

AMATEUR NEWSPAPERS.

BY HARLAN H. BALLARD.

IT is coming to be regarded as an axiom by the young people of America that "What man has done, boy can do"; and the notion is not entirely unheard of that what a boy can do, so can his sister. There is scarcely an industry of any importance, carried on by the energetic and inventive men of the day, which has not its counterpart in reduced scale among the amusements of our boys and girls. Even in early childhood, those games are most popular which lead children to imitate the employments of their grown-up friends.

Six-year-old Mary is never so happy as when she is playing "keep house"; especially if she is so fortunate as to own a real iron stove in which she is allowed to kindle a real fire for boiling a real potato; and if Johnny has a father wise enough to give him a box of tools, he will cheerfully play carpenter all winter long. So the clouds of labor have their sunny side of imitative play. The mighty rumble of the locomotive is echoed in the tiny roar of thousands of mimic engines; the intricate rattle of the busy telegraph is reproduced in a minor key on multitudes of little "sounders"; and even implementations of deadly warfare are reduced in caliber and sold as playthings.

If this is true in the case of little children, much more is it true of our boys and girls as they grow older. The age is swiftly reached when toys no longer satisfy, and the boy must have a chest of tools that will do good work; he must engineer an engine that has horse-power in it; he must cultivate a patch of ground, and plant something more practical than the watermelon seeds of his early years; he must have a gun that will throw real lead.

Among the many youthful occupations which this spirit of imitation has created, none, perhaps, has been more widely extended and more enthusiastically followed than AMATEUR JOURNALISM.

The idea of a newspaper printed and edited by a boy is, in one sense, not a novel one. Benjamin Franklin might be called the pioneer boy printer; for it is commonly mentioned in connection with the Discovery of America, the Landing of the Pilgrims, the Surrender of Cornwallis, and various other incidents of the sort, that when Benjamin Franklin was very young he published his brother's paper in his absence, and won himself distinction thereby.

It is said, also, that in 1812, at the time when England and the United States were engaged in

their second discussion, a boy by the name of Thomas G. Condie, or Cundie, living in Philadelphia, edited the *Weekly Portfolio*, a paper which had some local repute. Tradition has it that Condie's paper was of four pages measuring eight and a half by eleven inches.

We speak of this as a tradition; for—alas, for the vanity of earthly glory!—learned scribes and critics have arisen who have proved, in the *Censor* and elsewhere, not merely that, as with Shakespeare, the spelling of our hero's name is uncertain, but that no such person as either Condie or Cundie ever lived, breathed, or edited a paper.

We learn from Mr. W. M. Clemens, that on the 21st of August, 1820, Nathaniel Hawthorne, then sixteen years of age, sent forth the first number of *The Spectator*, a small but neatly printed and well edited paper. A prospectus had been issued only the week before, setting forth that the *Spectator* would be issued on Wednesdays, "price twelve cents per annum, payment to be made at the end of the year."

Among the advertisements on the last page was the following:

Nathaniel Hawthorne proposes to publish, by subscription, a new edition of the "Miseries of Authors," to which will be added a sequel containing facts and remarks drawn from his own experience.

Whatever others may think, no member of the National Amateur Press Association will hesitate to attribute a fair share of Hawthorne's subsequent greatness to the discipline of these early labors in the editorial chair.

The Boy.

In 1834 or 1835, a little lad of Hartford, Conn., then known as "Nat," now as Rev. Professor Nathaniel Egleston, of Williamstown, Mass., published an amateur paper called *The Boy*.

He set up* his type in one of the tin Sedlitz powder boxes common then, and printed a sheet as large as a postal card.

And this device of the Sedlitz powder box calls to mind a very interesting account of another original contrivance devised in 1839 by a Western boy, or at least by an Eastern boy gone West. The story was told in ST. NICHOLAS for June, 1879, under the title of "How a Comet Struck the Earth," and should be carefully read and pondered

by all who would know with what difficulties early amateur editors were forced to contend.

In 1858, appeared the *Coos Herald*, from Lancaster, N. H., which attracted considerable attention. Between these dates there were, doubtless, many other papers whose names, though long forgotten by the world, still nestle in a warm corner of the memories of their quondam editors. Perhaps the difficulties in the way of obtaining presses, which the editors of *The Boy* and *The Comet* succeeded so ingeniously in overcoming, deterred many less energetic boys from attempting similar publications.

However this may be, it is certain that the invention, in 1867, of the cheap "Novelty" press was the event from which must be dated what is now understood as Amateur Journalism. The widely scattered advertisement, "EVERY BOY HIS OWN PRINTER," proved irresistible. Not *Comets* only, but whole constellations, suddenly flashed across the journalistic sky; *Suns* shone, *Stars* twinkled, *Meteors* blazed and burst; and, before the end of 1868, at least fifteen papers were regularly issued once a month.

In September, 1869, the first convention of amateur printers assembled at the house of Mr. Charles Scribner, of New York. This convention organized itself, with Charles Scribner, Jr., as its President, into the "Amateur Printers' Association," but changed its name the following year to "Amateur Press Association."

It was during this year, too, that *Our Boys' Intellect* (later, *Our Boys*) was first issued in Wenoona, Ill., by Charles A. Diehl. After a time, its publication office was removed to Chicago; Fred. K. Morrill became one of its editors, it was enlarged from time to time, until it grew to be a handsome journal of sixteen pages. Its circulation is said to have reached ten thousand copies, and it was finally consolidated with a professional juvenile magazine. Mr. Diehl, its founder, adopted journalism for his profession, and has, for many years, been on the staff of the *Chicago Times*. Mr. Diehl is by no means the only amateur editor who has, in later years, reached a position of professional eminence. William Howe Downes left his boys' paper for the *Boston Globe*. Frank H. Converse, well known to readers of the *Portland Transcript*, *St. Nicholas*, and *Golden Days*, was once editor of an amateur journal. So was Thomas Edison; and Mr. Mark M. Pomeroy, three or four years ago, wrote:

"It is now twenty-four years since we started as an amateur editor with a little paper, the *Sun*, at Corning, N. Y. We have grown out of the atmosphere of youth, but can never forget that we were once a poverty-scarred amateur editor, and never can have in our hearts other than good wishes for the youths, the young men, amateur editors, some of whom, in the course of years, will be the leading journalists of this country."

The list might be greatly extended, but enough has been given to show that in the publication of amateur papers we may have one of the truest schools of journalism.

On this point, Hon. Horatio Seymour has expressed himself in the following letter:

EDITOR COMET—*My Dear Sir*: I am much pleased with the copy of the *Comet* you sent me, and I am gratified with your courtesy in letting me see the account of the proceedings of your Association. I hope and believe that great good will grow out of the efforts of your young associates to put journalism upon the right basis. You begin at the beginning, and I know of no other way of having any useful pursuit carried on with success. This is demanded in all professions. I can see no reason why men should jump over the fences to get into the field of journalism. It should be entered through the regular gateway. It is as much a learned profession as law, medicine, or divinity. It calls for early training and careful preparation. I believe your association will do much to give the next generation higher toned journalism than we now have in our country.

Truly yours,
HORATIO SEYMOUR.
UTICA, N. Y., Feb. 21, 1872.

One of the best papers which appeared during the *renaissance* of 1870-76 was the *Youthful Enterprise*, conducted by Miss L. Libbie Adams. This is undoubtedly the "thirteen-year old girl-editor" mentioned in the "History of Woman Suffrage," who, "for three years, wrote, set up, and published a little paper in the interior of New York" (Elmira). It may be new to the authors of the just mentioned history that Miss Adams began her editorial labors in Carbondale, Pa., where she printed some numbers of the *Carbondale Enterprise* on a press which her father had secured for her, and in an office which had been fitted up in a garret. We shall mention later the *Hurricane* which still blows freshly from the orange groves of Carolina, but even at the date of which we are writing, Miss Adams was not the only girl in the ranks of amateurs. Miss Delle E. Knapp, who still writes excellent articles for the "mimic press," edited a bright paper in Buffalo, N. Y.; and at Wartville, Tenn., Miss Birdie Walker published the *Girls' Own Paper* for several years. She is now one of the editorial contributors of a professional literary magazine.

In 1870, more than fifty excellent papers were published, and the future of Amateur Journalism was assured.

During 1871, Amateurdom, or the "Dom," as it is pleasantly called by its members, prospered exceedingly. "The Centennial year," says Mr. Charles J. Steele, Jr., in the *Buffalo Courier*, "inaugurated what are now known as 'halcyon days.'"

The whole country then looked to Philadelphia. All sorts of societies and clubs held reunions there. Friends who had long been widely dispersed took that occasion to meet again. Naturally enough, it occurred to some of the brighter amateur editors that it would be a good

plan to have a grand reunion, and to publish a weekly amateur journal there. The last part of this programme was found impracticable. When the World's Exhibition had been held at Vienna in 1873, a paper called *Our American Youth* had been issued weekly, under the auspices of the New York Branch of the A. P. A.; but either the American Exposition managers were not so favorable as the Austrian, or the boys did not manifest so much enthusiasm in 1876 as in 1873.

N. A. P. A.

The reunion, however, was a grand success. Seventy-five amateurs were present in the Quaker City, and on the Fourth of July, amid the noise of martial music and the tramp of great processions, the NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION was formed. The mercury stood at 104° in the shade, but the intense heat served only to weld the boys into firmer union.

The former organization had been local, and its members were from the Eastern States, but this Association was national, and embraced young men from all sections of the country. From that time, the letters "N. A. P. A." have been regarded with growing affection by a rapidly increasing number of American youth.

The Constitution, which was adopted in 1876, has been recently amended and will be given, in part, in its proper place. The first President of the N. A. P. A. was John W. Snyder, of Richmond, Virginia. It is estimated that, during the year of his administration, there were five hundred amateur journals of all sizes and kinds.

In 1877, the annual *Napa* meeting was held at Long Branch, and was the largest yet convened. There were over a hundred present, and, after a most exciting contest, A. W. Dingwall, of Milwaukee, was elected President, and C. C. Henman, of New York, Official Editor. During this year the number of papers reached flood-tide, and there were over six hundred.

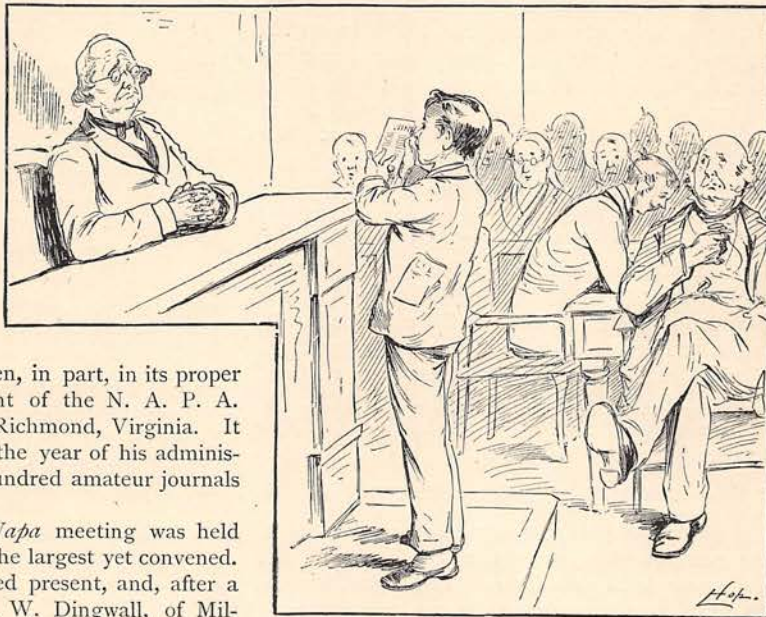
In 1878, during the administration of President Will T. Hall, of Chicago, the great trouble with the Post-office authorities arose. One brief account says: "It was determined by the powers that be, that papers published by boys were not legitimate newspapers, and that the publishers

should be required to place a one-cent stamp on each and every paper sent out. The boys could not afford to do this, and the papers went down like grass before the mower. From this severe blow Amateur Journalism has been slow to recover."

A LITTLE LAW.

As it is evident from editorials in many leading papers of the "Dom," as well as from this quotation from an ex-amateur editor, that this "'P. O. Trouble' is regarded by the boys as one of the main events in their history as an association," we have been at some pains to become acquainted with the inside facts and reasons of what has seemed to many an unreasonable discrimination.

The foregoing quotation was sent to Washington, accompanied by a request for advice as to the principles on which a distinction is made between papers published by boys and men. In reply, we were referred to certain sections in the Postal Guide and in a circular issued by the Third Assistant



FACE TO FACE WITH THE LAW.

Postmaster-General, a careful study of which convinces us that, however severely the decision of the Department may affect some of the less energetic boy editors, yet the complaints of unjust discrimination have no substantial foundation. And, while the rulings of the Department are in full force at this date, it is still true that very many boys are sending their papers at pound rates through the mails, and

yet acting in perfect harmony with law. For the information of all interested we will quote briefly the rulings which are in point:

"Publications asserted to be issued in the general interest of printers and publishers can not be admitted to entry as second-class matter where it appears that the number of their paid subscriptions is so insignificant in comparison with their exchange lists as to demonstrate that the primary object of their publishers is to advertise their own business and that of others by means of a free circulation among other publishers and printers. * * *

"The rule just indicated for the exclusion of so-called printers' publications, designed primarily for the purposes of free exchanging, should also be applied to so-called 'Amateur' publications, and the same evidence of a *self-sustaining subscription list* required of them as of trade-journals before admission to entry as second-class mail matter."

Thus it appears that amateur papers which are on a business basis, and which are self-supporting, have never been deprived of the advantages accorded to the professional journals. The circular quoted enters into a long explanation of the reasons for this rule, showing that the nominal rate of two cents a pound does not cover the actual cost of transportation, and is accorded to no paper as a right, but is extended as a favor to such periodicals as are believed to be issued with a view to the spreading of intelligence among the people. The Government has always followed the policy of assisting in this good work, and has, therefore, carried newspapers to *bona-fide* subscribers at a nominal rate, for the sake of helping the public to obtain information cheaply. The favor is intended for the public good, not for the publishers' pockets. But when most of the copies of a paper are distributed by the publisher at his own expense, the inference is that they are distributed for his own advantage, and in such cases it is proper that he pay the postage. If the people at large consider any paper to be of advantage to them, they will support it with their subscriptions. Then, the Government is willing to help them by reducing the rate of postage. Uncle Sam has a great and a generous heart, boys. He loves fairness above all things. Even Wright acknowledged this after his bright *Egyptian Star* secured pound rates!

POLITICS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Speaking of government reminds us that one of the most absorbing interests of the N. A. P. A. is the yearly election of officers. The desire for office seems to be quite as strong among boys as among men, and the struggles for the Presidency and the Chief Editorship are often extremely close and persistent.

The yearly conventions are looked forward to with eager expectancy by the friends of the several candidates, and the oral debates and intricate wire-pulling of the actual meeting are preceded by months of earnest discussion, and even occasional partisan violence, in the numerous papers connected with the Association. It appears that many of the

amateur editors print their papers for no other purpose than that they may try their luck in the yearly race for office, and certainly one of the strongest incentives to hard work in producing a creditable sheet is the fact that, as the boys are rarely personally acquainted, they are obliged to form their opinions of one another largely from the essays, poems, or editorials which they write.

From this it happens that the offices usually fall to the lot of the most energetic, painstaking, and intelligent members, and whatever may be thought of political aspiration as a motive to literary endeavor, it appears certain that herein lies the strongest bond of union among the fraternity. Take away the annual conventions, with their platforms, discussions, and preceding campaigns, and the N. A. P. A. would soon dissolve.

With regard to the officers, their election and duties, the Constitution speaks as follows:

"ART. IV.—*Officers.* The Officers of the National Amateur Press Association shall consist of a President, First, Second, and Third Vice-Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer and Editor.

"ART. V. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all Conventions of the N. A. P. A., and to perform such other duties as are called for in conformation with this Constitution and these By-laws, and the adopted parliamentary authority." (Robert's Rules of Order.)

The President's duties are further defined through ten elaborate sections. Among these duties, may be noticed the publishing of at least ten numbers of a journal during his year of office, and the appointment of Judges of Award. Their duties will presently be explained.

The duties of the Vice-Presidents are naturally those of the President in his absence, and there are also special duties relating to the reception of articles sent in competition for the various prizes which are offered by the Association.

The duties of the Secretaries and of the Treasurer are those which naturally fall to such officers, with special charge of certain matters connected with an intricate system of "proxy" voting.

The Editor is one of the most responsible officers, and concerning his work Article XII. says:

"It shall be the duty of the Editor to take entire and complete control of the Official Organ, to issue four numbers of said paper during the official year, to allow nothing of a political character to appear in the columns of the paper, and to mail to every member of the Association and to every subscriber to the Official Journal one copy of each number, as soon as issued."

It is provided by the next article that this "Official Organ" shall be known as the *National Amateur*, that it shall have at least four pages, which shall be 9 x 13 inches in size, and set in long primer type. The names and addresses of the officers shall be published at the head of the editorial page, with full information regarding the method of joining the Association.

The "Judges of Award," just referred to, per-

form duties which are explained by Articles XXIII., XXIV., and XXV. of the Constitution.

"ART. XXIII.—*Prize Compositions.* SEC. 1. In order to promote the interest of our Editors and Authors, and the general tone of amateur literature, this Association will present to the author of the best written article on any subject, in accordance with section 3 of this article, the title of Laureate as hereinafter specified.

"SEC. 3. Articles may be written under the following heads and sent to the officer whose name precedes them:

Second Vice-President, Department A.	} Serials. Stories or Sketches.
Third Vice-President, Department B.	} Poems. Essays. History of Amateur Journalism.

"ART. XXIV.—*Judges of Awards.* SEC. 1. There shall be five Judges of Award, each of whom shall have a distinct department.

"SEC. 2. Four of these Judges of Award shall be literary men of known ability not actively connected with Amateurdom. The fifth Judge of Award shall be an active Amateur.

"SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of these Judges of Award to examine closely every article sent them, and to report to the President as soon as possible the one they believe to be in a majority of respects the best, giving their reasons therefor.

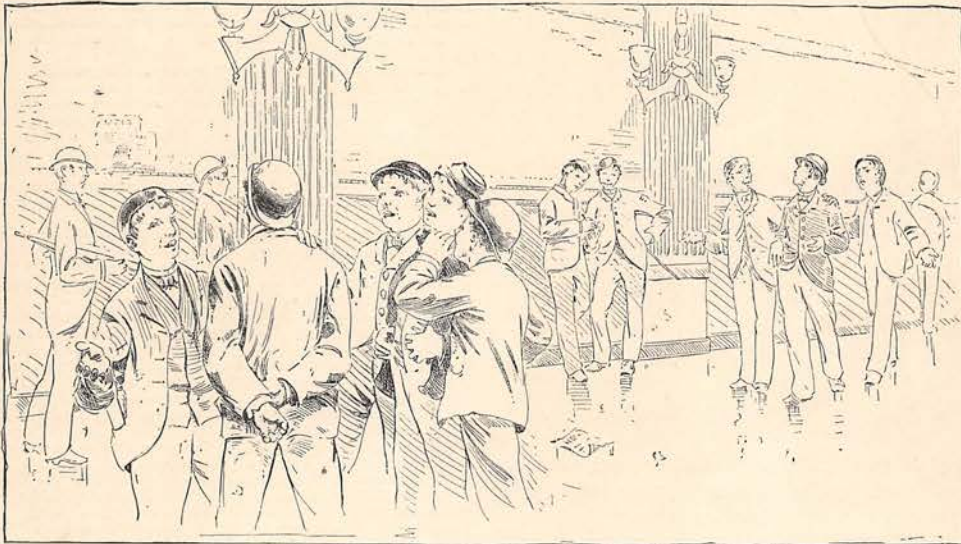
"ART. XXV.—*Titles.* SEC. 1. The title of Laureate shall be conferred upon the person contributing the best article on the subjects specified in Article XXIII., Section 3."

Such are the offices which are yearly filled from the ranks of amateur journalists. A large share of all the talent of the "Dom" is exercised in the

A QUESTION TO BE SETTLED.

The latest question for discussion has been regarding certain boys' papers of New York which are of a sensational and far from elevating nature. Some of the N. A. P. A. have strenuously opposed any fellowship with them. Others have argued that, although the tone of such papers was bad, still it was the best policy for the *Napa* to allow the obnoxious editors to retain their membership, in order to reap the benefit of their initiation fees, yearly dues, political influence, and advertising assistance. This appears to us to be one of the most vital questions which have arisen, and our confidence in the perpetuity of the Association is greatly strengthened by reading, in Article XVI., Section 2, of the Revised Constitution: "*No person connected with or contributing to* [here follow the names of the disreputable sheets] *shall be eligible to membership.*"

No motives of policy ever could overrule the wisdom of that section, and if the boys would take a step further, and promptly expel from their ranks



LOBBYING FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

weekly discussion of the various candidates for these offices, and truth compels the statement that many of the young editors allow themselves, in the heat of the campaign, to cross the limits of courtesy quite as far as their elder brethren of the professional press.

A brief history of the latest election will give a clear notion of Amateur Politics. Before beginning this, however, it may be well to glance at one of the great questions which have divided Amateurdom during the past ten years.

every editor who publishes a single profane or indecent paragraph, they would greatly benefit the cause.

It must not be inferred from this that there are many editors who do print such matter, but, in looking over large bundles of amateur journals, one is occasionally pained by seeing paragraphs which tend to throw discredit on the institution.

To their credit be it said that the leading spirits of the "Dom" are bravely fighting this evil, and we have no doubt that they will succeed in stamping it out entirely.

The latest convention was held in Buffalo, and is acknowledged by all the boys to have been a decidedly poor affair. There were only fifteen members present, as a large faction had bolted, and there was a good deal more excitement than either

Boys wish to have fun at their conventions, of course; but they do not wish to be locked in their hotel-rooms, so that they can not reach the meeting without crawling through the transom!

The following account of this meeting is condensed from Sanderson's wide-awake *Bay State Press*:

N. A. P. A., FRANK NEWTON REEVE OUR NEXT PRESIDENT.

THE LESSERITES DARE NOT ATTEND THE CONVENTION, BUT BOLT IT.—SMALL ATTENDANCE BUT A GRAND MEETING!—"ME TOO" GLEASON DISHONORS HIMSELF.—THE LESSER FACTION COMPLETELY DEMORALIZED!!—LESSER HALF CRAZY.—THE REEVITES CARRY THE DAY.—THE NATIONAL IN GOOD HANDS FOR THE NEXT YEAR.—EVERY OFFICER ACTIVE!

A full, complete, and authentic account of our trip to Buffalo, and of the Convention.

Since June 1st we have thought of nothing else but the convention of the National Amateur Press Association which was to be held at Buffalo, in July. It had been our one thought and wish to attend the meeting, and in accordance with this we began to save up our spare shekels and to accumulate enough collateral to attend it. The morning of the 16th of July found us counting our cash, and to our great joy we found that we were able to go. Hurriedly packing our knapsack, we boarded the train at the little depot in Warren and were soon proceeding at a rattling rate toward the capital of the Empire State.

After a ride of five hours, we jumped off the train in Albany. While waiting here for eight dreary hours, we were suddenly confronted by two hungry individuals who had the appearance of being amateurs. One of them stepped up to us and said, "Is this Sanderson?" and we were soon shaking hands with Reeve and Kempner. The eight hours at length passed away and found us slowly rolling out of Albany. At eight, next morning, the train steamed into Buffalo. After a short search we found Charlie Steele of the *Boys' Herald*, and soon afterward came unexpectedly upon Parsons, Imrie, and Gleason.

We took no breakfast, but went directly to Congress Hall to see if any of the boys had arrived. Finding no new names on the hotel register, we adjourned to Reeve's room, and stretched out on a sofa to sleep. We were scarcely lost to consciousness when a clatter of feet was heard in the hall, the door flew open and in came Pelham of Detroit. After a fraternal handshake, we learned that the Pittsburgh boys had arrived, and, rushing upstairs, we soon had hold of the hands of Weissert and Koch. In a few minutes all the boys had gathered in Reeve's room, and a lively conversation was carried on for some time.

Telegrams had been coming in all day from the boys, but the evening brought the most important one. It was directed to "F. N. Reeve, Congress Hall, Buffalo," and read as follows: "*Monroe, Mich., July 17th. Train wrecked. Nobody hurt. Will come Wednesday eve. Niles and Kast.*"

All were suspicious that something was up, for the message was received on the wrong kind of a blank, and a capital letter was missing. Hunting up the boy who brought it, we found that it was given him by three boys on the corner of Michigan Street, and that it never came through the office. It was, as we afterward found out, a dodge of the Lesserites to dishearten us.

Looking over the register that evening, we found that Lesser, Ritter, and Buckley had arrived.

Tuesday morning found us at Congress Hall at an early hour. About eight o'clock Niles, Kast, Brown, and Rickert arrived, and we were introduced in rapid succession.

At eleven o'clock a caucus was held in Reeve's room. A regular ticket was made up and a plan of business mapped out. A huge sign adorned the entrance of the room and read as follows: "REEVE HEADQUARTERS. NO QUARTER GIVEN." In the middle of it was a representation of a skull and cross-bones.

The meeting was appointed to convene at two o'clock, but it was not called until three. None of the Lesser faction appeared, and a committee consisting of Fischer and Sanderson was sent to request their attendance. Arriving at their room, we were invited in. Telling them that the meeting was to be called in five minutes, we were replied to by young Gleason, who said:

"You appointed the convention at two o'clock. No one appeared and Lesser called the meeting. No one came and now the thing's adjourned *sine die*."

We said nothing and turned to go, but what was our dismay to find the door locked and the key on the outside. The Lesserites had us completely in their power. The meeting was being held down-stairs and we could not get there. Our wrath rose a little at this point, and stepping to one side of the room we gave the servant's bell a violent pull. No one answered, but, having observed the lay of the land, we suddenly seized a chair and, placing it by the side of the door, leaped up over it and squeezed out of the little window at the top, before they could realize what we were doing. Hurrying down to the parlor, we found that the convention had just been called to order.



LOCKED DOORS COULD NOT KEEP THEM IN.

dignity or good nature. Practical jokes were indulged in among the members, proxy ballots were thrown out, and technicalities strictly observed in other respects. The convention appears to have been pretty well "fixed" beforehand; there was a good deal of "denouncing," some carousing, and a little business done. Still, oddly enough, excellent results have followed this most unfortunate meeting. In the first place, an energetic and enthusiastic set of officers were elected, and in the next place, the whole Association has been aroused to see the necessity of sending more and abler representatives to the yearly convention. Moreover, the evils of a cumbrous system of proxy voting have become evident, as has also the unwisdom of a Constitution with eighty-eight sections, besides voluminous By-laws.

THE CONVENTION.

At 3.05 o'clock, President Parsons called the meeting to order. Minutes of last meeting were read and accepted. A large number of new recruits were added to the membership list. The following



STARTING A PAPER.—“What shall we call it?”

were appointed as laureate winners for the year: Jas. L. Elderdice, poet; Wm. F. Buckley, sketch; Chas. S. Elgutie, essay.

The treasurer reported \$15.50 in the treasury. After a good deal of minor business had been transacted, the election of officers occurred at 4.50. Will C. Brown arose and stated that he had the pleasure of nominating Frank N. Reeve for the presidency. No opponent appearing, he was elected by acclamation. In response to the cries of “speech,” he rose and addressed a few well-chosen words to the association, and sat down amid hearty applause. He was then escorted to the chair by a committee of two and the election proceeded as follows: Louis Kempner nominated F. E. Day for first Vice-President, and he was elected unanimously. Sanderson nominated J. A. Imrie for second Vice-President, and he was also elected without opposition. For third Vice-President, Wylie and Kempner were nominated. The association then proceeded to ballot, and it resulted as follows:

Kempner II
Wylie I

Mr. Kempner was declared elected. J. J. Weissert and Warren J. Niles were elected Recording and Corresponding Secretaries respectively. Howard K. Sanderson was elected Treasurer by a majority of eight votes over his opponent, Chas. C. Rickert. Finlay A. Grant was elected Official Editor, and Detroit, Mich., as the next place of meeting.

Each of the newly elected officers present responded with short speeches. Bills against the association were ordered paid. Adjourned.

The next convention is to assemble this month in Detroit, Michigan, and bids fair to be the largest and most enthusiastic yet held. It will probably decide the fate of the “Dom.” There is a small faction who are desirous of a revolution, like Orgetorix of old, and unless a rousing meeting is secured, and a strong set of officers elected, trouble is threatened. But the better element is well organized and alert, and fully determined to have fair play and keep the old N. A. P. A. afloat.

AMATEUR LITERATURE.

An account of amateur newspapers which should give no specimens of what the amateur editors produce would be like a Thanksgiving dinner with the ornithology omitted; but the style of these papers is so varied, and the papers them-

selves so numerous, that one is at a loss where to begin. A bare list of their names would fill several pages of this magazine. An excellent representative of its class is the *Independent Times*, published by Frank Newton Reeve, of Newark, N. J., who is now the President of the Association. His portrait appears on the next page of this article. The *Times* is printed on fine paper with excellent type by Jas. B. H. Storms, who is considered to be the best printer in Amateurdom. The size of the paper is 8 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches. An idea of its general appearance, with its effective title-head and “make-up,” may be gained from the reduced fac-simile which we present. The *National Amateur*, which is the official organ, will be mentioned further on. Next to it in importance come the organs of the various sub-societies, such as the New England

A. P. A., The South-Eastern, The Western, The Ohio and Michigan, etc.

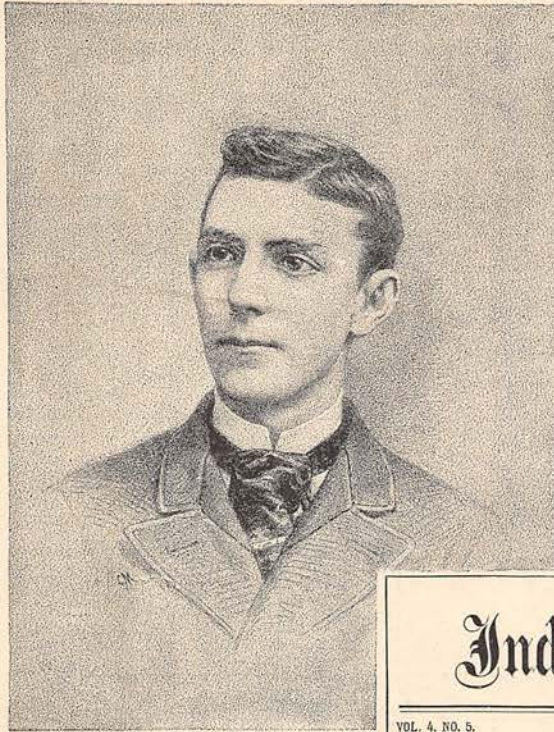
Following these comes the long train of miscellaneous papers, among which may be noted *The Hurricane*, of Charleston, S. C., edited entirely by a little girl of fourteen years. Her name is Eva Britton, and she is well known to many at the North, for she makes annual tours through the cities, securing subscribers for her bright paper. She has now about four thousand, and is one of



“OUR EXCHANGES.”

a very few amateurs who are supported by their work. Is she not the only one?

The Mercury, of Towanda, Penn.; *The Young*



F. N. REEVE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION AND PUBLISHER OF THE "INDEPENDENT TIMES."

Recruit, of Vineland, N. J.; *The Bay State Press*, of Warren, Mass.; *Our Standard*, New Glasgow, N. S.; *The Latest*, Malden, Mass.; *Nonpariel*, New York City; *The Venture*, Detroit (edited by a colored boy); *The Miscellany*, Spencerville, Ont.; *The Topic*, Philadelphia; *Literary Journal*, Philadelphia; *The Paragon*, New York; *The Censor*, Philadelphia; *The Commentator*, Philadelphia; *Puzzler's Pride*, Chicago; *Amateur Review*, Cincinnati; *New York's Favorite*; *The Tablet*, Halifax; *Pittsburgh Independent*; *Young Aspirant*, Punxsutawny, Pa.; *Phunny Phellow*, Nebraska City; *Monthly Eagle*, Rockford, Ind.; *Florida*, Hawkinsville, Fla.; *The Dauntless*, Fostoria, O.; *The Sphere*, Washington, D. C.; *Blushing Bud* (by two girls), Evansville, Ind.; *The Vigilant*, Pittsburgh, Pa.; *Amateur Exchange*, Stanberry, Mo.; *The Stylate*, Frederick, Md.;

Our Blade, Buffalo, N. Y., and *The Union*, Hamilton, Ont., are names taken at random from a huge pile of Amateur journals of all shades of politics and all degrees of excellence.

Those who are interested in this subject will doubtless be able, by obtaining specimen copies of some of these sheets, to satisfy their reasonable curiosity.

The *National Amateur* is the official organ of the N. A. P. A., and is as good as any amateur paper we have seen. Important information heads its editorial columns, as may here be seen. It is conducted by Finlay A. Grant, of New Glasgow, N. S. Mr. Grant also publishes *The Boy's Folio*, and is the leading spirit of *Young Nova Scotia*, both excellent papers. He has won his way to the front of Amateurdom by a long service of earnest and devoted labor. It was largely due to his exertions that Canadian boys were admitted to the Association, and, in spite of the drawback of his distant home,

Independent Times.

VOL. 4, NO. 5.

NEWARK, N. J., JULY, 1881.

WHOLE NO. 41.

A FEW IMITATIONS.

BY JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

I have at times employed my leisure moments, when not engaged in writing original poetry, by making many curious imitations of our most prominent poets. I have here given the result of my labors to a discriminating amateur public.

Here is an imitation of TENNYSON'S "In Memoriam." Those who are acquainted with that somewhat over-estimated poem, will, I think, recognize the closeness of the resemblance:—

Ann old memories make me start;
Sometimes forgotten names will shake
My breast, and dim old songs will wake
The dying heart-strings in my heart.

Sometimes her likeness, dimly seen,
A phantom on a rolling sea,
Will rise, and for a moment be
Herself, or what she might have been.

Her hair is crowned with willow's wreath,
And spears from weeping willows tress
She laughs, the furrows waves to comb,
And laughs, and then comes the gleam,

Saying, "Oh, would my will be weak!
Have mercy ere my courage goes!
My crimes are done; have done thy blow,
Great world!" then flashes come her cheeks.

One moment more; the clouds overhead
Bend and envelope in their mist
The crying one; I know that Christ
"Will judge her crime, and she is dead."

The next is an imitation of ENOCH A. POE. It is perhaps too trifling, and I ask pardon for introducing it in this connection:—

As I sat the whiles were thundering,
Thro' my soul was pondering,
Sleazily my soul was wandering,
Who shall solve this ghastly mystery, which we mortals here term death.

What there came a sudden knocking,
Solens still, and somewhat shocking!
Said I, "The Jews is his knocking
Chalk who occupies a chamber on the foot base underneath."

But the noise grew louder, swelling
On the air; the lightest the dwelling,
As from very Hell" was swelling,
Thus said I, "If this is quiet that I asked for here this mornin'.

"Tis a somewhat noisy quiet,
"Tis a quite infernal rest."
Then the hell I had my eye at
Straight I rose, and up to the staircase came my honora dark and frowning.

"Tell me, madam, what are these
Cries that rend the earth and seas?
Are they fierce Kameonics
Shouting, or the faces convulsing mimicry for men unborn?"

"Sis!" she cried, in indignation,
"What a strong indignation!
Jesus is under operation
By two famous chiropodists for removal of a corn!"

Here is BYRON in his gentler moments:—

Night on the placid woodlands! Zora waits
Beside the tiny silver pond; the bending woods,
The sparkling pool, all wreath of bayous bays
Have basked with the vast cries of multitudes.
The gentle hand pure forth with mistletoe buds
There is no sound, save when the woods go round,
And lightly stir the curls that brush fair Zora's cheek.

Sit Zora waits; and be for whom she waits
Comes not; ah, he the traitor lides at home.
Tutor inhaled and fast! the cuckoo notes.
But he cares not for her, and does not come.
What wealth is her's? she risks! she will give
If he but ask it, all a man desires;
A fool indeed who would refuse to live
Within her smile, to feel with love her bosom's fires!

Here is WALK WHITMAN:—

Ye primitive woods, ye mystical silences, ye dead oaks, answer me!
Oh, thinking heart of the woods, answer my riddle,
Ye who have sung your poems through hundreds of ages of silence,
Wherefore are ye not with your silence? It is grand, it is awful, majestic
It is petrified truth, it is music in nature, it is a silent poem of God.
Oh, what we call God—we are one wood and music in our creek and decrees.
Tell me, oh eye of the woods, what thou hast seen in the class of some hundred
of years.

Blackness and darkness and tidings of life and death forever and ever meant!
In wait I ask questions there. Unanswered, I pick myself up and depart,
Filled with the mystical silence of the great, grand, and glorious woods.

To conclude, how will this answer for TOM MOORE?

Sweet Jerry? I know that grass by the stream,
That wanders by woodlands of cedar and fir,
Walks forth in the morning; the sun's early gleam,
Like a willow-wake love, the dew of his sap-ten.
Ah, Jerry, the stroke of the village, the love
Of a hundred bold suitors that woo her in vain;
Oh, there a rare star in the blue vault above,
So perfect, so cold, so my beautiful June 21
If Jerry had looked, and arrow, and love;
Not Dana's fair self could be colder than he!
And truly the village youth wanders her eye,
Alone, unconcerned, by cedar and fir.
Ah, Jerry, the youths they are pale, but mind
Some day they will have eyes, and sunny smiles
No more to see thee, no more shall they see,
They will leave thee to languish and die as an old maid!



FINLAY A. GRANT, EDITOR OF "THE NATIONAL AMATEUR,"
THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE N. A. P. A.

he has been elected to the highest office but one. He is an entire stranger to us personally, but we have read with admiration his editorials on various topics, and they breathe a manly and true spirit.

We present on page 726 an engraving of the editors of the *Petit Anse Amateur* as they appeared when at work. Their paper has had the reputation of being the smallest in the world, and a fac-simile of the first page of it is also given. But there are now many papers much smaller. *The Midget*, for instance, is an exact reprint of one of them, "life-size." *The Amateur*, of Warsaw, Ind., is only $\frac{3}{4}$ x 1 inch, and *The Oak*, which was, at one time, printed in Boston on a hand-press, was still more minute. Its four pages were as follows:

THE
OAK
No. 1.

SMALL-
EST
YET!!!

Ed. by
LES-
TER!

THIS
BEATS
'EM ALL.

SPECIMENS OF AMATEUR STYLE.

The articles contributed to amateur journals may readily be divided into five classes: Editorials, Stories, Essays, Poetry, and Criticisms. As a sample of the first, see the following from the *Independent Times*, by President Reeve:

"THE OUTLOOK.

"Not for years have the future prospects for Amateur Journalism seemed so promising. New papers are coming into existence daily,

The National Amateur.

OFFICIAL ORGAN N. A. P. A.

FINLAY A. GRANT, *Editor*, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT:

FRANK NEWTON REEVE,.....Newark, N. J.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

FRANK E. DAY,.....Cedar Rapids, Ia.

JOHN A. IMRIE,.....Spencerville, Ontario.

LOUIS KEMPNER,.....New York, N. Y.

SECRETARIES:

Corresponding,—CHAS. C. RICKERT,.....Canal Dover, O.

Recording,—JNO. J. WEISSERT,.....Pittsburgh, Pa.

TREASURER:

HOWARD K. SANDERSON,.....Warren, Mass.

OFFICIAL EDITOR:

FINLAY A. GRANT,.....New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR is sent free to members. To others it is 15 cents per year.

The National Amateur Press Association is composed of the amateur editors, authors, publishers and printers of North America, who meet yearly, during the month of July, for the purpose of acquaintance and transacting such business as may be proposed. The next Convention will be held in Detroit, Mich., subject to the call of the President.

EXTRACTS FROM CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE XVI.—Section 1.—Any person who is actively interested in Amateurdom, is the publisher of an amateur paper, or a contributor to the Amateur Press, or the printer of amateur publications, and resides in the United States of America or Canada, may become a member of the Association by conforming with the requirements set forth in this Constitution and these By-Laws, and no person shall be entitled to the privileges of membership until he has. Persons who are Puzzlers only are not construed by this section to be contributors to the Amateur Press.

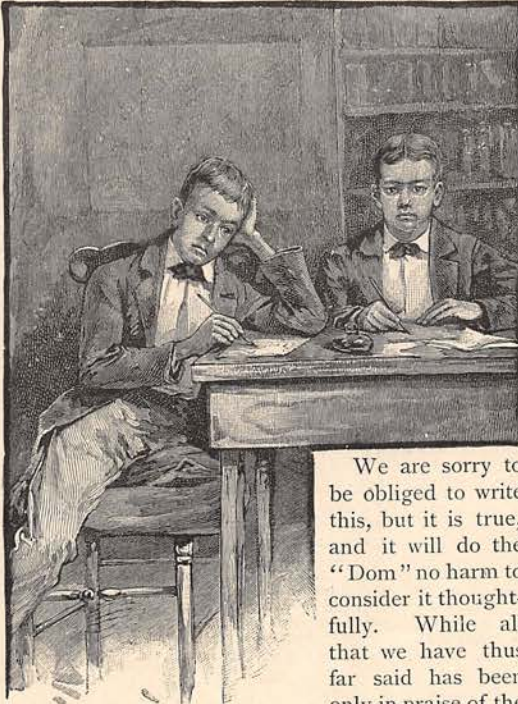
Any person desiring to join the National Amateur Press Association and who conforms with the above conditions must make application to C. C. Rickert, Canal Dover, O., Chairman Credential Committee, stating in what manner he or she is connected with amateur journalism, and who will notify such applicant of his or her acceptance or rejection. If accepted, send two dollars (\$2.00), for initiation fee and one year's dues, to J. J. Weissert, 1 Wylie Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., when such person will be entitled to all the privileges of membership for one year.

and especially in the vicinity of New York City are affairs assuming a healthy activity. Every spring and summer new papers appear, their editors invariably being inspired by the campaign for National officers, but a distressing number of suspensions take place as soon as the campaign is past. But this year [1881] the campaign was entirely too tame and one-sided to prompt the publication of the usual number of campaign sheets. We are, therefore, led to believe that the present spurt in amateur affairs is a genuine and healthy one. We have on our exchange list eighty-two papers that have started since last year, and we know of many more soon to appear.

"With those strong influences for good to our cause will be coupled as much encouragement from the officers of the N. A. P. A. as it is possible for active leaders to give. *The National Amateur* will appear regularly, and the entire board of officers will exert their best efforts to elevate and increase Amateurdom in character and strength. All they ask is to receive the hearty coöperation of every amateur. If they err, criticise them as they deserve, but don't allow political bickering to cause you to say disheartening things or act in a manner calculated to retard them in their efforts to benefit the 'Dom.'"

Most of the papers have good editorials; but, alas, after a search of several hours through our whole bundle of Amateur journals, we can not find

a single story which can properly be reproduced here. Many of them are poor imitations of the dime novel, others, less trashy, are marred by slang words, gross allusions, or the irreverent use of sacred names.



THE EDITORS OF THE "PETITE ANSE AMATEUR" AT WORK.

We are sorry to be obliged to write this, but it is true, and it will do the "Dom" no harm to consider it thoughtfully. While all that we have thus far said has been only in praise of the work of our young friends, we should

be neglecting a plain duty did we fail to warn them that the three greatest enemies of their cause are vulgarity, irreverence, and abusive personalities.

The first two of these three are found chiefly in the story columns. The last, which sometimes includes the others, appears mainly in "Notices of our Exchanges," but often steals into what, if anything, should be kept pure and courteous and Christian—the Editorial page.

If Amateur Journalism has been looked upon with disfavor by the professional press, a potent cause may be found in the bitter sneers, coarse jests, rude taunts, and open accusations which used to form a constant feature of the average boy's paper; and if, as we believe, this disfavor is passing by, the reason for it will be found in the noble, persistent, and successful efforts for a higher standard by the clean-minded and whole-souled editors, like Grant of the *National Amateur*, Mercur of the *Mercury*, and Morris of the *Young Recruit*.

Although many excellent essays are before us, they are too long to be available here, and we

therefore give a few specimens of the manner in which the boys criticise each other. Some of them may serve as warnings rather than as models!

"Latest advices state that the Fool Killer is roaming through Michigan, and that he will shortly fetch up in Detroit. A hint to the wise is sufficient, Mr. ———."—*Manifest*.

"This youthful Socrates should know that fools are rarely, if ever, wise."—*Detroit Venture*.

"We hereby give notice that we have noticed ——— in these columns for the last time. If our contemporaries are desirous of keeping their papers clean and doing us a favor they will pay no further attention to that parasite."—*Independent Times*.

"*Bay State Press*, *Lynn Amateur*, and *Golden Moments* lug off the bun for neatness."—*Puzzle's Pride*.

"We can digest an issue of the *Mercury* of Towanda, Penn., with as great a zest as, perhaps, any other paper of its size we receive. It is decidedly interesting at times, and remarkably fresh."

"The *Nonpariel* is decidedly a progressive sheet of much merit, and ably conducted. Its regular issue will be of much importance to the cause, now that Kemper is a National officer."

"*Idle Hours* is quite an improvement on the *Amateur Reformer*, and its interesting contents and good management will do much good for the cause in Indiana. Such papers we delight to notice."

"The Danbury *Hornet* is the liveliest little sheet in the 'dom.' Admirably and vigorously edited, neatly and regularly issued, it deserves much credit, and will certainly gain it if it continues its present creditable issue."

46 PETITE ANSE AMATEUR, JUNE, 1879.

THE PETITE ANSE AMATEUR

Is published, owned, and printed by school-boys, and the articles which appear are the efforts of children whose ages range from 7 to 15. The object of the paper is principally for self-improvement, as typography is now a branch of study in the Petite Anse Grammar School. It is issued every month, and a yearly subscription price of 50 cents is charged. Yearly advertisements are inserted at the rate of \$1.50 per square; \$6.50 per column, and \$12 per page. D. D. AVERY, JR., J. A. McLENNY, Editors and Proprietors, to whom all communications should be addressed at NEW IBERIA, LA.

PETITE ANSE ISLAND, JUNE, 1870.

WHAT WE DO.

Our friends will be delighted to hear of our continued success. The

circulation is rapidly extending over the country, while advertisers are crowding our pages. Our evenings are occupied in scanning exchanges and in answering the daily increasing correspondence. Every mement of the daytime is in demand; and if type-setting, composition, and other matters connected with the AMATEUR do not call on us, then kite-flying, fishing, swimming, or baseball is the order.

EDITORIAL MENTION.

The papabette return from their southern flight to feed on our prairies, on which they will fatten and afford good sport for gentlemen of the gun and enjoyment for those who love good eating.

FAC-SIMILE OF FIRST PAGE OF THE "PETITE ANSE AMATEUR."

COST OF RUNNING A PAPER.

Doubtless some of our young friends, if any have followed us so far, are asking themselves: "Could I start a paper?" "How should I begin?" "What would it cost?" "Would it pay?"

To these questions we answer briefly by quoting from a letter recently received from the official editor of the "Dom":

"In reference to running an amateur paper, I will first of all state that it seldom if ever pays. The only way to save it from being a continual expense is to have a printing outfit of your own and print your paper yourself. By doing this you will be able to make both ends meet. However, an amateur paper could be made to pay, and

has been before now, by a proper course of advertising and by devoting time to working it up. But not one paper in fifty pays anything over running expenses. Those now publishing papers do it solely as a means to benefit themselves, to give them a bright mental and moral training, or as an amusement. The cost of issuing an amateur paper ranges from two to ten dollars per issue. The *Young Nova Scotia* costs us ten dollars. A paper half the size can be issued in the U. S. for four or five dollars. A paper two columns to a page, four pages, can be issued at a cost of two or three dollars.

address, monthly. All the manual labor on the paper for the last six months has been executed by the editor alone, and he has also written more than two-thirds of the reading matter which has filled its columns. During all of this time we have attended school regularly."

There can be little doubt that boys who are willing of their own accord to subject themselves to such discipline as that have a power of will, a spirit of perseverance, and a praiseworthy ambition which will surely lift them, by and by, into positions of greater honor and wider usefulness. It is claimed that about one-half of those who begin by editing such papers continue their connection with the Press after they have passed the age of boyhood. Many successful editors and newspaper correspondents attribute their present fortune to the training they gave themselves as amateurs. The boys are fond of quoting a saying of Speaker Randall to the effect that amateur journalism is the "noblest work indulged in by our American youth."

Whether this be strictly true or not, we reckon among the strongest reasons which cause us to regret that we have passed the boundaries

4 THE MIDGET.

PERSONAL.

Masher's Column.

Will Hazelrigg has given up the idea of going to Indianapolis to live. Bring a wash pan for our tears.

Gus Muhlhausen has been sick. Cause, drinking too much ice-water.

The August number of the *Atlas* is eight pages.

WE WANT JUSTICE.

In *Scribner's Monthly* for the month of August the *Petite Anse Amateur* claims to be the smallest paper in the world.

We find by measurement that the MIDGET is about half the size of the *Amateur*.

THE MIDGET.

Vol. 1] Evansville, Ind. August. [No. 1

INTRODUCTION

In introducing this little paper to the boys and girls of Evansville, we will first of all, beg of them and the Amateur Press, not to criticise us too severely at first, as this is our first attempt at the business.

As our reader can plainly see, our paper is small, and we will not have room to waste in apologising, so we will make it short by asking you to excuse all the errors that we may make in "getting out" this sheet, which we hope will please all.—Eds.

"THE MIDGET"—LIFE-SIZE.

"The directions for starting an amateur paper are very simple. All that is necessary is to decide upon starting one, then upon what size. The editor can then use his judgment as to what to publish; but whatever he publishes should be original, as that is the prime motive for starting a paper: to exercise the literary ability of the editor. It would be well for a beginner to make the acquaintance of some one who has had experience as an amateur in order to get the names and addresses of exchanges, for the exchanges are the life of an amateur paper that is devoted to the cause. If the would-be editor wishes to print his paper himself, let him consult the advertising columns of some boy paper and he will find out where to purchase presses and material. There are many who keep all the requisites of an amateur printing office for sale, and who do nothing else but manufacture and sell them. How many boys spend more than ten dollars a month upon those things which do them not half the good which would come from publishing an amateur paper!"

THE LABOR.

Some notion of the toil required to manage successfully even a small paper may be obtained from the experience of the editor of the *Egyptian Star*. He says:

"This paper contains about sixty thousand pieces of type metal, which have not only to be set up, but handled the second time when distributed. Our press being small, only one page of the *Star* is printed at a time, therefore one month's issue of our average size requires upwards of eight thousand impressions. Besides this the MS. for each month's issue has to be carefully prepared, in itself no small labor; the MS. of this number alone covering over one hundred and fifty sheets of common note-paper.

"Then with our three hundred exchanges every month, and as many or more letters during the same time, we have a vast amount of reading to do. One thousand two hundred papers we fold, wrap, and



AN EDITOR DEMOLISHING A RIVAL.

of youth, the impossibility of editing an amateur paper, of joining the N. A. P. A., of decorating our breast with the silver shield and pen, of going to the convention at Detroit, and doing our very best by voice and ballot to elect to the presidential chair for next year Mr. —. But, alas! the ivory gates of boyhood have closed behind us, and we have no right to nominate. We can only express our hope to see an honest fight, and a true devotion to the cause. May the best man win!

