



## THE GAZETTE BUILDING.

### Location, Size and Description of the New Printing House.

### Its Facilities, Conveniences, and General Equipment.

One of the most beautiful, attractive and imposing structures in the city of Champaign is the new GAZETTE Building, located on the southeast corner of Main and Neil streets. Its situation is one of the best and most prominent in the city, being just across Main street from that old and well-known landmark, Barrett block; and its completion was one of the events of the centennial year, inasmuch as it occurred on the 15th of January, 1876. About a year ago the proprietor of this paper decided upon the erection of a building, the which should be devoted especially to the accommodation and convenience of the large and increasing business of the GAZETTE establishment. For years the paper had been published from the upper-stories of buildings put up for general use—buildings intended for renters, and about as well adapted for one kind of business as for another. Our last quarters, at No. 26 Main street, were made anything but agreeable on account of smoky chimneys, a leaky roof, and the entire absence of a single convenience.

Then, too, the increasing growth of the Job Printing and Book-binding departments were demanding more room; the printers wanted "more light;" and the steady stream of customers began to grumble about the frequent and tiresome climbing of stairs necessary in order to reach the counting-room. These circumstances, together with the fact that the term of our lease was drawing to a close, prompted the enterprise and fixed the determination to push it to a conclusion as speedily as possible.

At the corner above alluded to, the southeast of Main and Neil streets, was a small lot belonging to the estate of J. W. Scroggs. Adjoining it on the east was one belonging to B. F. Harris, president of the First National bank, of this city. These lots were secured; the estimated value of the first being \$3,500, and the price paid to Mr. Harris for the second being \$4,500. Thus, with \$8,000 worth of real estate whereon to lay the founda-

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Owing to a difference in the original surveys of the town, there is a variation in the lines and angles of the streets; and where these different surveys meet or join, lots of irregular shape are the result. The ground whereon the GAZETTE Building stands is almost triangular in shape, the result of the variations above alluded to. Its frontage is 44 feet on Main street, and its west line extends along Neil street a distance of 90 feet. Across the rear or south line of the building the distance is only 18½ feet. Notwithstanding this irregular, or rather triangular, shape of the lot and building, we shall do a square business, as heretofore.

While the preliminaries were being arranged, Mr. Seeley Brown, of this city, the well-known and accomplished architect, was busy upon his designs, and his plans laid down, improved by time and experience, finally produced a work which is the admiration of every beholder. When the drawings and specifications were completed, sealed bids were invited from four good and skillful builders. That of Mr. E. F. Gehlman being the lowest, he was awarded the contract. As for the manner in which he executed it, we think the building itself speaks louder in praise of the master builder than can any words of ours.

In July the frame buildings which then occupied the site were removed southward to vacant lots on Neil street; the necessary excavating was done, the curb-walls laid, and everything made ready for the foundation. July 18th the corner-stone was laid without any particular form or ceremony, although a large crowd was in attendance, some of whom were very free with advice as to how the work should be done. For several weeks rain-storms greatly interfered with the undertaking, but clear skies came apace, and the work went rapidly on and soon attained a height which indicated its present proportions. At first it was supposed the building could be finished in time to permit the removal of our office during the holidays. This was not done. We did, however, move our engine, shafting and two large presses during the week of jollification, but as the finishing touches were given the building about January 15, we did not wholly move in and settle down until after that time. We are now "at home" in quarters unsurpassed by those of any country paper in the west; ready for business, which we respectfully solicit; ready to welcome friends and patrons, many of whom we hope to see.

The new building from which is now issued the CHAMPAIGN COUNTY GAZETTE is located as before indicated, in the very heart and center of the business portion of Champaign, and is one of the finest buildings of the kind in the state. Its frontage on Main street is 44 feet, on Neil street 90 feet; height from sidewalk to cornice line 40 feet, and from sidewalk to extreme point of finish 70 feet. The structure is substantially of brick, the frontings being of pressed brick with stone trimmings. The Main street front is especially fine and is almost wholly of stone. The building comprises two stories and a basement, the last being so high, light and airy as to be almost entitled to be counted as the first story. Under the sidewalk has been built a large reservoir for the water conducted from the roof,

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In the basement are located the engine and presses. A Walrath engine and boiler furnish the power, and a Taylor cylinder press, a half-medium Aldine, a quarto-medium Globe, and an eighth-medium Gordon are the presses which do the work. The paper is printed upon the Taylor cylinder press, a very superior machine, manufactured at Chicago by S. P. Rounds. The folding and mailing are also done in this room, the newspaper and job forms being sent down from the upper-story by one of J. W. Reedy's elevators of 3,000 pounds capacity, and which also affords easy communication with each floor of the building.

The north half of the east basement room is rented to P. Terbush as a barber-shop, and the south half is the storage-room from which Dr. Brown's drug-store on the first-floor draws supplies.

The first-floor is mainly occupied by the post-office, and has been leased for a term of ten years by Uncle Sam. The front of this main or east room is occupied by the city drug-store of M. S. Brown. The wood-work finish of this room, as well as that of the post-office, is black walnut, and was done by the Walker Brothers, of this city. The work was executed in the highest style of the art, and reflects credit upon the gentlemen named as well as upon the mechanics they employ. The post-office has been fully described in a previous issue. There are in all ten hundred and thirty boxes, one hundred Yale lock-boxes and thirty Yale lock-drawers. To the left of the general-delivery is a conveniently arranged little money-order office, and a neat combination of wood-work and plate-glass inclose the office from the top row of boxes to the ceiling above. To this main room there are entrances from both Main and Neil streets.

The counting-room or business-office of the GAZETTE is on the first floor and is located in the corner of the block. It has two entrances, one of which is reached by a flight of stone-steps, and the other from the main hall in the center of the building. The floor is mosaic, slabs of black and white being laid alternately. A counter extends across the room, and at one end a large double desk has been arranged for the accomodation of customers. Back of the counter are desks for book-keeping, shelving for finished work and an arrangement for keeping legal blanks. A stairway affords easy access from this room to the press room below, while just in the rear is a small room through which the elevator runs, and in which is arranged a library of over 500 volumes, besides the better grades of stationery which it would not do to store in the basement. Speaking tubes connect the various rooms, so that one may stand in the counting-room and communicate with those in any other portion of the establishment. All



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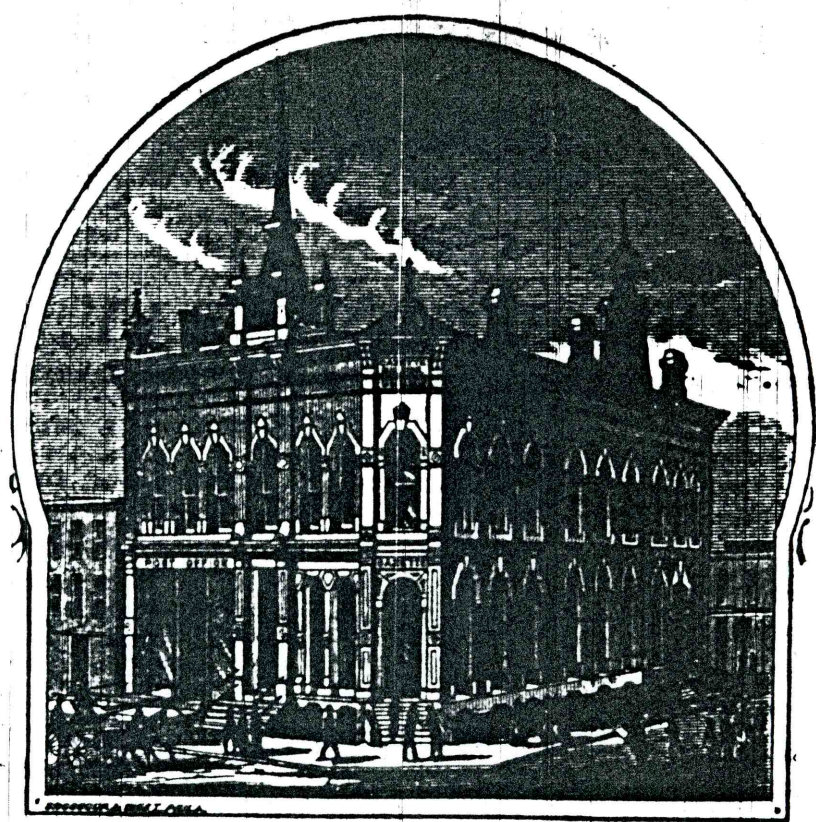
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The New "Gazette" Building, Champaign, Ill.

of the wood-work, trimmings and furniture of this room are of oil-finished black walnut.

The second story is reached by the elevator or by the stairway running up through the main hall. On this floor are three departments. The south end of the upper-story is devoted to book-binding and the manufacture of blank-books. The central part to job work, and the front corner room is the news-room, where all of the type-setting and other work pertaining to the paper is done. The editorial desks are also in this room. One suite of rooms on this floor were very considerably rented to Doctors Huddleston. This may prove fortunate, for if any irate reader dashes up-stairs and interviews the editor in a hostile manner, a surgeon is always close at hand to sew the rash man up, pick the shot out of him, and make him almost as good as new.

The building is well supplied with large windows, there being no less than 18 in the upper story, and as light is a prime necessity in any printing office we are abundantly provided in this respect. Throughout the entire building is lighted with gas, and, in short, no convenience possible to have in a city of this size has been omitted. The exterior of the building shows for itself and is highly ornamental and attractive, and the interior is convenient, comfortable and stylish.

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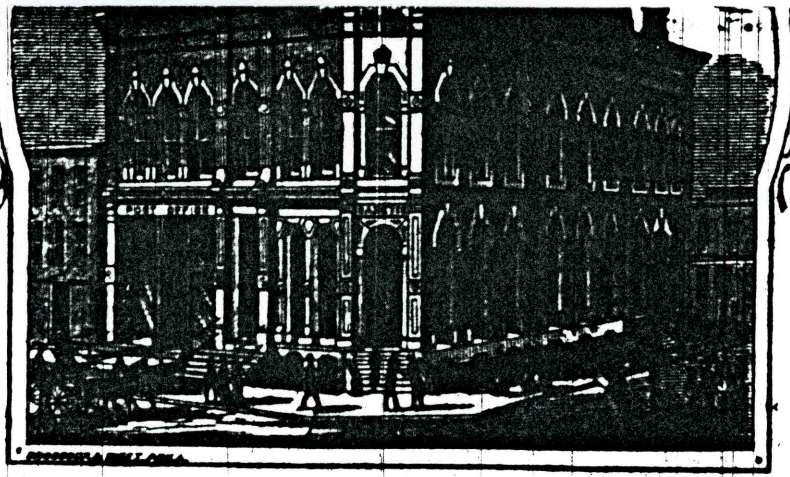
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is convenient, comfortable and stylish.

It is unnecessary to add that we are well pleased with our present lo-  
cation and its surroundings. Our friends go far enough to say that they  
are proud of the new GAZETTE building and think it an honor to the city.  
Well, we shall forgive them for a slight indulgence of pride in this case,  
for the truth is that with a business surpassed by that of but few offices in  
the west, with over two thousand cash subscribers and a liberal advertis-  
ing patronage, with a complete office and one of the finest buildings in the  
city, we might ourselves be forgiven if we should jump up on the fence  
and crow just once.

There is one feature, however, in connection with the new building  
which is especially gratifying and to which we desire to call particular at-  
tention, viz: It is emphatically a Champaign production; an evidence  
of what can be done right here at home, and a monument to the skill and  
ability of home mechanics. The stone-work of the foundation and walls  
was done by John Webber. The common brick were made by R. A. Sut-  
ton, of Urbana, and were laid in the walls under his contract by G. F. Gar-  
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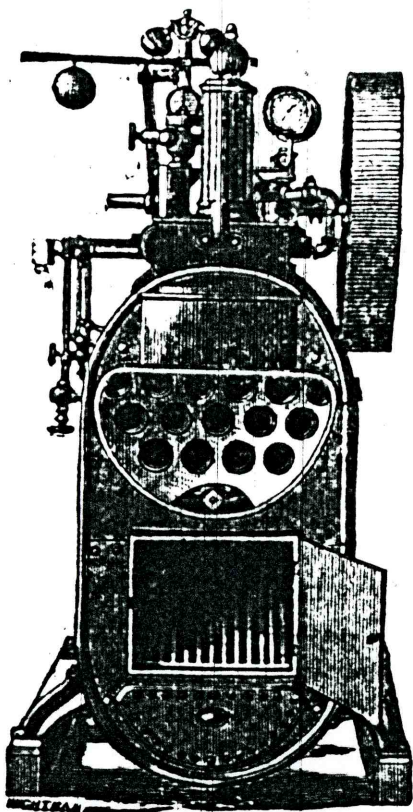
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#### EQUIPMENT OF THE OFFICE.

In connection with a description of the building now occupied by the GAZETTE, we may also devote some space to an account of the machinery and material which make up the mechanical department of the establishment. As before mentioned, the engine and presses are located in the basement, and the motive power is supplied by a

##### WALRATH ENGINE,



of which the illustration shows a front-end view, with door removed, showing the position of the flues and their accessibility for cleaning or removal of sediment from the boiler. The power of this engine is rated at four-horse; length of boiler four feet. The flues are fifteen in number, and each three inches in diameter; the piston has a six-inch stroke; the fly-wheel is 30 inches in diameter, 5-inch face, and has a revolution of 160 per minute. The weight of engine and boiler combined is 2,800 pounds. This machine is constructed with a view to the greatest durability, safety, accessibility, and economy in the use of fuel. The boiler is made of the best wrought-iron, and put together in the best possible manner. The flues are so arranged as to be always submerged, and the ample water range above them avoids hazard, while steam-gauges and a water-guage make assurance double sure as regards the point of safety. The fire-box is variable and easily adapted to either coal or wood. The fire is built under one end of the boiler, at the front, the heat passing along underneath, then back through the flues, and escaping with the

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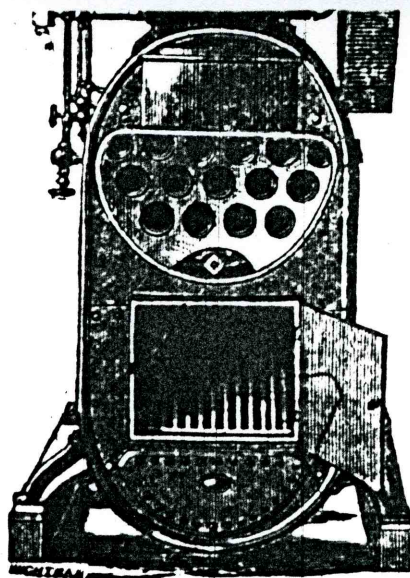
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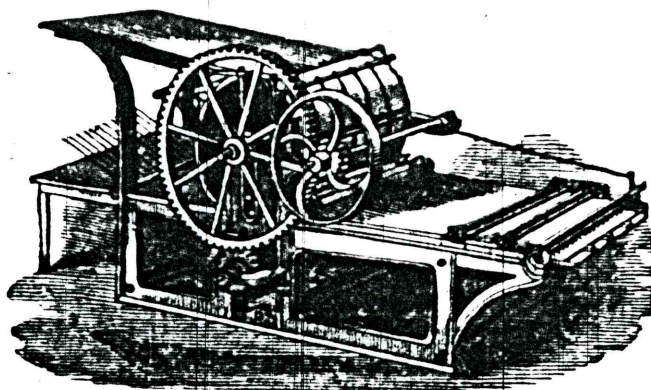


safety. The fire-box is variable and easily adapted to either coal or wood. The fire is built under one end of the boiler, at the front, the heat passing along underneath, then back through the flues, and escaping with the smoke through an ordinary pipe into the smoke-stack of the building.

#### THE ENGINE

is stationed at the top of the boiler, and fastened to it by bolts. It is of the horizontal pattern, and is complete and indefective in all the essential parts of such a machine. From the fly-wheel a belt leads to the main-shaft, and thence belts run to the counter-shafts from which the presses are run. This engine and boiler were made by Peter Walrath, Chittengo, New York.

Next comes the large cylinder press upon which is printed the GAZETTE. It is of the style known to the craft as the



#### CHICAGO TAYLOR PRESS.

It is the patent of that old veteran press-builder, A. B. Taylor, of New York, but is the product of the Chicago manufactory which is presided over by S. P. Rounds. It is a very superior machine, as we can testify after years of usage; is solid, substantial and well built; as simple as

a wheelbarrow, and does work as well as the best of them. This press is adapted to fine newspaper work, and to every kind of job-work, from colored posters to the most delicate script on dry paper. The bed of the press will take a form 32x50 inches; the inking apparatus is easily regulated, and the fly attachment, by which the sheets are delivered after printed, works to a charm. There is nothing about this machine but what is easily adjusted, and its substantial character will be understood when we state that its weight is over 6,000 pounds. Its ordinary rate of speed is about 1,200 impressions per hour.

The job-presses embrace a half-medium Aldine, a quarto-medium Globe, an eighth-medium Gordon, and a Washington hand-press. The

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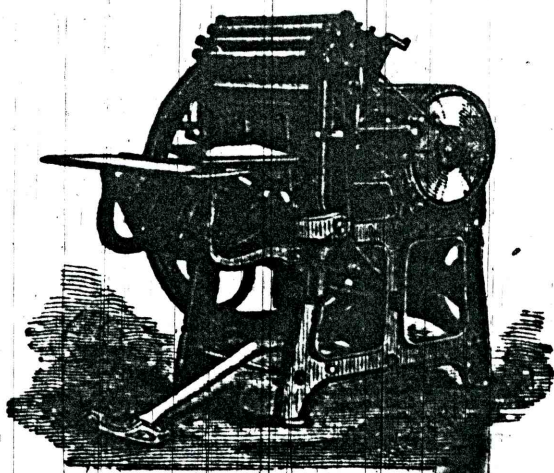


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last is well understood, its operation being simple and after the style of most lever hand-presses. The others we will consider in their order. The

#### HALF-MEDIUM ALDINE

we have no cut of, and it will be difficult to describe it. We can only say that it is one of the most perfect machines extant, will print a form 14x19, and is very heavy and strongly built. All the movements of this machine are positive, there being no springs to get out of order. By a simple movement of the foot the pressman can throw off or detain the inking rollers, enabling him to employ his hands in feeding or otherwise. The impression can be thrown off instantaneously, and is easily and accurately adjusted. We have actually run this large press at the rate of 2,200 impressions per hour. As a one-color press it has no superior, and when it comes to printing in colors it has no equal. Three colors at one impression can be worked on this machine as easily as can one on most others. The arrangement by which different colors are worked at one time is one of the triumphs of the age, and brings fine colored printing within the reach of all. This machine was manufactured by B. F. Rennick & Co., of Canton, Ohio. Next is



#### THE QUARTO GLOBE,

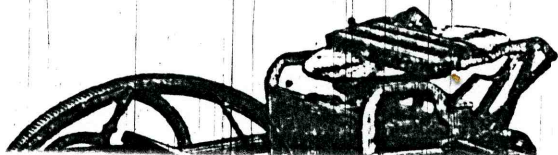
remarkable for the ease and quietness with which it may be operated. It prints a form 10x15 at the rate of 2,000 per hour, and as well as any press known to the art. The inking apparatus gives thorough distribution to the color in use; from one to three form-rollers can be used; the impression-dwell is one peculiar to this machine, and the best invented; while the ease with which the rollers may

be regulated, the impression thrown off, and the form removed from the press, make it one of the most convenient. Its strength, easy operation and good work make it a great favorite.

However much printers may disagree concerning job presses, there is one machine which one and all say is a perfect jobber, and that is

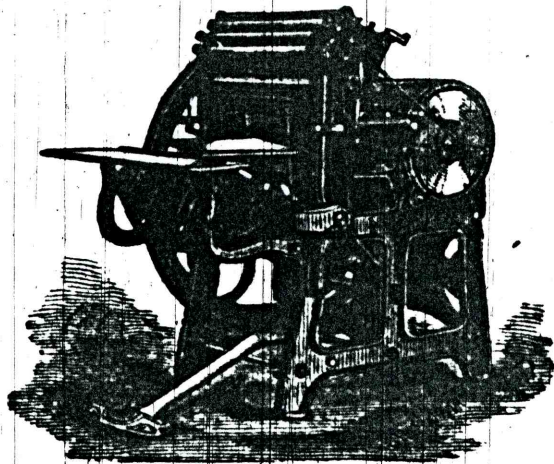
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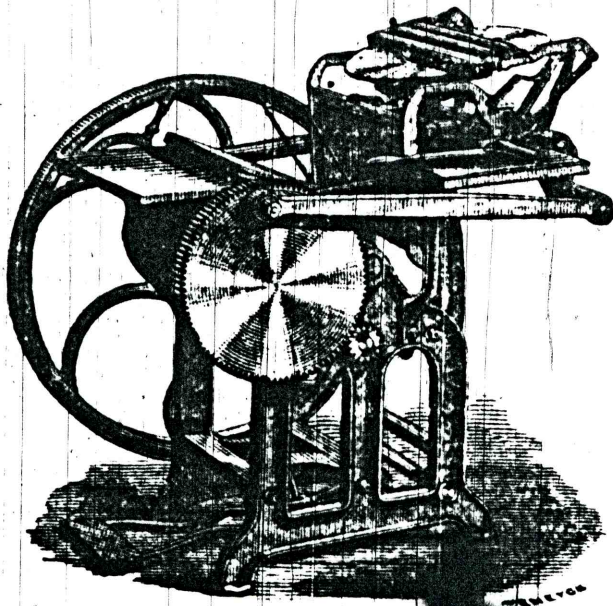
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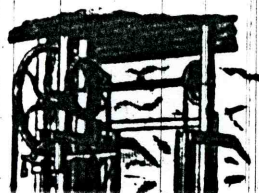
THE GORDON FRANKLIN.



Some think the large sizes of these presses are too frail for the heavy work sometimes required of them, but all agree that the small size for card, letter and bill-head work, envelopes, etc., beats them all. The operation of this machine is easy and simple, and its rate of speed equals the ability of the fastest feeder. The inking-rollers are at each operation thrown up to a revolving disc, where the color is distributed, instead of upon a cylinder, as in most job presses. The distribution of the ink is perfect, the im-

pression sharp and clear, and the gearing so arranged as to cause the platen to halt or stop for the accurate laying on of the sheet to be printed.

Between the basement of the building and the stories above easy communication is afforded by one of



J. W. REEDY'S ELEVATORS,

a machine which works to a charm, and is warranted to hoist 3,000 pounds safely and easily. Mr. Reedy has a factory on Illinois street, Chicago, and is the only western manufacturer who makes an article in this line

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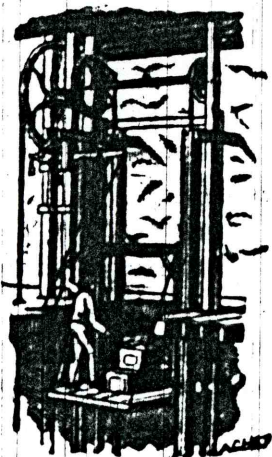
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as in most job presses. The distri-  
bution of the ink is perfect, the im-  
pression sharp and clear, and the gearing so arranged as to cause the platen  
to halt or stop for the accurate laying on of the sheet to be printed.

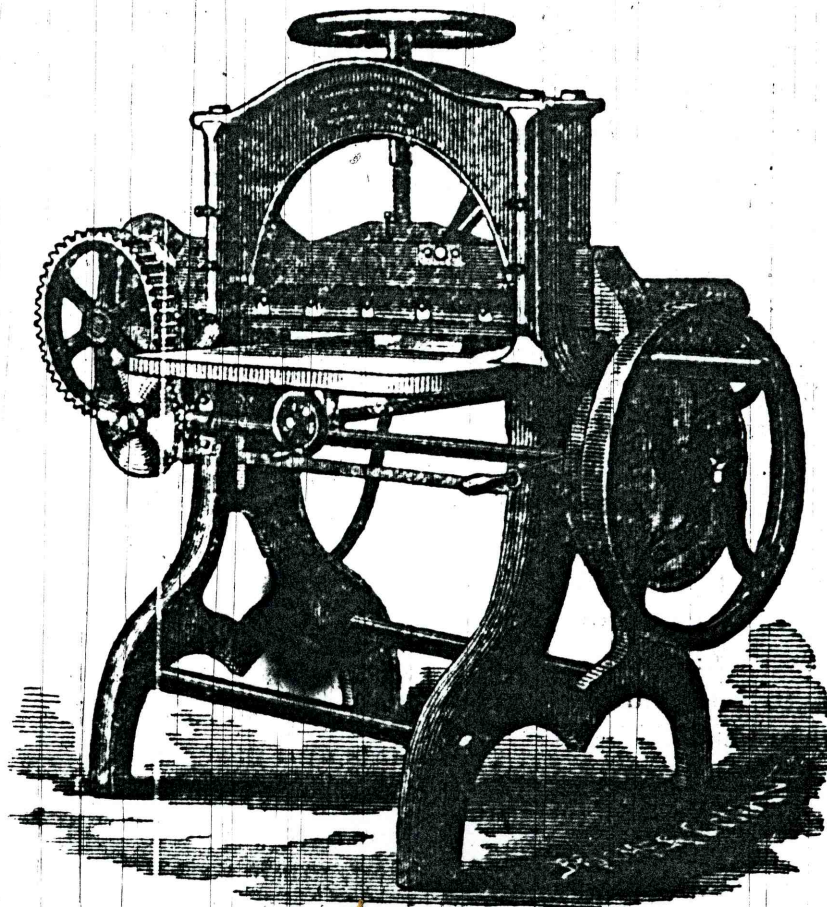
Between the basement of the building and the stories above easy com-  
munication is afforded by one of



#### J. W. REEDY'S ELEVATORS,

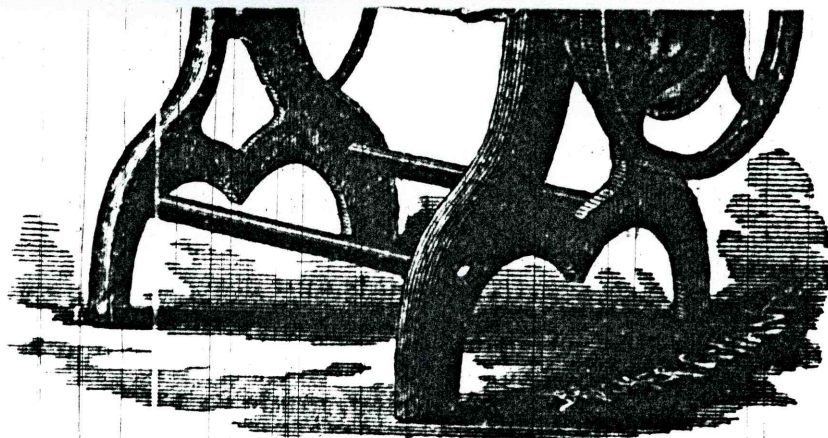
a machine which works to a charm, and is warranted to hoist 3,000 pounds safely and easily. Mr. Reedy has a factory on Illinois street, Chicago, and is the only western manufacturer who makes an article in this line worthy of use. His steam and hydraulic elevators are good, but it is conceded that his hand machines are so geared, balanced and arranged as to make them superior to any in this country. After a careful examination of several different styles we gave Reedy's machine the decided preference.

Arriving on the upper-floor we find the book-bindery and blank-book manufactory at the south end. In this department are many useful and interesting machines of which we have no illustrations, such as a paging-machine, by which books are paged, and checks, drafts, tickets, etc., numbered. With this the operator can page or number from one to one million. Here also is a ruling-machine, for ruling blank-books, paper, etc., to any desired form; also standing-presses, board-shears, and tools and implements by the score. One of the most interesting of these implements is a



CHAMPION PAPER-CUTTER,





#### CHAMPION PAPER-CUTTER,

a machine weighing about 2,500 pounds, and manufactured by Wm. G. Ely, Norwich, Conn. The paper to be cut is held down by a heavy iron clamp, operated by means of a screw through the arch, having a hand-wheel upon it, which is shown in the engraving. The balance-wheel at the right operates the knife, which will cut down through a pile of paper with as much ease as though it were slicing cheese. This cutter is very strong, well built, and operates in a manner highly satisfactory.

The central portion of the upper-floor is devoted to

#### THE JOB DEPARTMENT,

and the composition and arrangement of forms for the press-room below. Here are conveniently arranged wood and metal type, cuts, rules, borders, and everything necessary to turn out the best and most artistic job-printing. To this department new material is added from time to time, as new and taking styles of type are brought out.

#### THE NEWS-ROOM

is located in the northwest corner of the upper-floor, and in it are arranged the cases and stands at which are employed the compositors who set up the type for the paper. Here also are the large imposing-stones upon which the forms of the GAZETTE are made up preparatory to being sent to the regions below. The proof-reading is done in this room, also much of the editorial labor, and for this purpose desks and tables have been conveniently arranged. Indeed, the establishment is fitted up and arranged throughout with the view of giving the public the worth of their money, and supplying those who desire with the very best in our line. No matter whether it is a newspaper, job-printing or book-binding you want, we can serve you with the best, at reasonable rates, quickly and in good style.

Before closing we desire to say that, with the exception of one or two articles, the equipment of the office was purchased from S. P. Rounds, of 175 Monroe street, Chicago, who is the northwestern agent for the celebrated Johnson type foundry of Philadelphia, and who is not only an extensive, but a reliable dealer in every article necessary in fitting out a complete office. We have dealt with him for years, and can testify that he not only supplies the craft with the very best, but treats his patrons in a manner which wins their regard as well as their custom.