

## FOUNDERY.

They smoke the inside of the shell, by burning straw under it, that helps to smooth the surface of the bell. Then they put the shell in the place, so as to leave the same interval between that and the core; and before the hollows of the rings or the cap are put on again, they add two vents, that are united to the rings, and to each other, by a mass of baked cement. After which they put on this mass of the cap, the rings, and vents, over the shell, and solder it with thin cement, which is dried gradually by covering it with burning coals. Then they fill up the pit with earth, beating it strongly all the time, round the mould.

The furnace has a place for the fire, and another for the metal. The fire-place has a large chimney, with a spacious ash-hole: the furnace which contains the metal is vaulted, whose bottom is made of earth, rammed down; the rest is built with brick. It has four apertures; the first, through which the flame reverberates; the second is closed with a stopple, that is opened for the metal to run; the others are to separate the dross, or scoriae, of the metal by wooden rakes; through these last apertures passes the thick smoke. The ground of the furnace is built sloping, for the metal to run down. See Dict. Commerc. Eng. edit. art. FOUNDERY.

**FOUNDERY.** *Manner of casting great guns, or pieces of artillery.*—The casting of cannons, mortars, and other pieces of artillery, is performed much like that of statues and bells; especially as to what regards the wax, shell, and furnaces.

All pieces of artillery are now cast solid, and bored afterwards, by means of a machine invented at Straßburgh, (see *Boring of CANNON*), and much improved by Mr. Verbruggen, head founder at Woolwich. The gun to be bored was at first placed in a perpendicular position; but the machines used for this purpose have lately been made to bore horizontally, and much more exactly than those that bore in a vertical situation. Whilst the inside is bored, the outside is turned and polished at the same time.

As to the metal, it is somewhat different from both; as having a mixture of tin, which is not in that of statues; and only having half the quantity of tin that is in bells, *i. e.* at the rate of ten pound of tin to an hundred of copper. The respective quantities of different metals that should enter into the composition for brass cannon is not absolutely decided; the most common proportions of the ingredients are the following: *viz.* to 240lb. of metal fit for casting, they put 68lb. of copper, 25lb. of brass, and 12lb. of tin. To 4200lb. of metal fit for casting, the Germans put 3687 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of copper, 204 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of brass, and 307 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of tin. Others, again, use 100lb. of copper, 6lb. of brass, and 9lb. of tin; and lastly, others make use of 100lb. of copper, 10lb. of brass, and 15lb. of tin. See **CANNON**.

A cannon is always shaped a little conical, being thickest of metal at the breech, where the greatest effort of the gunpowder is made, and diminishing thence to the muzzle; so that if the mouth be two inches thick of metal, the breech is six. See **CANNON**.

Its length is measured in calibers, *i. e.* in diameters of the muzzle. Six inches at the muzzle require twenty calibers, or ten feet in length; there is always about the sixth of an inch allowed play for the ball. For the parts, and their respective proportions of different sorts of guns, see **CANNON** and **GUN**. The method of casting iron cannon differs very little from that of brass.

**FOUNDERY, Letter, or the method of casting printing Letters.**—The invention of printing letters we shall speak of under **PRINTING** and **LETTER**.

Their difference, kind, &c. have already been explained under the articles **CHARACTER**, &c.

In the business of cutting, casting, &c. letters for printing, the letter-cutter must be provided with a vice, hand-vice, hammers and files of all sorts for watch-makers' use; as also gravers and sculpters of all sorts, and an oil-stone, &c. suitable and sizeable to the several letters to be cut: a flat gauge made of box to hold a rod of steel, or the body of a mould, &c. exactly perpendicular to the flat of the using-file: a sliding gauge, whose use is to measure and set off distances between the shoulder and the tooth, and to mark it off from the end, or from the edge of the work; a face-gauge, which is a square notch cut with a file into the edge of a thin plate of steel, iron, or brass, of the thickness of a piece of common tin, whose use is to proportion the face of each sort of letter, *viz.* long letters, ascending letters, and short letters. So there must be three gauges, and the gauge for the long letters is the length of the whole body supposed to be divided into forty-two equal parts. The gauge for the ascending letters, Roman and Italic, are  $\frac{5}{2}$ , or 30 parts of 42, and 33 parts for the English face. The gauge for the short letters is  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 18 parts of 42 of the whole body for the Roman and Italic, and 22 parts for the English face.

The Italic and other standing gauges are to measure the scope of the Italic stems, by applying the top and bottom of the gauge to the top and bottom lines of the letters, and the other side of the gauge to the stem; for when the letter complies with these three sides of the gauge, that letter has its true shape.

The next care of the letter-cutter is to prepare good steel punches, well-tempered, and quite free from all veins of iron; on the face of which he draws or marks the exact shape of the letter, with pen and ink, if the letter be large; or with a smooth blunted point of a needle, if it be small; and then with sizeable and proper shaped and pointed gravers and sculpters, digs or sculps out the steel between the strokes or marks he made on the face of the punch, and leaves the marks standing on the face. Having well shaped the inside strokes of his letter, he deepens the hollows with the same tools: for if a letter be not deep in proportion to its width, it will, when used at press, print black, and be good for nothing. This work is generally regulated by the depth of the counter-punch. Then he works the outside with proper files till it be fit for the matrice.

But before we proceed to the sinking and justifying of the matrices, we must provide a mould to justify them by, of which you have a draught in *Plate XV. Miscellany, figs. 2, 3.*

Every mould is composed of an upper and an under part. The under part is delineated in *fig. 2.* The upper part is marked *fig. 3.* and is in all respects made like the under part, excepting the stool behind, and the bow, or spring, also behind; and excepting a small roundish wire between the body and carriage, near the break where the under part hath a small rounding groove made in the body. This wire, or rather half-wire, in the upper part, makes the nick in the flank of the letter, when part of it is received into the groove in the under part. These two parts are so exactly fitted and gauged into one another (*viz.* the male gauge, marked *c* in *fig. 3.* into the female marked *g* in *fig. 2.*) that when the upper part of the mould is properly placed on, and in the under part of the mould, both together, make the entire mould, and may be slid backwards for use so far, till the edge of either of the bodies on the middle of either carriage comes just to the edge of the female gauges, cut in each carriage: and they may be slid for-

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wards so far, till the bodies on either carriage touch each other: and the sliding of these two parts of the mould backwards makes the shank of the letter thicker, because the bodies in each part stand wider asunder, and the sliding them forwards makes the shank of the letter thinner, because the bodies on each part of the mould stand closer together.

The parts of the mould are as follow: *viz.*

- a The carriage.
- b The body.
- c The male gauge.
- d e The mouth-piece.
- f i The register.
- g The female gauge.
- h The hag.
- a a a a The bottom plate.
- b b b The wood, on which the bottom plate lies.
- c c c The mouth.
- d d The throat.
- e d d The pallet.
- f The nick.
- g g The stool.
- b b The spring or bow.

Then the mould must be justified: and first the founder justifies the body, by casting about twenty proofs or samples of letters, which are set in a composing stick, with all their nicks towards the right hand; and then by comparing these with the pattern letters, set up in the same manner, he finds the exact measure of the body to be cast. He also tries if the two sides of the body are parallel, or that the body be no bigger at the head than at the foot; by taking half the number of his proofs, and turning them with their heads to the feet of the other half; and if then the heads and the feet be found exactly even upon each other, and neither to drive out nor get in, the two sides may be pronounced parallel. He farther tries whether the two sides of the thickness of the letter be parallel by first setting his proofs in the composing stick with their nicks upwards; and then turning one-half with their heads to the feet of the other half: and if the heads and feet lie exactly upon each other, and neither drive out nor get in, the two sides of the thickness are parallel.

The mould thus justified: the next business is to prepare the matrices. A matrix is a piece of brass or copper of about an inch and a half long, and of a thickness in proportion to the size of the letter it is to contain. In this metal is sunk the face of the letter intended to be cast, by striking the letter punch about the depth of an n. After this the sides and face of the matrix must be justified and cleared, with files, of all bunnings made by sinking the punch.

Every thing thus prepared, it is brought to the furnace, which is built of brick upright, with four square sides, and a stone on the top, in which stone is a wide round hole for the pan to stand in. A foundery of any consequence has several of these furnaces in it.

As to the metal of which the types are to be cast, this, in extensive founderies, is always prepared in large quantities; but cast into small bars of about twenty pounds weight to be delivered out to the workmen as occasion requires. In the letter foundery which has been long carried on with reputation, under the direction of Dr. Alexander Wilson, and sons, at Glasgow, we are informed, that a stock of metal is made up at two different times of the year, sufficient to serve the casters at the furnace for six months each time. For this purpose a

large furnace is built under a shade, furnished with a wheel vent, in order the more equally to heat the sides of a strong pot of cast iron, which holds, when full, fifteen hundred weight of the metal. The fire being kindled below, the bars of lead are let softly down into the pot, and their fusion promoted by throwing in some pitch and tallow, which soon inflame. An outer chimney, which is built so as to project about a foot over the farthest lip of the pot, catches hold of the flame by a strong draught, and makes it act very powerfully in melting lead; whilst it serves at the same time to convey away all the fumes, &c. from the workmen, to whom this laborious part of the business is committed. When the lead is thoroughly melted, a due proportion of the regulus of antimony and other ingredients are put in, and some more tallow is inflamed, to make the whole incorporate sooner. The workmen now having mixed the contents of the pot very thoroughly, by stirring long with a large iron ladle, next proceed to draw the metal off into the small troughs of cast iron which are ranged, to the number of fourscore, upon a level platform, faced with stone, built towards the right hand. In the course of a day fifteen hundred weight of metal can be easily prepared in this manner; and the operation is continued for as many days as are necessary to prepare a stock of metal, of all the various degrees of hardness. After this the whole is disposed into presses, according to its quality, to be delivered out occasionally to the workmen.

The founder must be now provided with a ladle, which differs nothing from other iron ladles, but in its size. And he is provided always with ladles of several sizes, which he uses according to the size of the letter he is to cast. Before the caster begins to cast, he must kindle his fire in the furnace to melt the metal in the pan. Therefore he takes the pan out of the hole in the stone, and there lays in coals and kindles them; and, when they are well kindled, he sets the pan in again and puts in metal into it to melt; if it be a small bodied letter he casts, or a thin letter of great bodies, his metal must be very hot; nay sometimes red-hot, to make the letter come. Then having chosen a ladle that will hold about so much as the letter and break is, he lays it at the stoking hole, where the flame bursts out, to heat. Then he ties a thin leather, cut with its narrow end against the face to the leather groove of the matrix, by whipping a brown thread twice about the leather-groove, and fastening the thread with a knot. Then he puts both halves of the mould together, and puts the matrix into the matrix-cheek, and places the foot of the matrix on the stool of the mould, and the broad end of the leather upon the wood of the upper half of the mould, but not tight up, lest it might hinder the foot of the matrix from sinking close down upon the stool in a train of work. Then laying a little rosin on the upper-wood of the mould, and having his casting-ladle hot, he with the boiling side of it melts the rosin: and, when it is yet melted, presses the broad end of the leather hard down on the wood, and so fastens it to the wood: all this is the preparation.

Now he comes to casting. Wherefore placing the under half of the mould in his left hand with the hook or hag forward, he clutches the ends of its wood between the lower part of the ball of his thumb and his three hind fingers; then he lays the upper half of the mould upon the under half, so that the male gauges may fall into the female gauges, and at the same time the foot of the matrix places itself upon the stool; and, clasping his left hand

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hand thumb strong over the upper half of the mould he nimbly catches hold of the bow or spring with his right hand fingers at the top of it, and his thumb under it, and places the point of it against the middle of the notch in the backside of the matrice, pressing it as well forwards towards the mould, as downwards, by the shoulder, of the notch close upon the stool, while at the same time with his hinder fingers, as aforesaid, he draws the under half of the mould towards the ball of his thumb, and thrusts by the ball of his thumb the upper part towards his fingers, that both the registers of the mould may press against both sides of the matrice, and his thumb and fingers press both halves of the mould close together.

Then he takes the handle of his ladle in his right hand, and with the boll of it gives a stroke, two or three, outwards upon the surface of the melted metal, to scum or clear it from the film or dust that may swim upon it; then takes up the ladle full of metal, and having his mould, as aforesaid, in his left hand, he a little twists the left side of his body from the furnace, and brings the geat of his ladle (full of metal) to the mouth of the mould, and twists the upper part of his right hand towards him to turn the metal into it, while at the same moment of time he jilts the mould in his left hand forwards, to receive the metal with a strong shake (as it is called); not only into the bodies of the mould, but while the metal is yet hot running, swiftly and strongly, into the very face of the matrice, to receive its perfect form there, as well as in the shank.

Then he takes the upper half of the mould off the under half, by placing his right hand thumb on the end of the wood next his left hand thumb, and his two middle-fingers at the other end of the wood; and finding the letter and break lie in the under half of the mould, (as most commonly by reason of its weight it does,) he throws or tosses the letter, break and all, upon a sheet of waste paper laid for that purpose on the bench, just a little beyond his left hand, and is then ready to cast another letter as before; and also, the whole number that is to be cast with that matrice.

A workman will ordinarily cast about three thousand of these letters in a day.

When the casters at the furnace have got a sufficient number of types upon the tables, a set of boys come, and nimbly break away the jets from them: the jets are thrown into the pots, and the types are carried away in parcels to other boys, who pass them swiftly under their fingers, defended by leather, upon smooth flat stones, in order to polish their broad-sides. This is a very dextrous operation, and is a remarkable instance of what may be effected by the power of habit and long practice; for these boys, in turning up the other side of the type, do it so quickly by a mere touch of the fingers of the left hand, as not to require the least perceptible intermission in the motion of the right hand upon the stone. The types, thus finely smoothed and flattened on the broad-sides, are next carried to another set of boys, who sit at a square table, two on each side, and there are ranged up on long rulers, or sticks, fitted with a small projection, to hinder them from sliding off backwards. When these sticks are so filled, they are placed, two and two, upon a set of wooden pins fixed into the wall, near the dresser, sometimes to the amount of a hundred, in order to undergo the finishing operations. This workman, who is always the most expert and skilful in all the different branches carried on at the foundery, begins by taking one of these sticks, and, with a peculiar address, slides the whole column of types off upon the dressing-stick: this is made of

well-seasoned mahogany, and furnished with two end-pieces of steel, a little lower than the body of the types, one of which is moveable, so as to approach the other by means of a long screw-pin, inserted in the end of the stick. The types are put into this stick with their faces next to the back or projection; and after they are adjusted to one another so as to stand even when they are bound up, by screwing home the moveable end-piece. It is here where the great and requisite accuracy of the moulds comes to be perceived; for in this case the whole column, so bound up, lies flat and true upon the stick, the two extreme types being quite parallel, and the whole has the appearance of one solid continuous plate of metal. The least inaccuracy in the exact parallelism of the individual type, when multiplied so many times, would render it impossible to bind them up in this manner, by disposing them to rise or spring from the stick by the smallest pressure from the screw. Now, when lying so conveniently with the narrow edges uppermost, which cannot possibly be smoothed in the manner before mentioned by the stones, the workman does this more effectually by scraping the surface of the column with a thick-edged but sharp razor, which at every stroke brings on a very fine smooth skin, like to polished silver; and thus he proceeds till in about half a minute he comes to the farther end of the stick. The other edges of the types are next turned upwards, and polished in the same manner. It is whilst the types thus lie in the dressing-stick that the operation of bearding or barbing is performed, which is effected by running a plane, faced with steel, along the shoulder of the body next to the face, which takes more or less off the corner, as occasion may require. Whilst in the dressing-stick they are also grooved, which is a very material operation. In order to understand this, it must be remembered, that when the types are first broken off from the jets, some superfluous metal always remains, which would make them bear very unequally against the paper whilst under the printing-press, and effectually mar the impression. That all these inequalities may, therefore, be taken away, and that the bearings of every type may be regulated by the shoulders imparted to them all alike from the mould, the workman or dresser proceeds in the following manner. The types being screwed up in the stick, as before mentioned, with the jet-end outermost, and projecting beyond the wood about one eighth of an inch, the stick is put into an open press, so as to present the jet-end uppermost, and then every thing is made fast by driving a long wedge, which bears upon a slip of wood, which lies close to the types the whole length: then a plough or plane is applied, which is so constructed as to embrace the projecting part of the types betwixt its long sides, which are made of polished iron. When the plane is thus applied, the steel cutter bearing upon that part between the shoulders of the types, where the inequalities lie, the dresser dextrously glides it along, and by this means strips off every irregular part that comes in the way, and so makes an uniform groove the whole length, and leaves the two shoulders standing; by which means every type becomes precisely like to another, as to the height against paper. The types being now finished, the stick is taken out of the press, and the whole column replaced upon the other stick; and after the whole are so dressed, he proceeds to pick out the bad letters, previously to putting them up into pages and papers. In doing this he takes the stick into his left hand, and turning the faces near to the light, he examines them carefully, and whenever an imperfect or damaged letter occurs, he nimbly plucks it out with a sharp bodkin, which he holds in the right hand for that purpose. Those letters which, from their form, project over the body

of

of the type; and which cannot on this account be rubbed on the stones, are scraped on the broad-sides with a knife or file, and some of the metal next the face pared away with a pen-knife, in order to allow the type to come close to any other. This operation is called kerning.

The excellence of printing types consists not only in the due performance of all the operations above described, but also in the hardness of the metal, form, and fine proportion of the character, and in the exact bearing and ranging of the letters in relation to one another.

**FOUNDERY, Military.** Under the several appropriate heads, we have furnished information regarding the several kinds of foundery necessary to the establishment of that variety of professions, wherein castings of different kinds, whether in metal, wax, plaster, &c. are desiderata: we now have to offer a few remarks on such as appertain more particularly to the supply of our arsenals.

The casting of cannon, shot, &c. was, until about half a century ago, considered an arduous undertaking; and so little were the fundamental principles of the art understood, that we are assured not one in three of the shells cast for the mortar service could be admitted into the stores. Such have been the improvements made, that thousands of articles, which used to be from necessity made of wrought iron, are now to be had from the founderies at less than one-fifth of their former prices; while the material itself has been so highly perfected, that instances have been known of cast-iron being sufficiently soft to bear the file, and sufficiently ductile to undergo the hammer. Such, indeed, could not be done but at considerable expence; nor does it appear that much good could result in general. With respect to military apparatus, it is found expedient to have the whole of our cannon, mortars, carronades, shot, shells, and garison gun-carriages, cast at the several founderies established in the vicinity of coal and iron mines; whereby the work is done at comparatively a low expence, and the articles can be conveyed by water to the warren at Woolwich much under the prices at which they could be cast at the place, to which both the iron and the coals must be transported.

The French have, since the commencement of the revolution, shewn what may be effected in this branch of military economy, by a people determined to overcome every difficulty, and to apply their resources, whether public or private, towards national purposes. It is a well ascertained fact, that in several of the departments of France, from which the trains of artillery, together with the several stores appertaining to them, had been withdrawn, the people supplied their national guards with field-pieces cast in small temporary founderies, where the furnaces were rarely equal to heating more than from twenty to thirty pounds of bell-metal, &c. of which the sacred edifices, &c. throughout the country had been stripped. By a due combination of the whole, very serviceable cannon, and especially howitzers, which seem to be a favourite species of artillery among the French, were thus supplied.

Though it must be admitted that a foundery suited to casting cannon, of any description, could not be attached to the ordnance department of armies serving out of the kingdom, we are inclined to hazard the opinion, that small laboratory furnaces, adequate to the casting of shot and grape, but especially of musket balls, might be annexed thereto. In some instances, when the stock of grape-shot has been expended, it has become necessary to make case-shot of musket balls, whereby the infantry have been very ill supplied with ammunition. If, in such instances, portable furnaces, and crucibles, together with proper moulds, have

been at hand, (for the whole might be conveyed in a wagon, or perhaps in a cart,) abundance of refuse iron could have been formed into grape-shot; and there would have been no scarcity of musket ammunition.

Nor can we see any objection to the supply of proper materials for establishing founderies, suited to casting field-pieces, being shipped with extensive armaments proceeding on foreign service; since the space they would occupy must be far less than is required for that immense quantity of stores necessarily sent to places where no foundery exists. Hence tonnage, time, and treasure, are often lavishly expended. The casting of shot and shells, in such situations, would generally prove easy, and liberate many a transport from the conveyance of such dead-weight, as not only precludes the supply of other equally necessary stores, but, in many instances, risks, or even causes, a total loss.

**FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.** See *Foundling Hospital*.

**FOUN-HING**, in *Geography*, a town of China, of the second rank, in the province of Fo-kien; 175 miles E.S.E. of Peking. N. lat. 26° 54'. E. long. 119° 49'.

**FOUN-IM**, a town of China, of the third rank, in the province of Pe-tche-li; 20 miles E. of Young-ping.

**FOUNT**, or **FONT**, among *Printers*, &c. a set, or quantity, of characters, or letters, of each kind, cast by a letter-founder, and sorted.

We say, a founder has cast a fount of pica, of English, of pearl, &c. meaning that he has cast a set of characters of these kinds.

A complete fount does not only include the running letter, but also majuscules, or large and small capitals, single letters, double letters, points, commas, lines, borders, head-pieces, tail-pieces, and numeral characters.

Founts are large or small, according to the demand of the printer, who orders them by the hundred weight, or by sheets. When the printer orders a fount of five hundred, he means that the fount should weigh five hundred pounds. When he demands a fount of ten sheets, it is understood, that with that fount he shall be able to compose ten sheets, or twenty forms, without being obliged to distribute. The founder takes his measures accordingly: he reckons a hundred and twenty pounds for a sheet, including the quadrates, &c. or sixty pounds for a form, which is half a sheet: not that the sheet always weighs a hundred and twenty pounds, or the form sixty pounds; on the contrary, it varies according to the size of the form; besides, it is always supposed that there are letters left in the cases.

The letter-founders have a kind of list, or tariff, whereby they regulate their founts: the occasion of which is, that some letters being in much more use, and oftener repeated, than others, their cells, or cases, should be better filled and stored, than those of the letters which do not return so frequently.

Thus the *o*, and *i*, for instance, are always in greater quantity than the *k*, or *z*.

This difference will be best perceived from a proportional comparison of those letters with themselves, or some others. Suppose a fount of a hundred thousand characters, which is a common fount: here the *a* should have five thousand; the *c*, three thousand; the *e*, eleven thousand; the *i*, six thousand; the *m*, three thousand; the *k*, only thirty; and the *x*, *y*, and *z*, not many more. But this is only to be understood of the letters of the lower case; those of the upper case having other proportions, which it would be here too long to insist on.

**FOUNTAIN**, **FONS**, in *Philosophy*, a spring, or source, of water, rising out of the ground.

For

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