

age of fourteen he entered his father's shop to learn the wheelwright's trade. For three years he was engaged in this employment, when a former suggestion of his father, that he should be a printer, grew on his mind, and the superior facilities afforded by this occupation to increase his stores of knowledge, induced him to abandon the work-bench for the printing case. His first engagement in the gentle craft was in the office of the Franklin Post and Christian Freeman, at Greenfield, at the age of seventeen, where he was regularly apprenticed, May 24, 1825. Two months after this engagement, occurred an incident that showed he had found his right vocation. One of the neighboring papers boasted as a great feat the setting up in one day of 7520 ems by an apprentice in its office, who had been but two months and ten days in the business. At the urgent request of one of his fellow workmen, Munsell, at the same period of his apprenticeship, undertook to compete with his brother craftsman, and surpassed him by about 600 ems. The next year he was foreman in the office, and had the sole responsibility in getting out the paper, as the editor knew nothing of the practical part of the business beyond furnishing copy. On account of some difficulty in the office, Munsell left the Post, Dec. 7, 1826, and engaged on the Gazette, printed in the same village. John Denio, its editor and proprietor, sold his interest in this paper in April, 1827, and established a bookstore in Albany, engaging Munsell as clerk and manager of the business. In this city he arrived May 2, 1827.

Albany at that time was in a transition state, when the customs of the old Dutch inhabitants were yielding to New England influences, and New England incomers were gaining a foothold in business and in political and social distinction. Few emigrants from the Emerald Isle could have been here at that time, since it was a common occurrence for the boys on the 17th of March to drag an effigy of St. Patrick through the muddy streets. The negroes at this period were in the habit of celebrating the anniversary of their freedom on the 5th of July.

In November, 1827, he left the bookstore to work on the National Observer, then published by another veteran printer, Solomon Southwick. This engagement was but a temporary one, for after a month we find him in the office of the Masonic Record, where he worked two days in the week at \$2.00 a day. To occupy the time not devoted to the Record, he determined on issuing a newspaper himself. In one day, along the principal business street, North and South Market, now Broadway, he procured one hundred and fifty subscribers; purchased a small font of types, and prepared for business. This paper was called the Albany Minerva, and was published semi-monthly, on a half sheet folded as a royal octavo. The composition was done in a back room of Mr. Denio's bookstore, the use of which was paid by his attendance on customers while the clerk was absent at dinner. The paper was worked off at night on a Ramage press,