GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Washington, D. C.
In this age of multiplied books, with a newspaper in almost every village in the land, the temptation to "appear in print" is liable to assail any of the readers of these pages, and we deem it fitting to give a few hints, of a general character, on the subject of writing for the press. Circumstances are likely to occur in every community which will lead to the expression of opinion or the statement of facts through the columns of a public journal, and he who understands the art of expressing himself in writing, and of preparing his copy for the printer, has an immense advantage over one who is not thus equipped.

The first point to be considered in preparing an article for the press is the importance of thoroughly understanding the subject concerning which you wish to write. Brevity of expression is of the utmost importance, and this is best secured by knowing what to say. He whose ideas are poorly defined in his own mind, will take twice as many words to express himself, as the one who clearly understands the matter about which he wishes to write. Study for a form of expression that will convey the ideas in your mind, and in the fewest words consistent with clearness.

Avoid repetitions, except in rare instances, for the sake of emphasis. As a rule, a point once clearly stated loses force by repetition, as it leaves the impression on the mind