The *Press* holds up the J. G. B. end of the political rope, and editorializes like a lawyer in court. The *Times* has political roast beef every day in the year. The *Ledger* talks about all sorts of abstract things editorially. Its owner is being boosted for the presidency by some of his ardent admirers. The other papers are trudging along at their usual pace, keeping a sharp eye on municipal ordinances.

We all look for a busy year and no accidents. The great manufacturing interests are loaded with work. Our 100,000 anthracite miners have struck this week, but twenty-four hours may change everything. It is a shame, a greater one than you western people with your big hearts can imagine, how these miners are treated. The public sympathy is with them. They are treated like dogs. That is no exaggeration. The Reading management has bottled vengeance in store for the Knights, and the Knights know it. They crushed out the spirit of organization ten years ago when the unfortunate Molly Maguire excesses brought the miners' labor movement into disrepute.

The announcement was made December 28 to the *Daily Times* compositors that on January 2 the Times Publishing Company, of Bethlehem, Pa., would advance the price of composition from twenty-three to twenty-five cents per thousand ems. The advance was made voluntarily, and was a complete surprise to the compositors. The *Times* is the first paper in the Lehigh valley to adopt this higher rate, as for the past eight years the twenty-three cent rate has prevailed in this section.

Trade journalism is flourishing. Our latest addition is *The Lock and Bell*, 927 Arch street, Wm. L. Byrnes, editor. Our *Carpet Journal*, our *Confectioner's Journal*, our *Carriage Journal*, our two textile journals, our *Grocery Journal*, are all crammed with advertisements until they bulge out with fatness. Even as a newspaper man I often wonder what people can see in forty or fifty pages of advertising to ten or twelve of reading matter, but they know what they are doing. M.

SOME VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS.

To the Editor: LOUISVILLE, Ky., January 1, 1888.

The present strained situation between employer and employé in the printing business seems to furnish an occasion for suggestions for mutual benefit, hence I desire to advance the following:

That the executive committee or president of the Typothetæ and the executive committee or president of the Typographical Union signify through THE INLAND PRINTER their wish to meet in annual session at the same time and place, with a view to harmonizing all differences, and working to each other's mutual advantage. Then, both being willing, it would remain for these officers to select the place and time.

This part being achieved the next step would be for the two bodies to appoint committees from the national bodies, equal in number, to form a national reference committee on all points of difference between employer and employé. Now we will take it for granted that these bodies being equally divided on some important question they agree upon a referee, using some retired printer acquainted with the points, or that points upon which a deadlock occur be settled alternately in favor of each party.

That immediately upon the adjournment of the national societies they form sub-committees in each city or town to settle local difficulties with mutual satisfaction; that should these local committees be unable to settle these local questions the same be referred to the national committee for permanent action, and their decision shall be final.

I have no doubt that the employers will be inclined to say that there is no use in treating with their hands in this way, but if they will look at the question for a few moments calmly and without prejudice they will certainly see it to their advantage. Hardly one of the firms which have recently had strikes but were attached to the employés in their establishment, and while they may be able to continue their business without this help, can still do so more satisfactorily and more profitably by a coöperative understanding with the Typographical Union. It is necessary that these interests be joined and not continue in the adverse manner that has been driving them farther and farther apart, year by year, until each considers the other its natural enemy. The time has come for these things to cease. One more matter I would call to the attention of employers. The situation at present shows you to be the victors; should this be a permanent victory, the agent (namely, the Typothetæ) by which you have gained it having no further object of interest upon which to subsist, would languish and die of its own accord, at least in a few years; on the other hand the Typographical Union would be watching their opportunity to retrieve their fallen fortunes, even as France is watching Germany today, and when that opportunity arrived, it would no doubt be disastrous to both sides.

Now, a few words to the Typographical Union:

Your blunders have been many, and it must from this time forth be your main object to correct the same. I would suggest that in the first place you admit *no more incompetent workmen.*

That you double the dues usually paid, or more, if necessary, and adopt the plan of the London Typographical Association of providing a subsistence to all your brethren who are without work, and a room or building in all cities where the unemployed could congregate, and furnish them with reading matter that would improve their general knowledge. Many a printer is in the same position as the man of business, who regrets that he did not make better use of his educational facilities while he had yet the opportunity, and while unemployed could make good use of works on punctuation, imposition, and various other subjects.

Another matter that should receive your most earnest consideration is the fact that if the employer is unable to obtain from his customer a sufficient price after paying the wages demanded, so that it seriously embarrasses, or may be causes his failure *in legitimate business*, it is your duty to ameliorate his condition, if you can do so, even for your own interests. Every office shut-off lessens the chances of your members obtaining work, and it is as much *your* interest as that of the employer to help him out if you can.

One more important suggestion and I am done. Your manner of conducting meetings, especially in large cities, is all wrong. A general meeting is called and almost invariably is attended by the employés of one, two, or three of the largest offices, and sometimes when the question of a particular office is brought up very few and occasionally not a single representative is present from this particular office. Now I would suggest that in all large cities all meetings, except annually, be attended by paid delegates, one from each office, and an additional one for every five or six journeymen employed, that no member can be a delegate unless he has been a member of the local union for at least six months. This would avoid the frequent bad legislation of a class of tramp printers who are merely aiming at assistance to pass to the next town, or are waiting for good workmen to step out that they may obtain their situations by ratting.

In conclusion, I desire to state that my experience has been as a union member and employer, both in this country, in England and in the British colonies, and I have seen the evils and advantages of nearly all sides in English-speaking printerdom.

Yours truly, C. Y.

ELECTROTYPE MATRICES.

To the Editor: ST. LOUIS, December 30, 1887.

My attention has been called to an article in the *Typographic Messenger*, reproducing and criticising a part of my article on "Electrotype Matrices," written for THE INLAND PRINTER.

If I made but little reference to the "piratical custom of many foundries in using this process to copy original designs cut in steel," it was because this has no bearing in the matter. A good thing is not to be condemned because put to a disreputable use.

I made no effort to convince the reader that copper strikes are bad; only that electrotype matrices are capable of casting just as good type. I am willing to let the specimen books speak for themselves, as the writer wishes. Compare the old products with the modern faces of the Johnson, Central and Great Western foundries! No more elegant borders and word-ornaments than those of the Johnson Typefoundry are in existence, and some of the finest scripts in that establishment, and those of George Bruce's Son & Co., Cleveland, Central and Great Western foundries were cut on metal.

I have never known an electro-matrice to "give way on the sides," or the rivets to part. Neither is there any necessity of "making the top

too narrow." Rightly made, the face cannot pull up or bulge out on the sides. It must be a sorry workman who could have such a thing happen to him.

Electrolysis copies the finest finish as well as the most minute imperfection. Not a scratch but will be reproduced in perfect fac-simile. Well made it is impossible to detect the difference between the copy and the original; but no workman can cut two punches alike, and if, as often happens, the matrice is spoiled, and the punch broken, an electrotype alone can give a fac-simile. In copying faces, the modern typefounder "faces" and touches up the type, so that they are usually better than the originals.

The shoulder on the side is rubbed from the type after casting, and cannot therefore be accounted an advantage. The largest foundry in the world—Miller & Richards, Edinburgh, Scotland—cut all their punches without shoulders on the sides, so that the matrices will cast without rubbing, and other progressive foundries are doing likewise.

Under the supervision of a competent man, the battery for depositing the copper will always "work the same," and with ordinary care an electrotype matrice will be as straight as the original—something impossible with a large strike.

I have not the time to ask each founder the proportion of electro-matrices to strikes, but I am sure it is at least seven or eight to one, and I think it is larger. When such foundries as the Johnson, Central, Farmer, Little & Co., Cincinnati, Boston and George Bruce's Son have nearly all their later matrices made by this method no one can call the process a disreputable one.

The proposition, that had electro-matrices never been made typefounding would be as far advanced, and punch cutters would have produced anything required, with far superior finish and accuracy, is absurd. The German typefounders have an agreement which prevents one foundry from copying the productions of another by means of electrolysis. He is at liberty to cut punches, and when one brings out a good series his competitors usually copy it. This naturally gives a stimulus to punch cutting. But how do the productions of Germany compare with those of our own country?

No doubt the improvement in the casting machine and mold have much to do with the improvements in type, but let us give the metal cutter and electrotype matrice their share of the credit.

Neither Mr. Wehrly nor anyone else can be said to have cut the first type in metal. From soldering on accents, etc., cutting gradually developed itself in a number of places, but to Mr. Ruthven belongs the honor of perfecting the present system, and founding the new school of engravers.

The process requires no apologist. It is used by all the foundries which have a reputation for superiority of workmanship, and can stand on its own merits.

Foreign productions are but seldom suited to our market. While I am far from defending the practice of pirating faces, I can see little difference in stealing them outright by electrotyping and re-cutting them. A reputable founder will do neither, but there are a few gothics, antiques and other plain faces, which have long been standard, and are now regarded common property, and it would be extremely difficult to trace their origin and procure strikes.

If the proprietors of the *Typographic Messenger* will state that they never use electrotype matrices in their foundry, I am willing to admit that I am wrong, and I challenge them to make such a statement, for I know that no foundry, however small, could go on without them.

In conclusion, I would say that the attack in question is as unlike the spirit of the late James M. Conner, by whom it is signed, as what purports to be his picture on the first page of the magazine is to the original. Mr. Conner was a thorough typefounder, and well informed on every topic. He was, moreover, fair-minded and of a kindly disposition, and if from his pen, the article must have been written when he was suffering from his last illness. Very truly yours,

C. SCHRAUBSTADTER, JR.

IT is a good plan, when rollers are to be kept out of use for any particular time, to put them away with ink on them. It protects their surface from the hardening effects of the atmosphere, and causes them to retain those properties which give them the much desired "tackiness."

BOOKS WITH TAKING TITLES.

In 1832, Daniel Appleton, the founder of the great New York publishing house, brought out a book entitled, "Refuge in Time of Plague and Pestilence."

It was the year that the Asiatic cholera raged throughout the country, and the title led many persons to suppose that the volume showed how one might guard himself against the terrible disease. It was a devotional book, and its sale was immense.

The title of another book published by Mr. Appleton attracted a party of tipsy sailors into his store. They had just arrived in New York, and had "spliced the main-brace" several times.

While passing Mr. Appleton's store a placard announcing "'Gospel Seeds' for sale here" attracted their attention.

They stopped, and one of them, reeling into the store, shouted "Ho, shipmate, how much do you ask a peck for them seeds?"

One of John Ruskin's works, "On the Construction of Sheepfolds," was purchased by several graziers, who did not know that it was a theological treatise on church government.—*Youth's Companion.*

A VALUABLE TABLE.

The following table, invaluable for reference, shows the number of leads that go to the pound in the several lengths and thicknesses pica given:

Lengths.	Four to Pica.	Six to Pica.	Eight to Pica.	Lengths.	Four to Pica.	Six to Pica.	Eight to Pica.
4 ems	144	216	288	26 ems	22	33	44
5 ems	112	168	224	27 ems	21	31	42
6 ems	96	144	192	28 ems	20	30	40
7 ems	82	123	164	29 ems	20	30	40
8 ems	72	108	144	30 ems	19	29	38
9 ems	64	96	128	31 ems	19	28	38
10 ems	56	84	112	32 ems	18	27	36
11 ems	52	78	104	33 ems	17	26	34
12 ems	48	72	96	34 ems	17	25	34
13 ems	44	66	88	35 ems	16	24	32
14 ems	41	61	82	36 ems	16	24	32
15 ems	38	57	76	37 ems	15	23	30
16 ems	36	54	72	38 ems	15	22	30
17 ems	34	51	68	39 ems	15	22	30
18 ems	32	48	64	40 ems	14	21	28
19 ems	30	45	60	41 ems	14	21	28
20 ems	28	42	56	42 ems	14	21	28
21 ems	27	40	54	43 ems	13	20	26
22 ems	26	39	52	44 ems	13	19	26
23 ems	25	37	50	45 ems	13	19	26
24 ems	24	36	48	46 ems	12	18	24
25 ems	23	34	46	47 ems	12	18	24

Fractional parts not being required practically, the nearest number is given.—*The Paper and Printing Trades Journal.*

RECENT PATENTS.

The following list of patents relating to the printing interests is specially reported by Franklin H. Hough, solicitor of American and foreign patents, 925 F street N-W., Washington, D. C., who will furnish copies of patents for 25 cents each:

ISSUE OF DECEMBER 6, 1887.

374,355.—Printing Machine. Rotary. J. L. Firm, Jersey City, N. J.

374,465.—Printing Machines. Sheet-delivery apparatus for. G. P. Fenner, New London, Conn.

374,438.—Stereotype matrices. Machine for making. J. H. White, Washington, D. C.

ISSUE OF DECEMBER 13, 1887.

374,644.—Printing designs on paper to be applied to earthenware, etc. Machine for. W. H. Turner, Tunstall, Eng.

374,869.—Printing Machine. Rotary gripper platen. A. Godfrey, New York, N. Y.

374,708.—Printing Presses. Numbering head for. J. G. Sauer, New York.

ISSUE OF DECEMBER 20, 1887.

375,126.—Printing Presses. Ink fountain for. D. S. Clark, Cambridgeport, Mass.

375,125.—Books and Pamphlets. Manufacture of. D. S. Clark, Cambridgeport, Mass.

375,008.—Type and method of producing the same. Die for making wood. G. C. Setshell, Norwich, Conn.

374,993.—Type. Producing dies for use in making wood. W. H. Page, Norwich, Conn.

ISSUE OF DECEMBER 27, 1887.

375,360.—Composing Stick. P. S. Kellogg, Battle Creek, Mich.

375,433.—Printing Block. Polychromatic. W. G. White, London, Eng.

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THE INLAND PRINTER will spare no endeavor to furnish valuable news and information to those interested professionally or incidentally in the printing profession, and printers will confer a great favor on the Editor of this Journal by sending him news pertaining to the craft in their section of the country, particularly individual theories and experiences of practical value.

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M. P. McCOY, General Agent for Great Britain and Ireland, 7 Water Lane, Ludgate Circus, London, Eng.
CHAS. W. CURRY, 183 Madison street, Chicago.
DOMINION TYPEFOUNDING CO., Montreal, Canada.
E. A. STAHLBRODT, 18 Mill street, Rochester, N. Y.
ELM CITY PRINTERS' WAREHOUSE, 379 State street, New Haven, Conn.
GOLDING & CO., 183 Fort Hill Sq., Boston.
H. L. PELOUZE & SON, 314 and 316 Eighth street N. W., Washington.
J. G. MENGEL & CO., typefounders, Baltimore, Md.
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L. L. TALBOTT, care of Iowa Printing Co., Des Moines, Ia.
P. A. LOERSCH, Free Press News Room, Detroit, Mich.
CHAS. MCCREADY & CO., 142 Seneca street, Buffalo, N. Y.
WESEL & CO., 11 Spruce street, New York.
W. W. DANIELS, 312 Twenty-first street, Louisville, Ky.

CHICAGO, JANUARY, 1888.

THE article from the pen of our Buenos Aires correspondent, addressed to American manufacturers of presses and printing material, in the present issue of THE INLAND PRINTER, is worthy of their serious attention. Mr. Lodia has devoted a great deal of time and labor to the subject upon which he writes, and his suggestions are practical, well-timed and worthy of consideration. If promptly acted upon, we feel satisfied there is a rich field in the South American republics, especially that of Argentina, for the development of American manufactures and enterprise.

TYPESETTING MACHINES.

THE INLAND PRINTER has published from time to time illustrations and descriptions of the several typesetting machines produced both in Europe and America; and while giving their inventors credit for ingenuity and persistency, has, so far, been skeptical about their ability to successfully compete with the intelligent, expert compositor. The complex mechanism of some, the impossibility of correction, and the absolute infallibility of the operator, demanded by others, and the expense connected with the production of each, together with the successive failures to permanently prove their superiority, either from a mechanical or financial standpoint, over the nimble fingers of the human competitor, seemed to amply justify this opinion. But that these difficulties will eventually be surmounted, so far as their availability for straight composition is concerned, we have not the slightest doubt, and hugging the mantle of self-complacency, or presuming that the production of a perfect machine is an impossibility, are tactics with which we have no sympathy. From present indications the typesetting and distributing machines, the invention of Mr. John L. McMillan, of Ilion, New York, illustrated and explained in the present number, and now in operation in several printing establishments, are perhaps the most successful attempts yet made to solve the problem; the former setting fifty thousand and the latter distributing one hundred thousand ems per day, of ten hours, when operated by proficients. While not claiming perfection, it is asserted by experts, whose testimony is worthy of acceptance, that the trifling defects connected with their working are of a character which warrant the statement that "Skepticism must be put aside, and an examination of the McMillan machines made."

But improvement follows improvement in rapid succession. Major E. Fitzgerald Law, of London, England, has recently patented a method of electrically operating and controlling a typesetting machine, or two or more such machines, at different stations, simultaneously. According to specifications furnished, at each of the places where the matter is to be printed, a suitable typesetting machine is placed, provided with levers or keys for releasing and arranging the different letters or other characters, and for operating the printing devices. Each of these machines is comprised within an electric circuit, which also comprises a machine of a similar kind, located at the place from which the news is to be sent. The mechanism and connections are so arranged that when the typesetting machine at the transmitting office is being operated by the printer for the purpose of setting up the type or for printing at the transmitting station, the same characters will be automatically set up or printed at each of the other offices comprised within the same circuit.

And still another. Messrs. Carhart and Goodson, of Minneapolis, a short time since, conceiving the idea that *electricity* might be employed in operating a typesetting or rather a matrix-making machine, submitted their plans to Mr. C. L. Redfield, a mechanical engineer, and editor of *Wood and Iron*, and have, with his aid, succeeded in constructing a machine which, it is claimed, gives two hundred impressions per minute, or five thousand ems per hour.