

THE TYPOGRAPHIC.

different stamp but all to meet a kind of patronage enough to make the old French painter turn in his grave. The worst of it is pictorial literature of this class seems to pay, and to pay handsomely. We need hardly to say that its cost of production is enormous; and when these papers are being sold, some at a penny, others at a halfpenny, an idea may be formed of the vast number printed and circulated and of the harm which is being done to the class of readers by whom cheap newspapers are chiefly purchased. An official censorship of the press is at best a clumsy expedient for checking the dissemination of either treason or vice, and once it is set up there is no knowing where it ends. It may be said, however, that news-agents who deal in these objectionable wares ought to know that it rests with them to a great extent whether this immoral poison shall continue, for a fraction of profit, to pass through their hands, to debase, corrupt, and destroy.—*London Newspaper Press.*

James Conner.

Born April 22, 1798, near Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, died May 30, 1861, was the founder of the Conner Type Foundry of New York, which, since his death, has been conducted by his sons, under the firm name of James Conner's Sons. After serving an apprenticeship to the printing-business in a New York City newspaper-office, he worked for some years as a journeyman printer, chiefly in book stereotype offices, beginning his labors as a stereotyper in the office of Mr. Watts, who, in conjunction with Mr. Foy, was one of the first, if not the first, to stereotype successfully in the United States. Subsequently he started a stereotype establishment in New York, to which an extensive type-foundry was afterwards added, and he prepared plates of a number of valuable standard works, some of which he sold, while others he published, on his own account. Later in life, after an adventurous career, his business attention was concentrated on his type-foundry, and he made strenuous exertions to increase his variety of faces as well as to improve the facilities

for manufacturing type. A biographical notice of Mr. Conner, which appeared in *The Printer* of May, 1859, gives the following account of some of his experiments:

"Among these, elaborated by the process of chemical precipitation, was the casting of letters from an electrotyped matrix. Previous to Mr. Conner's successful efforts in this direction, Messrs. Mapes and Chilton, chemists, had experimented to produce a fac-simile of a copper-plate which Mapes wished to use for his magazine. Ascertaining the perfect success of the experiment under other hands, he was anxious to have their battery tried on a copper-plate. It was, to his and Mr. Chilton's joint delight, successful, and a very favorable report was inserted in many of the European scientific periodicals. So gratifying, in fact, were the results of the experiments made in this direction, that improvements were suggested from time to time.

In the course of his experimenting, Conner took a Long Primer Italic capital T, and inserted it through a piece of stereotype plate. This was attached to a copper wire by soldering; some zinc was attached to the other end of the wire; a weak solution of sulphuric acid was made and placed in a vessel; a solution of common blue vitriol in another apartment; then the matrix and the zinc were placed in their respective apartments, and the process of extracting the copper from the sulphate, through galvanic action, commenced, and the copper obtained was thrown on the intended matrix.

Conner and his assistants then took a small cut of a beehive, and setting this also in the same way, obtained a perfect matrix which is now in use at Conner's foundry. These successes encouraged him to other experiments on a larger and more valuable scale. Mr. Conner, therefore, ordered a fancy font of type, which he had originally had cut on steel, selecting therefrom a perfect alphabet, points, and figures, and then shaved a stereotype plate on both sides. This he lined off into sizes, equal to the matrices he desired to make. He then made the necessary openings through the plate, and inserted the

types designed to be precipitated on, which he cut off and soldered on the back. This proved a highly successful experiment, as it gave him a perfect set of matrices at one precipitation. This plate is still to be seen at Mr. Conner's establishment, as originally made and is regarded as a great curiosity—being supposed to be the first alphabet thus made, in this or any other country.

His next experiment was made on a more extensive scale, and, to this end, the apparatus was enlarged so as to admit three fonts of fancy types, which were placed in communication with the precipitated copper at the same operation. Between each letter was inserted a piece of wood, made to the height necessary to separate each matrix from the other as it came out, it being impossible to connect the wood along with the precipitated metal. Thus divided, each matrix would fall apart without the labor of sawing. This experiment, however, was by no means successful. From the circumstance of wood being introduced as dividing lines, and becoming wet, it swelled—such swelling causing the type to spring from the bottom of the trough. In the process of precipitation, only a very thin shell was formed on the face of the type; about the same quantity having found its way to the bottom, in consequence of the springing of the dividing lines, and the throwing of the types off their feet. All these difficulties have been since overcome, and his establishment has several thousand precipitated matrices that can scarcely be told from those made by a steel punch."—*Am. Encyclopædia of Printing.*

The paper market has stiffened up somewhat since our last issue.

The card schedule on the third page was printed from an electrotype taken from a brass-rule form. The consequence is that some of the later impressions from it look worn and broken on account of slightness of shoulder.

The black ink used in this issue was made especially for it by GEO. MATHER'S SONS, without restrictions to price.

THE TYPOGRAPHIC

Vol. I.

BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1871.

No. 5.

Brass Rule.

There is no class of material which a printer uses that is as expensive as Brass Rule; and there is nothing sells for less when an old office is disposed of. All proprietors of long experience can look back over the years gone by, and say, with truth, that Brass Rule has been a very important item in the list of necessary expenses of the office. If this is true, it is deserving and worthy of an article in this magazine.

The usual manner of buying Brass Rule is well known. Mr. John Jones comes in with an order for some labels *just such a size*, and with a border line *just like copy*. There may not be but two or three hundred wanted, but the printer has to obtain the rule all the same, mitre it, work the job, and then lay the rule by, in hopes it will come in play for the same job sometime in the future. This little game, as it might be called, is played upon the printer several times each week all through his experience, and as a result, he can, in the course of time, point to an aggregate amount spent for Brass Rule that would be really startling.

As personal property to represent this large amount paid out, he has literally nothing to show for it: set after set is mitred to a peculiar size, or out of an

odd faced Rule, mitres worn and broken, or, what is generally worse than all else, not tied up in sets, but lying around loose in a heterogeneous mess, which, from that fact alone, renders them almost useless, hence more new Rule is ordered.

This trouble has been realized by our type founders, and a remedy was supposed to have been found in what is termed "Labor-Saving Rule." But in these is not found the cure, for the reason that the slightest wear shows up all the joints very plainly; furthermore, in small forms in which it is used, there is that lack of stiffness and good shape always given by mitred sets.

The result of this expensive experience has induced almost all large offices to adopt a new, and to commence with, costly, system for Brass Rule. It is this: they decide upon four or five styles of Rule which are commonly used, then order a large quantity and have it mitred to *picas*. Generally they run from ten to fifty picas, perhaps omitting every other pica. It will be seen at once what an advantage this plan has over all others; for, having perhaps a dozen pieces of each length, and each length mitred, you can make up a set for a job very quickly. Should the mitres wear, then cut those pieces needing it shorter by one or two picas.

This is, as we before said, very expensive to commence with, but an immense saving in the long run. Any foundry will get out rule in this manner, and stamp its length in picas on each piece.

Printers' Generosity.

The printers of the country promptly manifested their usual generous spirit in providing for the wants of their brethren thrown out of employment by the Chicago fire. We believe they were the first among workmen to send aid to their fellow-craftsmen in the burned city. We have not the statistics of the amount contributed, but it reached over \$8,000. The printers of Cleveland took immediate action, and on the Wednesday following the conflagration sent forward over \$200. —*The Printing Gazette, Cleveland, O.*

THE extensive manufacturing establishment at Mystic, Ct., where Sanborn's popular Paper Cutters and Bookbinders' Machinery have been made, has been merged into a stock company, with Mr. George H. Sanborn as manager. The new company is styled the "MYSTIC RIVER HARDWARE MANUFACTURING Co." The office and salesroom will still be at 78 Duane St., New York.

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