

Adjectives are not unfrequently consolidated with the nouns which they precede, when the compound thus formed admits of but one accent; as, *blackboard*, *bluebottle*, *foreground*.

*Freewill*—having, when used adjectively, the accent on the first syllable; as, a *freewill offering*—should be written as one word; but, when employed in its proper character as a compound noun, with the accent on the last syllable, the hyphen may be inserted between its parts; as, *the doctrine of free-will*.

*Anybody*, *everybody*, *somebody*, *nobody*, indicating persons, are, in this form, distinguished from the phrases *any body*, *every body*, *no body*, *some body*, which, as separate words, and with a pronunciation different from that of the first class, refer to inorganic substances. *Something* and *nothing* have also coalesced in pronunciation and form; but *every thing* and *any thing* (like the words *any one* and *every one*) may follow the analogy of the language, by which adjectives are separated from the nouns which they qualify.

When the noun which is qualified by an adjective retains its original accent, the two words should not appear as a compound, either with or without the hyphen. In the following and other phrases, therefore, which are sometimes written as compounds, the adjectives should stand apart: *Animal magnetism*, *armed chair*, *allic story*, *common sense*.

Such abbreviated sentences as *good-morning*, *good-night*, *good-by*, may have a hyphen between the parts of which they consist.

(To be continued.)

### 26,520 ems in 10 Hours!

We take the following extract from a late number of the *New Zealand Press News*. We submit it more as a curiosity than for any other purpose and deem comment unnecessary:

The *Tenuka Leader* of the 13th August says: "There has been a great deal said and written amongst members of the 'Fourth Estate' with reference to quick 'setting,' but we imagine the following scrap will surprise a good many gentlemen of the printing fraternity, more especially those who earn their living by the 'thousands,' and who think that '10,000' is a good day's work. In a well-known morning newspaper office, not a hundred miles from Timaru, one of the bands was taken 'suddenly ill' (?) and not being different from the general run of compositors, if they have the slightest illness, think they are *in articulo mortis*, and must lay up for some time—he thought it was best to take the practical week. A day or two afterwards, the

other compositor [are there only two compositors on this well-known Timaru morning paper?] wishing to be in the 'fashion,' also thought it best for his health to have a week's 'recreation.' Fortunately for the office, a comp. was, to use a hackneyed expression, 'on his travels,' and, applying for work, was immediately put on as 'grass.' He started with copy exactly at ten o'clock [morning or night?] and in ten hours had 'snatched' together 26,520!—a total which, we have reason to believe, has seldom, if ever, been eclipsed by any one single man in the same length of time. This will be rather a stiff 'pill' for some of the 'duffer' compositors to swallow, most of whom think it a good day's work to pick up 8,000 or 9,000 stamps. This paragraph will doubtless cause a good deal of controversy and competition among the 'nonpareils,' but in case they should want to lose their money, we shall be quite willing to oblige them by giving them the address of the gentleman in question." Perhaps a few of our readers could "enlighten the darkness" of the writer of the above as to whether the "snatching" has been eclipsed. We should like further particulars regarding the above fact. What class of matter was the "grass" setting, and in what size letter (small pica, brevier, or nonpareil, solid or open) was it set?

**SETTING TYPE BY ELECTRICITY.**—The new Clowes Electro-Magnetic Type-setting Machine, invented by Mr. John Hooker, is entirely different from all other composing machines. This composer does away with the old keyboard system, replacing it with a small oblong brass frame divided into compartments, which represent all the boxes of an ordinary printers' case. These compartments communicate, by means of wires charged with electricity, derived from a battery, with magnets underneath. When each division is touched by a pencil, also connected by wire with the battery, the respective magnets underneath answer to the touch, and succeed in pushing out from tubes the letters answering to the divisions touched. Each letter is then carried by a single tape to one common channel, where the mass is arranged in long lines, and then justified by another operator. Mr. Hooker has been over fifteen years perfecting this machine, and certainly the results produced by it go far beyond the attainments of most other machines; but he is still beset by the same difficulty which puzzles his brethren—the invention of a distributor which shall work as fast, or faster, than the compositor. Hitherto, the distributors have been slower than the compositors.

The number of compositors signing the call-book in London, England, is stated at about four hundred per day, during the month of September.