

permitting it to be set to even picas, and an adjustable stud on the knee, said stud entering the perforations.

Carl A. Meyer, of Zurich, Switzerland, has obtained United States patent No. 683,478, covering certain details of roller arrangements for rotary printing.

Thomas E. O'Brien, of Watertown, Massachusetts, in patent No. 684,298, illustrates a return-address envelope, having two sealing flaps, the outer one of which may be torn off and the inner one used for the return.

George H. Ziegler, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has assigned to the American Type Founders Company patent No. 685,083, on a type-finishing machine, that shows various improved details of construction.

TYPEFOUNDERS AND TYPEFOUNDING IN AMERICA.

BY WILLIAM E. LOY.

NO. XVI—JOHN T. RETON.

MR. RETON is a New Yorker by birth, where he first saw the light December 21, 1831. There he grew to manhood, and before engaging in the typefoundry business he occupied his time with various occupations, none of which seemed to be the particular one to his liking. At the age of twenty-two he came under the notice of James Conner, and at the earnest solicitation of the latter, he resigned a position in the tax office of New York city, to learn the trade of typefoundry. Under the directing eye of that eminent workman he learned the trade in all its branches, although later he served some time with Edward Miller, from whom he learned the finer technicalities of the business.



J. T. RETON.

In 1856 Mr. Reton was engaged by Edward Miller to manage the Northwestern Typefoundry at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a fully equipped foundry having been fitted out that year, and sent out to the then frontier city, at least so far as typefoundry was concerned. This position was acceptably held by Mr. Reton for fourteen years, when he purchased the defunct Albany Typefoundry, and moved it to St. Paul, Minnesota, establishing the St. Paul Typefoundry in 1870. This foundry was run for two years, when the alluring field of Kansas City proved a strong inducement to Mr. Reton, and gathering up the necessary tools and machinery, he established the Kansas City Typefoundry in 1872. Part of the equipment was purchased from the Northwestern Typefoundry, at Milwaukee, and all his time and energies were bent to the building up of the business in his new field. He fitted up a good line of matrices of the most necessary faces, and his labors were rewarded with a large measure of success. A little later his establishment was much augmented by the addition of the greater part of the tools, machines and matrices of the New England Typefoundry, which had previously been successfully operated for many years by Bailey & Gilbert, in Boston. Owing to the death of the head of the New England Typefoundry the establishment had been bought in at the closing out of the estate by the Boston Typefoundry, and Mr. Reton purchased from them all he wanted that was for sale. His establishment continued to grow, and with the development of the Middle West he found prosperity and wealth. In 1892, when the American Type Founders Company was buying up as many foundries as possible, both East and West, Mr. Reton sold his business to that corporation and retired from active duties. He now lives in Kansas City, enjoying a serene old age, though active and energetic, and keenly alive to

rapidly passing events, and the marvelous development of the region which he has made his home for a lifetime. He retains many pleasant recollections of his business career, and looks back on the annual meetings of the Typefounders' Association as the most enjoyable of his business outings. It is only just to say that his colleagues all speak most kindly of his honorable methods of conducting his business, and of his pleasant manner.

The beginnings of the Kansas City Typefoundry mark an epoch in the history of typefoundry and printing in the West. With the exception of the introduction of typefoundry in San Francisco at an earlier date, Mr. Reton's enterprise was and is the most westerly on the continent. His faith in the West was well founded, and there has grown up in that region a population giving ample support to the industry. Since 1892 the Kansas City Typefoundry has been one of the branches of the American Type Founders Company, and is now under the management of Frank Barhydt. One of the sons of John F. Reton (A. E. Reton) is manager of the St. Louis branch of the same company, and another son is in the employ of the Kansas City house. Like the elder Conner, he brought up his sons in his own business.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO STEPHEN GREENE.

A VERY enjoyable testimonial dinner was tendered to Mr. Stephen Greene on Tuesday evening, October 29, by leading representatives of the printing and allied trades in the city of Philadelphia, in commemoration of the fifty-fourth anniversary of Mr. Greene's connection with the printing business. Addresses were made by Provost Charles



STEPHEN GREENE.

C. Harrison, of the University of Pennsylvania, City Solicitor John L. Kinsey, City Treasurer J. Hampton Moore, M. Riebenack, Prof. Albert H. Smyth, Stephen N. Winslow, Dr. William H. Greene, Frank E. Manning, James McCartney, William H. Scott and others.

In his response Mr. Greene began as follows: "It is impossible to express my profound sense of the honor conferred upon me by my friends of the craft and allied trades. That nature would indeed be cold and stoical which, after a period of fifty and four years in the strenuous pursuit of a noble profession, failed to respond to approval and congratulations on the results achieved. And, while grateful for kind recognition of the persistent efforts to elevate the craft by development of skill in the production of fine typographical work, and beautiful and artistic designs, I am deeply sensible of that kind assistance and consideration which has been so freely