

## INTRODUCTORY.

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THE making of a Directory is a thankless task, at best. The unlucky compiler, while reviled for the mistakes which occur, rarely receives credit for that which is good. The man who discovers an error, allows that fact to outweigh, in his mind, any positive benefit which he has received, and the book is incontinently "damned,"—and not with "faint praise," either. And yet, how many ever stop to think of the difficulties in the way of accuracy which are actually overcome? Did you, reader, never find yourself thinking one thing, and actually doing the opposite of what you intended? Did you never become conscious of the fact that the members which give expression to thought, do not obey readily and implicitly the directing force,—the brain? Did you never find your tongue speaking, or your hand writing, the contrary of that which was in your mind? If you are so fortunately constituted as never to have experienced this failing, you can not duly estimate the difficulties under which the "Directory-man" labors. To this one constitutional defect is due nine-tenths of the mistakes in Directories; and long experience has not yet found a means of overcoming it. To illustrate the process by which a name and address can be transformed, say that we have

"Clason Leora, teacher 2d district school, res. 455 Spring."

The man who takes the name starts the mischief by getting the surname "Clausen," and turning the somewhat unusual given name into what seems to be more in keeping, "Lena;" the lady who keeps the boarding house, with her mind on a possibly burning dinner, assenting to all his suggestive inquiries. Yet each would be willing to declare that the utmost pains had been taken. Then the intelligent compositor takes a hand. The handwriting is a trifle "mixed," and "2d" becomes "12th," while absent-mindedly the figures of the address are transposed, and become "554." The proof-reader should cor-

rect at least a portion of these errors; but just at that point the tension of his brain is relaxed, he allows a momentary thought of Appleton's struggle for the base-ball pennant to creep into his mind, and although seeing the forms of the letters, he is oblivious to the copy-holder's tones. So, in all its enormity, the name appears, utterly subverted from its intent :

"Clausen Lena, teacher 12th dist. school, res. 554 Spring."

Her best friend couldn't recognize her under that guise ; and the publisher is tempted to use an adjective not polite when attention is drawn thereto. The illustration is not strained. Such things occur so frequently as make absolute correctness seem, to the long-suffering compiler, a goal to be striven for hopelessly. So, if you are inclined to judge the result harshly, charitably give to the compilers the benefit of a doubt, and extend to them credit for the "good intentions" which are, in this case, rather more than mere paving-stones for the abode of the fallen.

With this premise, our third Appleton Directory is submitted. While it shows only a small increase over the last book, there is still a gain. The population indicated is about 13,000.

THE PUBLISHER.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NAMES IN THE WORK.

	1891.		1891.
A.....	100	O.....	64
B.....	566	P.....	302
C.....	246	Q.....	3
D.....	219	R.....	283
E.....	71	S.....	714
F.....	198	T.....	137
G.....	28	U.....	44
H.....	393	V.....	92
I.....	6	W.....	395
J.....	113	X.....	0
K.....	445	Y.....	13
L.....	260	Z.....	50
M.....	512		—
N.....	130		5,636