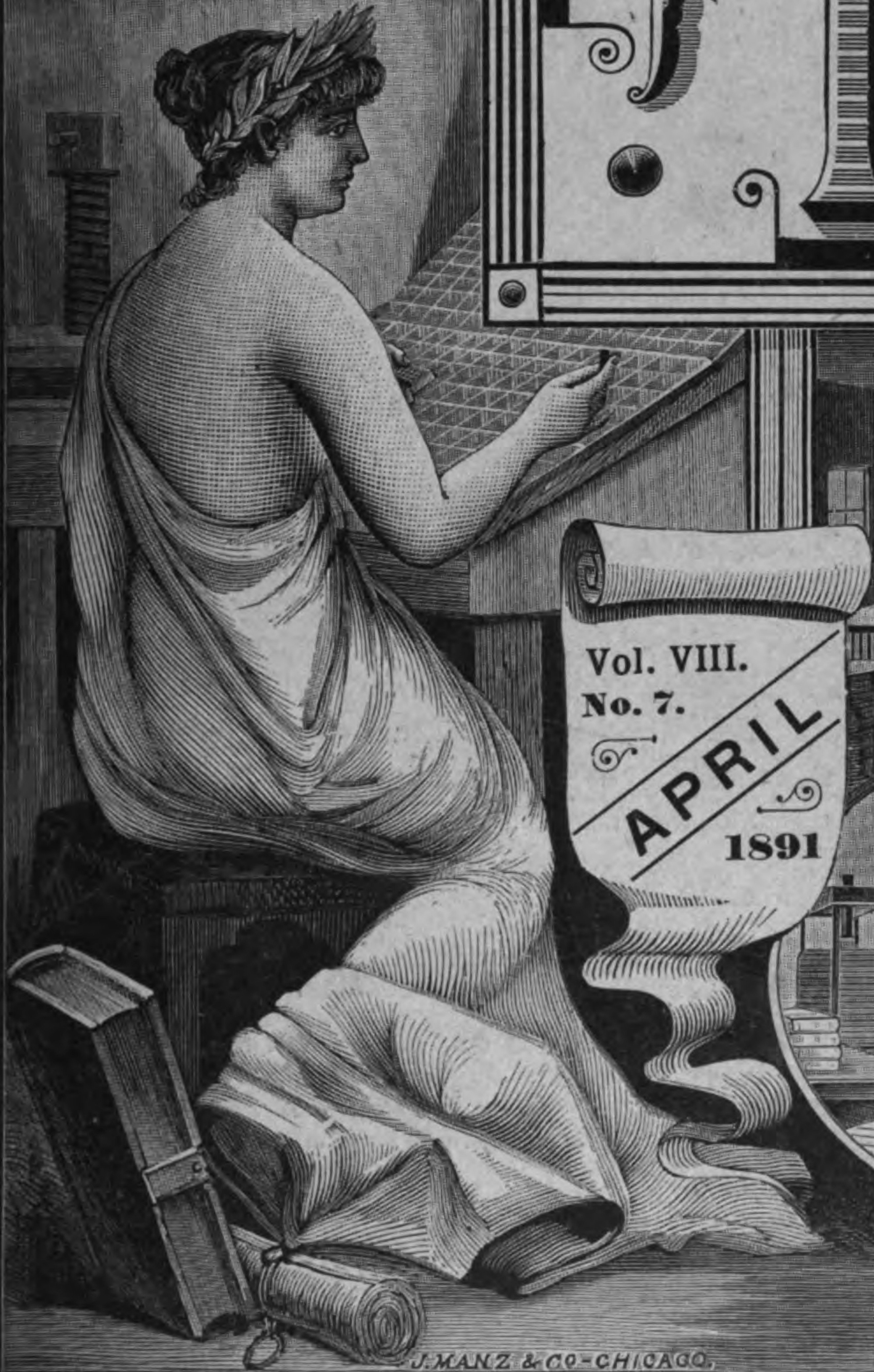


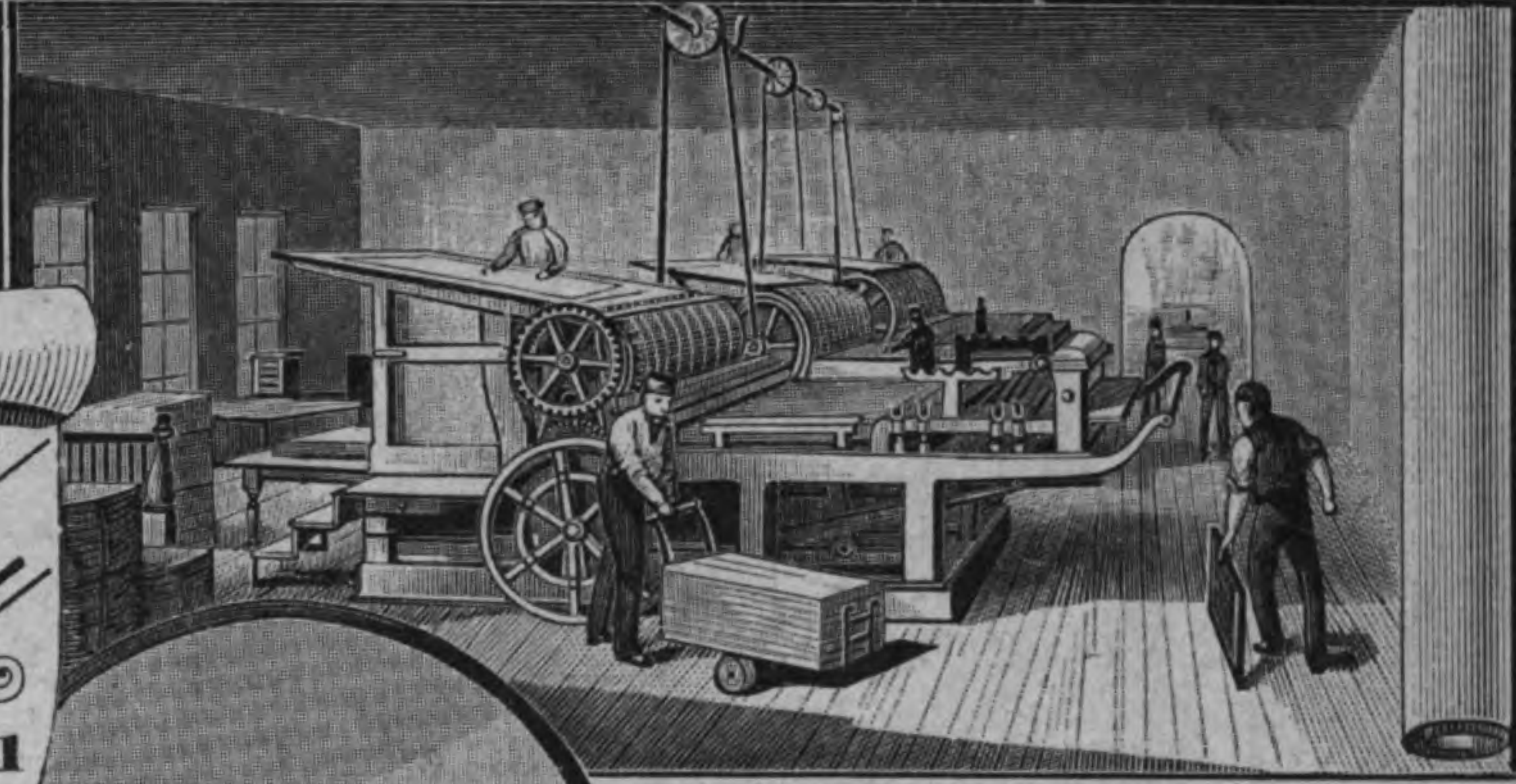
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# The INLAND PRINTER



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## THE TYPEFOUNDRIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

NO. III.—THE CENTRAL TYPEFOUNDRY, ST. LOUIS.

Prominent among the manufacturing and business houses of St. Louis is the Central Typefoundry, situated on the southeast corner of Fourth and Elm streets. It is a new building five stories high, with a frontage of fifty feet on Fourth street, and is provided with every facility for conducting an extensive and constantly increasing business.

As they feel perfectly comfortable and content in their quarters, an outline description of them and what they contain may be of interest to our readers.

In the basement is a fifty-horse power boiler, which furnishes steam for the engines and heaters, and a thirty-horse power engine furnishes power for all the floors. Two elevators, each having its separate engine, communicate with every floor, and facilitate the handling of freight. The building extends from Fourth street to an alley one hundred and fifty feet, and all goods are shipped from the back doors of the basement, which is on a level with the alley. In the basement are also stored the different metals used in the composition of their unexcelled and world-renowned "copper alloy."

The first floor is devoted to office and salesroom. It is handsomely fitted up, and most convenient for the display and sale of all articles required by printers. Here, on shelves and compartments is stored an immense stock of types, borders, cuts, ornaments, rules, etc., of their own manufacture and from other foundries, arranged for the greatest facility in filling orders. A full assortment of inks, bronzes and varnishes, is also placed within easy reach, as are all other articles required in the outfit of a well-appointed printing office. Speaking tubes and a dumb-waiter connect with all the floors, giving quick communication between the office and salesroom, and the employes in their manufacturing departments. Their immense salesroom is thoroughly lighted, producing a comfortable and cheery effect, in addition to displaying goods to the best advantage.

The second floor is used as a stockroom. It is fifty by one hundred and fifty feet and contains a large display of cabinets, stands, cylinder presses, paper cutters, and printers' machinery of all kinds.

On the third floor is the electrotpe and stereotype foundry, the largest and most complete and commodious in the Southwest; also the brass rule department, and the department for the finishing of brass type for bookbinders' use; likewise the department for the manufacturing of brass galleys, leads and slugs.

On the fourth floor—fifty by one hundred and fifty feet in area, lighted by large windows on all sides, and conveniently arranged throughout—is the finishing and dressing department. In this room all their type is given the finishing touches—rubbing, setting, dressing, picking and paging. The finished type is then taken to the dividing department, where it is separated into fonts and put up in wrappers for the salesroom, to which it is then transferred. In this dividing the strictest attention is paid to giving the proper proportions of the various characters to each font, and their system has been so perfected that errors in the putting up of fonts are almost impossible.

On the same floor are the fire and burglar proof safes, which contain an extensive and valuable collection of matrices, the increasing number of which has necessitated the purchase of several new safes of larger capacity. The engraving and punch-

cutting department, in which their beautiful original patented faces are produced under the hands of skillful and artistic designers and engravers, is situated on the fourth floor, as is also the matrix-making department, in which superior workmen are engaged in following up the work begun by the engravers, in the process of getting out the new styles of type for the novelty, beauty and utility of which the Central Typefoundry has achieved such a world-wide reputation. As all the matrices have to be made to withstand the intense wearing action of the "copper alloy" metal in casting—against which the ordinary matrices of other foundries cannot hold out—this is in itself a very costly branch of the business, requiring superior methods and more than usual skill on the part of the matrix-makers.

On the same floor is also the specimen department and printing office, from which emanate the *Printers' Register* and the books, pamphlets and cards which are issued from time to time. Here the cases are well stocked with all their new designs in type, and orders for sorts from these are filled immediately. In the printing of the specimen sheets they use the same type as is sold from their shelves, no better care being exercised to cast more perfect type for their own use than is cast for their customers.

The office of the superintendent of the manufacturing departments of the foundry is on this floor, being neatly fitted up and in convenient position to oversee all work under his charge.

On the fifth floor is the casting department, where they have now thirty-five machines, including the wonderful Foucher French type casting and finishing machine, all of which are supplied with the improvements which they have found it necessary to make on the old-style casting machine, in order to enable them to use their metal, the "copper alloy."

Near the casting machines are placed the tables of the "breakers," who break off the jet formed at the foot of large type during the casting process. A large force of girls are employed at this work, as well as in that of rubbing, setting and paging on the floor below.

On this floor are four large furnaces for casting brass type. The Central is the only foundry in America casting brass type, and is now

not only supplying the bookbinders of America, but does a large export business with England and Australia. The demand for "copper alloy" type and patent faces abroad has compelled them to establish agencies in England and Australia, and in both countries the "Central" does a large and increasing business.

On the fifth floor is also the metal-mixing department, where every pound of the famous "copper alloy" is compounded. This is a process requiring the closest attention, and peculiarly is this the case with their metal, in order to have the proper proportions and the proper methods carried out. The proportions of the different metals in the "copper alloy," and the secret of combining them are known only to them.

On the fifth floor is the machinists' department, where superior casting machines, molds, etc., are constructed under the hands of the most skillful workmen. In each division of their foundry they have endeavored to obtain machines and tools which combine labor-saving qualities with the ability to turn out superior products. We believe that they have been successful and have secured the best facilities for obtaining the highest results.

A cordial invitation is extended to visitors to inspect their new building and look through the various departments, of which they are justly proud, being satisfied that when their inspection is over they will be convinced that the ability of the "Central" to furnish the best of everything wanted in a printing office is unsurpassed.

