dipping in warm water; drain, and we have a film upon the glass more or less raised according to the strength of the lights in the picture. Take an impression of this film in plaster. Dip the impressed plaster in hot wax, and place the waxed surface upon a glass plate also covered with hot wax. The wax upon the plate unites with the wax upon the plaster, and the latter may then be removed, leaving upon the plate a *fac simile* in wax of the original photographic gelatine film. The *fac simile* being now dusted with plumbago, and electrotyped in the usual manner, a printing-block in copper is produced, capable of use with printer's ink upon any press.

**CLEANING PRINTING TYPE.**—The cleaning of metal type, and still more of wood blocks, is a matter of very great importance, not only as regards the good printing, but especially as respects the preservation of the blocks. M. Leblano Hardel, a printer, of Caen, complained to a chemist, M. Guerard Deslauriers, of the ill effects of turpentine, and that gentleman, after having made experiments, recommended the use of an essence of petroleum. The advice was followed, and after eighteen months' experience, the report is, that the petroleum, volatilizing rapidly, does not gum up the type, in fact, leaves nothing on the face of the metal but a little white powder, which is easily removed by means of a soft brush—that it does not injure blocks, has no effect in opening the pores of the wood, but on