



W. L. DAVIS.

W. L. Davis, a well-known western newspaper publisher, died suddenly of heart failure at his home in Redwood City, California, on January 28, 1907. Deceased was actively engaged in the newspaper business in California and Nevada since the early seventies, following the vicissitudes of many mining camps in Nevada, and was the editor and publisher of the *White Pine News* for many years. In 1894 he left Nevada and returned to California, and in 1897 purchased the *Democrat*, at Redwood City, which he published for six years, when he sold out and retired to enjoy a well-earned rest. He had reached his sixty-sixth year and is survived by his wife and three children.

Mr. Davis was a forceful writer and with trenchant pen never hesitated to attack injustice or fly to the defense of the weak with unselfish disregard of consequences to himself. With a high sense of duty and honor, his word was his bond, and he enjoyed the respect and confidence of all who knew him. As a printer, in his earlier days Mr. Davis had worked from one end of the United States to the other. He was in the South when the Rebellion broke out, and casting his lot with the weaker side, he fought with the Confederate army at Bull Run, Gettysburg and in other notable engagements, finally being captured and imprisoned at Rock Island till the close of the war. He was commissioned a major in the Nevada National Guard on the personal staff of the governor.

LOUIS BARTA.

Louis Barta, of Norfolk, Virginia, formerly a member of the Executive Committee of Boston Typothetæ, died in the former city March 14. At a meeting of the Boston Typothetæ and the Printers' Board of Trade of New England, resolutions of regret at his sudden demise were adopted. The Barta Press, of which Mr. Barta was the head, has been located in Boston for many years and is famous for the excellence of its typographical productions.

HENRY BARTH.

On January 30, Henry Barth, manager of the Cincinnati branch of the American Type Founders Company, died in his eighty-third year. Mr. Barth will live in history as the inventor of the Barth typecasting machine, which he patented in 1888, the first perfecting machine made in this country. It cast and finished the type ready for the case, and is the machine in use to-day in a majority of the American typefoundries. Many other inventions in the printing trade are the result of his genius. He was born in Leipsic, Germany, November 27, 1823. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Type Founders Company, held at Jersey City, March 13, the following resolution was adopted: "*Resolved*, That the directors of the American Type Founders Company desire to place upon record their appreciation of the personal character and worth of their late associate, Henry Barth, who passed from the scene of worldly activity on the thirtieth day of January, 1907, and of his eminent service not only to the company of which he was a valued officer,

but to the art to which he devoted a long life of faithful work. Sound in judgment, of deep and wide experience, generous, manly in character and steadfast in purpose, he so maintained and advanced the standards of his calling as to make him remembered in the history of the typefounding art."

A FAMOUS AND HISTORIC ALMANAC.

The "*Almanach de Gotha*" is more than an almanac. It is an institution. Bravely arrayed in red and gold, it lies on the table of every diplomatist, is in constant request in the newspaper offices of all countries, and makes a wider and more international appeal than any other annual of reference in the world. It is to Europe what Burke and Debrett and the other peerages are to the British Isles, and it is also the lineal ancestor and model of such topical encyclopædias as our "*Whittaker*," our "*Hazell*," and our "*Statesman's Year-book*." A political and social history of the world for the last one hundred and fifty years could be written from its back numbers if these were readily accessible to students. But they are not. The "*Almanach de Gotha*" began to appear in 1763, but the purchasers did not file it for reference. The earliest numbers in the British Museum are those for 1774 and 1783; and a complete set can be consulted nowhere except in the editorial office in Friederich's Allee in the little Thuringian capital, whence the one hundred and forty-first issue was lately published. Probably not one in ten thousand of those who currently use the almanac has any knowledge of its interesting history.

It had, of course, its predecessors. The bibliographies of almanacs are ponderous tomes, and the middle of the eighteenth century was the golden age of this kind of literature. In Paris alone, as many as seventy-three almanacs were published in the year 1760, including a Royal Almanac, an Almanac for Merchants, an Almanac for Freemasons, an Almanac for Beasts, an Almanac of Badinage, etc. The city of Gotha itself had its own almanac from a still earlier date, in the shape of an "*Improved Gotha Genealogical and Writing Calendar*," the origin of which is lost in the mist of antiquity, though a copy dated 1740 survives.—*From "The Almanach de Gotha," by Francis Gribble, in the January Scribner.*

EXPOSITION OF BORDEAUX, MAY - NOVEMBER, 1907.

At the Exposition of Bordeaux, France, during which the congress of the Master Printers and of the Press Association of France will be held, a special graphic arts section has been created. Printers, supply dealers and manufacturers generally are urged to send their applications for space without delay to M. G. Delmas, 10 Rue St. Christoly, Bordeaux, president of the commission, who will specifically answer all questions. An international exposition of the work of typographical study clubs, graphic arts institutions and technical trade schools for apprentices will enlarge the scope of this interesting exhibition. This section will be divided into three groups: (1) Study clubs or "Circles" and Graphic Arts Institutes. (Trade Schools); (2) Courses of study of professional schools. (3) Individual exhibits.

"IMPOSITION, A HANDBOOK FOR PRINTERS," by F. J. Trezise, approaches the subject from a new standpoint. It is simple in its treatment and filled with attractive illustrations which make the learning of stonework comparatively easy. Now in press. Price, bound in flexible leather, \$1. The Inland Printer Company.