cannot be ready for printing till six o'clock at the earliest, the papers are nevertheless published so that town or country are supplied without intermission. In such a case before the introduction of the printing machine, the morning coaches would have departed without a paper, and the people of London must have received them at the hour of dinner instead of that of breakfast. By the most violent exertions, the pressmen of a daily newspaper were enabled with relays to work off about five hundred copies in an hour. One press would, therefore, produce ten thousand copies in about twenty hours. It is manifest that such a rate of speed, if such a quantity was demanded, would be incompatible with the production of a daily paper, the condition of whose existence is that it must be wholly printed off and issued in four-and-twenty hours."

It may not be uninteresting to describe briefly the manner in which the printer sets about his work; how he accomplishes what he undertakes to do, and by what process a book is prepared for the reader.

In the ordinary process of what we commonly call printing,—although correctly speaking that term should be applied only to taking impressions on paper from types or wood blocks,—the first thing is the setting of the letter-press. The letters or types are arranged in a box or *case*; a pair of these cases, forming what is technically known as a *frame*, is allowed to each compositor. One of these cases is occupied by *Roman* letter, the other by *Italic*. The cases are subdivided, and the letters, capitals or parts, &c., arranged in systematic order. As some letters occur much more frequently than others, the sizes of the boxes are unequal; the proportion of letters used as applied to the English letter is as follows:—

a	8500	h	6400	o	8000	v	1200
b	1600	i	8000	p	1700	w	2000
c	3000	j	400	q	500	x	400
d	4400	k	800	r	6200	y	2000
e	12000	l	4000	s	8000	z	200
f	2500	m	3000	t	9000		
g	1700	n	8000	u	3400		

The compositor is provided with a small iron or brass frame, one side of which is moveable, and can be adjusted to the width of the column. This is called a composing stick. It is held in the left hand, and in it letter by letter, and word by word, the compositor sets up the types. When he has filled the stick he transfers the matter thus set up to another frame, called a galley, and the facility with which an expert workman will remove the handful of moveable type from the stick to the galley is remarkable to any one unaccustomed to the work. After this the types are made up into pages, which are arranged in a strong iron frame called a chase; pieces of wood or metal, technically known as furniture, are placed between the pages so as to keep them apart at proper distances. The whole is then fastened, or locked up, by means of small wooden wedges, and then, when it is pinned in, called a forme, and is ready for the printer's hand.

The operation of type-setting—composing, as it is called, is purely mechanical. It is an old joke among printers, that they must always follow their copy, except it falls out of window. But their task is by no means easy. Undecipherable handwriting to any one else—sometimes to the author himself—is read with facility, and the compositor seldom commits a blunder either in orthography or punctuation. The correction of proof-sheets is the work of the proof-reader, who reads the printed sheet, correcting literals, &c., while a boy reads aloud the author's copy.

Great pains were taken by the early printers that no errata should appear in their productions, but they were not always successful. Field printed in 1653 what was called the Pearl Bible (so called on account of the type in which it was set up). This edition abounded with errors, which, in instances, make the text either blasphemy or nonsense. It is affirmed that another Bible swarmed with six thousand blunders. A printer's widow in Germany, while a new edition of the Bible was printing at her house, one night took an opportunity of going into the office to alter that sentence of subjection to her husband, pronounced upon Eve in Genesis iii. 16. She took out the two first letters of the word Herr and substituted

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