tion. At first they formed (*i. e.* engraved) the characters or letters in written order on blocks of wood, and in this manner they printed the vocabulary, called a "Catholicon." But with these formes (or blocks) they could print nothing else, because the characters could not be transposed in these tablets, but were engraved thereon as we have said. To this invention succeeded a more subtle one, for they found out the means of cutting the forms of all the letters of the alphabet, which they called matrices, from which again they cast characters of copper or tin of sufficient hardness to resist the necessary pressure, which they had before engraved by hand. And truly, as I learned thirty years since from Peter Opilio (Schoeffer) de Gernsheim, citizen of Mentz, who was the son-in-law of the first inventor of this art, great difficulties were experienced after the first invention of this art of printing, for in printing the Bible, before they had completed the third quaternion (or gathering of four sheets), 4000 florins were expended. This Peter Schoeffer, whom we have above-mentioned, first servant and afterwards son-in-law to the first inventor, John Faust, as we have said, an ingenious and sagacious man, discovered the more easy method of casting the types, and thus the art was reduced to the complete state in which it now is. These three kept this method of printing secret for some time, until it was divulged by some of their workmen, without whose aid this art could not have been exercised; it was first developed at Straabourg, and soon became known to other nations. And thus much of the admirable and subtle art of printing may suffice—the first inventors were citizens of Mentz. These three first inventors of printing (*videlicet*), John Guttenburgh, John Fust, and Peter Schoeffer, his son-in-law, lived at Mentz, in the house called Zum Jungen, which has ever since been called the Printing Office."

The types originally employed were not the Roman characters common amongst ourselves, but the German figures still used in "the Fatherland." Our ordinary type was first used about 1467 by printers at Rome.

John Fust, or Faust, according to some historians, when

living at Haarlem with Laurent Coster, who, since 1420, had printed with blocks of graven wood, appropriated this wonderful secret, and fled to Mayence, with the characters which he had abstracted during Christmas. In this city he went into partnership with his son-in-law, Peter Schoeffer and John Guttenburgh, a rich citizen of Strasburg, with the view of perfecting the method of Laurent Coster. They cast the first metal types; and, after unheard-of efforts and labours, carried almost to danger, they achieved an impression of the Bible, exactly according with the manuscript. The great letters and miniatures were gilt and painted by hand. Then these associates swore together to reveal to none an invention which was to enrich them; and, that they might not waken curiosity, they sold but a small number of copies in Mayence, which were passed off as manuscripts. John Faust betook himself to Paris, hoping that there he should get much money by his Bibles. A Bible, well written and coloured, fetched about five hundred golden crowns. Faust took a small house in the city of three stories and with a pointed roof. He gave himself out as solely a writer seeking work, and, under this pretext, obtained purchasers for his books, without, however, availing himself of an index to the saintly, or even of the public crier. For the rest, his purse was but thinly lined in the meanwhile.

It is related that while in Paris the news of the wonderful beauty of his books, and the extraordinary rapidity with which he produced them, awakened the curiosity and jealousy of one Olivier Maillard, a transcriber, who, failing to discover his secret, and envious of his great success, accused him before the Parliament as a sorcerer. Faust was opportunely made aware of this charge, and the jeopardy in which he was placed. He was compelled to fly; but before doing so, he cast a burning brand among the books of which he had not yet disposed, and which, of course, there was no time to remove. He escaped a few moments only before the police arrived. They knocked rudely at the door; but obtaining no answer, and observing a dense smoke issuing from the crevices, they forced

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