

that has more of a design. Other specimens quite creditable. As regards the program which you figured on and did not get, the composition is very ordinary, and it would necessarily have to be, considering the price for which the job was done. The composition was worth at least \$25, presswork and binding \$25, to say nothing of the paper. The presswork would have to be done in one form in order to do it for the above figure. One hundred dollars, under the most favorable conditions, would be none too much for the complete job.

DESIGNERS AND ENGRAVERS OF TYPE.

BY WILLIAM E. LOY.

NO. XXI—JOHN E. HANRAHAN.

THE subject of this sketch was born in the city which has ever been his home, Baltimore, Maryland, February 20, 1859, and here he grew up and received his education. From early boyhood he evinced a decided inclination for drawing and painting, with a special fancy for lettering. Every old signboard was a subject of interest and



JOHN E. HANRAHAN.

study for him, and he would stand for hours watching a sign painter forming the letters in his work. So great a fascination had the work for him that when a mere lad he acquired a reputation as a designer of letters for signs and transparencies. Mr. Hanrahan now looks back with pleasant recollections to the campaign of 1872, when as a boy of fourteen he had the courage to submit a design for a street banner for the campaign committee

of the Baltimore admirers of Horace Greeley. His design was accepted, and he was given the order to complete the work. He had not calculated the difficulties in store for him, without scaffolding or other aids; but the committee was so much pleased with the cleverness of his design that they came to the rescue, and agreed to provide the necessary scaffolding. When the banner was completed and flung to the breezes, it was the subject of very hearty praise from the orators of the occasion, and the newspapers as well, who alluded to it as the work of the "boy artist." The execution of this piece of work was the means of bringing a number of offers to Mr. Hanrahan, and after giving the matter careful consideration he accepted the proposition of Ryan & Ricketts, then proprietors of a typefoundry in Baltimore, afterwards and for many years known as Ryan's Type Foundry.

Mr. Hanrahan entered the typefoundry the latter part of 1872, engaging at first in the electrotyping department, which was under Mr. Ricketts' immediate charge. Here he was soon advanced to the correcting table, where the most exacting demands were made on his skill. He was all the time giving his spare time to letter-designing, attending an evening class at the Maryland Institute School of Art and Design. After spending two years in the electrotyping department, he was transferred to the matrix-making department, where he was given the task of facing letters for the battery. Most of the matrices made at that foundry were by the electrotyping process, and Mr. Ryan maintained that if proper care were given to the details as perfect type could be cast in an electrotype matrix as in one made from a drive. The greatest care was, therefore, given to facing up and correcting any minor defects in the letters, and in many cases the latter would be entirely recut. Every letter was examined critically for size, shape and weight, and the necessary alterations were carefully considered. Thus, for a number of years Mr. Hanrahan gave his time entirely to work of a general char-

acter, and while it was well calculated to train both eye and hand, he did not have an opportunity to do original work. The business of the Ryan foundry was chiefly in romans and plain jobbing faces, but it was of large volume and had a large territory with a multifarious clientage. There was thus constant demand for special accents and peculiar characters. Most of Mr. Hanrahan's work was thus done in soft metal, and he learned its capabilities and limitations. He is firmly convinced that the most intricate and exacting work can be done as well or better in soft metal than in any other.

In 1880 Mr. Hanrahan became superintendent of the Ryan Type Foundry, a position which demanded all his time in general supervision. He was thus forced for a time to give up his work at cutting and designing, with the exception of an occasional special character or some novelty. When, in 1887, the business was incorporated, he took a block of the stock, was elected a director, and continued as superintendent of the foundry. The foundry was sold out to the American Type Founders Company in 1892, and he was still retained as superintendent, and the changed conditions brought about by the consolidation of three foundries, one of them a very old one, now made it impossible to devote any time to designing or engraving. However, in time, order was brought out of chaos, and he once more had an opportunity to devote a portion of his time to his favorite pursuit.

As previously stated, Mr. Hanrahan's early work was of a general character, though he cut several fonts of roman and italic for the foundry during these years, including a 7-point roman for the Lanston Monotype Company. Latterly he has produced some borders and ornaments for the American Type Founders Company which have reached a degree of popularity which can not but be gratifying to the designer and the manufacturer. He has designed and cut Laurel Border in three sizes, Laurel Outline Border in three sizes, Laurel Ornaments in three sizes, Myrtle Border in three sizes, Flame Border in five sizes, Regal Border in three sizes and also for colors, Cornleaf Border, Flag Border in three sizes, and also Flag Border No. 2 for colors, Primrose Border in three sizes, and Union Combination Border.

After spending twenty-six years in the same establishment and rising to the position of superintendent of the foundry,



INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Mr. Hanrahan has recently severed his connection to engage in a related business, which he believes will give him an opportunity to better his condition, while perfectly congenial to his tastes. As showing the esteem in which he was held by his associates, it may be noted that he was presented with a testimonial and an elegant gold-headed umbrella. W. Ross Wilson, manager of the branch, made an address in which he spoke of Mr. Hanrahan's fidelity and his intelligent and earnest labors, covering a period of nearly twenty-seven years.