

parties managed to get their deposits back. The revelations made by contractors and persons interested with them, show that the present system is open to the grossest abuse, and the Government should at once set about applying a remedy, for under this mode of letting contracts, an honest tender has not the ghost of a chance. We would suggest that the office of "Queen's Printer" be abolished, as the individual holding that office has no useful duties to perform outside of drawing his salary. In his stead, let a thoroughly good and honest practical printer be appointed "Superintendent of Public Printing," whose duty it will be to advertise and revise all contracts under authority of the Government; make out all estimates and specifications for work to be done; check off all accounts for public printing, and advise the Government in all matters relative to the cost and style of work required for the departments. Such an officer would certainly earn his salary and save enough to the country in money, to say nothing of reputation, to more than recoup for any outlay for offices, etc. At any rate, now that the manner of evading the law has been made clear, if the Government do not make extraordinary exertions to prevent a repetition of the fraud, they will be held equally as culpable as if they were a party to it.

Boston Franklin Typographical Society.

The 56th annual meeting of the Franklin Typographical Society was held Jan. 3. Mr. W. A. Parker, the only surviving original member of the society who was present at the first meeting, was present, having nearly reached the age of four score. He has always been a journeyman printer, but within a few years has retired from active labor. The receipts of the year have been \$1788.44, and the expenditures \$1787.96, excluding \$1550 on account of sick members. The standing funds of the society consist of the regular fund, \$3525; Joy fund, \$3000; honorary members, \$475; total, \$7000. While the receipts from members show an increase of \$208.12 over last year, the drafts for sick members show a falling off of \$315. The available funds are \$283.98 more than last year, but the society is running close on its standing-funds, with quite a formidable sick list, the December drafts amounting to \$160, which, if continued throughout the summer, would leave no margin. January 4, 1879, the membership of the society

consisted of thirty-three honorary members, nine fine members, and 289 active members, making a total of 331; the additions during the year have been twenty-seven; the loss by death from the fine list one, from the active list two, and by non-payment of dues seven, making the total loss ten, and leaving the present membership 348. In the library, twenty volumes have been added during the year, fourteen by purchase and six by donation; 1752 books have been taken out during the eleven months the library was accessible by 112 members, being almost 160 volumes for each meeting. Officers were elected as follows: James J. Nolan, pres.; John Kinneer, vice-pres.; Henry R. Danforth, sec.; Lemuel Murch, assist. sec.; Hugh O'Brien, treas.; Charles W. Calkins, jr., lib.; James S. Dearborn, James T. Neill, Joseph H. Blanchard, asst. libs.; James F. Cotter, William H. Nelson, trus.; John J. Hanley, M. C. Upham, investigating committee; John H. Moreland, Homer L. Richardson, visiting committee; Chas. W. Holden, Edmund Miles, Geo. W. Bigelow, auditing committee; Henry Squire, James J. Rawlins, J. King Knight, library committee; William B. Reid, trustee of Mount Hope burial lot (for two years).

Death of Professor DeMill.

Professor James DeMill, of Dalhousie College, N. S., died on the 28th January, of congestion of the lungs. The deceased was a native of this Province, being born in this city about forty-three years ago. For some years he engaged in the bookselling and stationery business, but he sold out and removed to Halifax, where he engaged in literary pursuits and became Professor of Rhetoric in Dalhousie College. His literary career was very successful, and he was the author of a number of popular books: "A Castle in Spain," "Cord and Creese," "The Dodge Club in Italy," "The American Baron," "The Cryptogram," "The Living Suite," "Elements of Rhetoric," besides a number of excellent juvenile books. His style was witty and sparkling, and all his books had a fresh flavor which removed them far from the commonplace. On the occasion of his last visit to his native city, only a few weeks ago, when he delivered his lecture before the Mechanics' Institute on "Satire and the Satirists," it was remarked by those who knew him that he never had looked better or appeared in better health. The educational and