

tor, he requires to see as many changes as possible as soon as he completes his apprenticeship: for experience in the different modes practised in the different offices will prove of the greatest value to him when he settles down in a steady situation. At the same time, unless he gives his mind to study these various styles, and in composition to adhere to the rule of the house, in which he may be employed, his experience will not be of much avail.—*English paper.*

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

THE PRINTER'S MISCELLANY will be issued monthly at \$1.00 per annum, *in advance*, or ten cents per number. Price to apprentices—fifty cents per annum, *in advance*.

The names and addresses of subscribers should be written plainly, in order that mistakes may not occur. All letters should be addressed to

HUGH FINLAY,

Editor and Proprietor,

P. O. Box No. 737.

St. John, N. B., Canada.

ADVERTISING RATES.

One page, one insertion,.....	\$10.00
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The Printer's Miscellany.

ST. JOHN, N. B., CANADA, FEBRUARY, 1877.

THE *Miscellany* is enlarged this month, by the addition of four pages. We felt impelled to do this in return for the hearty and very large measure of substantial aid and encouragement received at all hands during the past two months. All who have in any way contributed to this desirable result, will accept our warmest thanks. During the month of December there were over fifty new subscribers added to our subscription list, and as many more have been received for the month of January. While we are sensible to the many obligations we are under already, we hope our friends, and the friends of the craft everywhere, will redouble their efforts in behalf of the *Miscellany*, with the full assurance that the editor will fully appreciate them, and will do his "level best" to please and instruct. Ask your printer friends to subscribe, and don't forget the boys who are learning "to print."

Specimens.

WE are in receipt, monthly, of quite a large number of specimens of job printing, all of which it is, of course, expected that we will analyze and criticize even to the minutest particular, without having the slightest knowledge of the practical facilities at the hand of the "cunning workers." While we take great pleasure in contemplating a fine piece of typographical ingenuity and in doing the work over again in our own way (mentally), still, we inwardly feel that the putting of our thoughts down on paper for public perusal is a task the returns for which are not at all commensurate with the amount of time and labor expended. At the same time, should we do so, we are conscious that the criticism is only one person's ideas regarding the work, and, as such, carries very little weight and is very seldom read except by the parties sending in the specimens, and even they will not be exceptions unless they see at a glance that the aforesaid criticism is very laudatory. We judge a great deal from our own experience in this matter when we say that the craft generally do not care to "wade through" a long technical disquisition on what may seem to us the merits and demerits of ordinary job work. And further, we know from actual experience, and have always contended, that there is many an inferior looking job turned out from a country office, where it had to be "fudged up" by the compositor, as best he could, out of a very limited quantity of material, which would, taking all the circumstances of its production into consideration, excel in ingenuity and practical skill, the very best and most elaborate productions of the best equipped job offices, of large cities. Now, to apply the rule of perfection in the first instance that should be applied in the second, would, in our opinion, be extremely unjust and undeserved.

The best way to arrive at any adequate results in this matter would be through the medium of an exchange of certain lines of work between printers in different parts of the Dominion. We will aid the project to the best of our ability, only asking in return that we be secured against any pecuniary loss in the transaction, in the way of postage, etc. Perhaps some of our readers can suggest a simple and inexpensive plan whereby this can be brought about. A liberal exchange of specimens would, without doubt, do more to improve the practical worker's ideas than pages upon pages of criticism by the