

Style series of the American Type Founders Company might be cited. The sale of these types has been phenomenal, and while it is not intended to give the entire credit to this journal, the utility of the letters were first set forth in the advertising columns of *THE INLAND PRINTER*. Its judgment was heartily seconded by the progressive printers throughout the country.

FRANK R. ATWOOD,
Type Salesman.

Written for *THE INLAND PRINTER*.

TYPEFOUNDERS AND TYPEFOUNDING IN AMERICA.

BY WILLIAM E. LOY.

NO. I.—THE CONDITIONS PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION.

LIKE many other beginnings, the early history of typefounding in America is somewhat hidden in obscurity, and the records of the typefounders who first carried on the business are not complete. Writers on the subject have been pretty equally divided in giving the credit to Christopher Sauer,* of Germantown, Pennsylvania, and the date as 1735. About that time a printing-press was established in Germantown, and by Mr. Sauer, but there seems to be no evidence that he engaged in typefounding then or at any time. Sauer came to America in 1724, when he was thirty years of age. He brought with him his son, of the same name, from Germany, and in due time Christopher Sauer, second, succeeded to the business of his father.

The elder Sauer was not trained to the printer's calling, but had a superficial knowledge of it. At home he had identified himself with the dissenters, or German Reformed Church; so, as he was a public-spirited and educated man, he was chosen as the person to whom books and tracts should be sent by the missionary society at home for the benefit and enlightenment of the Germans then so numerous in Pennsylvania. A printing-press was among the early requirements, and this reached Germantown in 1735. With it was sent as a present from Heinrich Ehrenfried Luther, a celebrated typefounder of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, a small font of type, with the condition that the donor should receive a few copies of the German Bible it was proposed to print, as a specimen of Sauer's skill. He took as his text the thirty-fourth edition of the Constantine Bible of Halle, which still ranks as the most perfect edition of Luther's translation, and his task was completed in 1743. The edition consisted of twelve hundred copies of a heavy quarto of 1284 pages.

In acknowledgment of the timely aid received, Sauer had twelve copies handsomely bound as a special tribute of gratitude to Luther, the typefounder. The vessel containing the volumes was overtaken by privateers, and the cargo fell into their hands. Fortunately, however, the Bibles eventually reached their destination. One copy was placed in the Royal Library, where it still remains, and another, after passing through various hands, was returned to America in 1843, or one hundred years afterward.

Christopher Sauer died in 1758, and he was succeeded in the business by Christopher Sauer, second, his only son. It is not definitely known that a typefoundry was even contemplated by the elder Sauer, but the son certainly did commence the business some years before the Revolution. The date has been fixed by pretty good authority as 1772, but in the meantime he had printed a second edition of the Bible in 1763, pre-

*NOTE.—The late Thomas MacKellar, in all his published writings on the history of printing or typefounding, and in all editions of the "American Printer," adheres to the statement that the elder Sauer established his foundry in 1735. In this opinion he was practically alone. Isaiah Thomas, who wrote about 1810, says Sauer "began typefounding several years before the Revolution." As the elder Sauer died in 1758, it clearly could not have been he, and the son probably had no occasion for a typefoundry until he developed his plan for keeping the entire Bible standing in type, and this was after he had printed the second edition in 1763.

sumably from the type imported from Germany. This second edition was so well received, and the printing of other books became so important, that Christopher Sauer, second, conceived the idea of establishing a typefoundry for the convenience of his own work. He wished to keep the type for the entire Bible standing, and this alone demanded a font of nearly fifty thousand pounds of pica. His third edition of the Bible, this time consisting of three thousand copies, was completed and in the sheets when the victorious British army swept past his office in their occupation of Germantown, and many of these sheets were taken by the soldiers as a bedding for their horses. It is certain that the typefoundry was put in operation before work was begun on this third edition of the Sauer Bible. The tools and implements were brought from Germany, and the foundry was managed by Justus Fox, who seems to have been expert in many mechanical arts. In 1784 Fox purchased the foundry, and with his son continued the business until his death in 1805. In 1806 Fox's son sold it to Samuel Sauer (or Sower, as the name was then spelled), son of the second Christopher, who had previously tried to establish a typefoundry at Baltimore. While Sauer's name is always mentioned as the first person to conduct the typefoundry business in America, it is more than probable that the first attempt was made two or three years before by David Mitchelson, a seal engraver from London, who came to Boston with his wife in August, 1765. For a while he was in New Hampshire, but we find him in Boston in 1768, when he attempted to set up a foundry, but failed. Nothing is known of his career after this failure. The second attempt was made by Abel Buell, of Killingworth, Connecticut, though the evidence is far from conclusive. It is known that he petitioned the General Assembly of the State in 1769 for money to establish a typefoundry, and to prove his ability to make type he appended to his petition impressions from some which he said he had made. The petition was granted, and there is a tradition that he succeeded in casting several fonts of long primer which were made use of, but the business soon failed.

A second typefoundry was begun in Germantown in 1773 or 1774 by Jacob or John Bey, a German mechanic of great skill. He continued the business at Germantown until 1789, when he removed his foundry to another part of Philadelphia. It was finally sold to Francis Bailey, a printer, who continued the making of type for his own use only.

Benjamin Franklin, when in Paris, bought from P. S. Fournier a complete equipment for a typefoundry which he intended should be established in Philadelphia. He had placed his nephew, Benjamin Franklin Bache, in a foundry in Paris to learn the details of the business. Franklin and his grandson reached Philadelphia in 1775, and began the business shortly after, but were not successful. Thomas, in his "History of Printing in America," says they could not or did not make good type, and the business was neglected. Bache soon abandoned it and engaged in printing.

Thus it appears the typefoundries started in America prior to the Revolution were in the following order: Mitchelson, Buell, Sauer, Bey, Franklin and Bache, but of these various ventures it may be truthfully said that Sauer was the only successful one.

A GOOD SCHEME.

D. Grant Smith, foreman of the *Republican*, Oakland, Maryland, writes: "THE INLAND PRINTER has helped me out of many a difficulty. I have what I call my 'Emergency Book.' It is a little indexed, leather-bound volume that fits my vest pocket, in which I note the number, page and year of THE INLAND PRINTER file in which I find anything that has been or that I think may be useful in emergencies. Although the journal is very copiously indexed, I find this a ready reference. I really do not believe a man can be a thoroughly first-class, up-to-date printer without being a student of THE INLAND PRINTER."



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LONG AGO.

BY ARTHUR K. TAYLOR.

IN the age before yesterday, and that was long, long ago, the Printer had a bank account just like the rest of the animals, and though he knew many, many things, he wasn't so exceedingly well educated that he let the new things he learned make him forget what he never learned but always knew, and this you must know was his horse sense. And he was as happy as any one could be who was not smart enough to be worried because his cousin, the squirrel, had a finer tail than he had, or to be envious because his neighbor, the polecat, had a scent to spend whenever he wanted one. He worked only by daylight and slept nearly every night, although he frequently went with his uncle, the beaver, to his lodge, and came home very late.

Now, one hot night, when the Printer could not sleep in his house because it was just "orfully" hot, he got up and went out and laid down in the grass, and the big, red moon was full, almost as full as the Printer's stepuncle, the tick. And the Printer went asleep, and the moon shone on him all night long.

Now, the other animals always kept out of the moonlight when they went to pick out a place to sleep, because they were superstitious. Not all the animals, but all the animals but two, and they were the loon and the June bug. And these two animals used to come to see the Printer and would talk by the hour about funny things, like "benevolent assimilation," "free silver," "theosophy" and such things, and *they* always claimed that they liked to sleep in the light of the moon — said that it did them good and that they always felt better the next day. And so the Printer slept in the light of the moon, and from that night he was never quite right, and would do things in a manner like unto no other living thing. And when the other animals saw the way he was doing they just shook their heads and of one accord said that he had of a truth slept in the light of the moon.

Whenever there was a particularly hard dam to be built, the animals always called upon the beaver, and the beaver, being a most careful animal in a business way, always took care to charge a good round price for

his work, and whenever any of the animals kicked on account of his prices, the beaver simply told them flatly that about half of the price was for the work and that the other half was for the "know how," and that was the end of it.

But with the Printer it was different. Whenever there was any particular printing to be done, all that the animals had to do was to go to the Printer and explain what a fine job they wanted, how the paper must be of the very best, and how it must be printed in eleven colors of ink and two bronzes, and tied with silk cord, and rough edges, and this and that and the other, and how it must be done right away, as they had neglected getting it ready until the last moment; and as it was to be such a fine job, it must be done very cheap because it would be such a great advertisement, and they would only charge him half rates for a quarter-page advertisement; but he must understand that it was for a charitable object, and instead of his making a regular contribution they would expect him to figure very closely and then to deduct a third as a present to the cause. And then they would wind up by telling him that they came to him because they always thought that he showed so much originality in his work, which would make the Printer blush and feel very much tickled.

Now, when the Printer would hear all this, his eyes would fairly sparkle with delight, and he would take off his coat and buckle right down to work, and he'd work all day and half the night, and he'd let them bulldoze him into allowing them to delay furnishing him with the last of the copy until the morning of the day the job had to be delivered, and because he was two hours late in getting the job done he'd meekly hold his peace while the entire committee of arrangements roundly abused him up hill and down dale, and then when the job was delivered what a terrific howl would go up when the chairman found that his copy of the work was offsetted.

Now, just because this Printer had slept in the light of the moon, the only way he could think out of the

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