sizes require much more time, the first on account of the care requisite, and the latter to allow of the setting of the metal.

The types are now removed from the caster’s table by a boy, who strikes off the knob at the bottom, caused by the superfluous metal at the orifice of the mould. A workman next rubs the sides of each letter upon a slab of very gritty stone (his fingers being guarded by a piece of leather), which removes any small knobs or globules attached to the sides or edges. This is done with great rapidity, from 1500 to 2000 letters being rubbed in an hour. The letters are then set up in a long stick, and again dressed, and the bottom grooved, by which exact height is insured; and the fount being then pro­portioned, is tied up, and is ready for the printer.

The matrix for very large type is differently prepared, the nicety of the punch-cutter’s art not being required. The letter having been accurately shaped out by rule and compass upon a piece of copper or brass, the part so mark­ed out is cut away, care being taken to cut the back some­what wider than the front, the sloping edge forming the shoulder of the future type. The piece of brass now very much resembles the plates used for stencilling the large headings of legal forms : it is next riveted upon a smooth surface of brass, which forms the face of the letter.

There is a peculiarity in script type which is deserving of mention. Script being an imitation of hand-writing, it is necessary that the fine strokes at the beginning and end of each letter should be in close contact with those of the preceding and succeeding letters. This M. Didot en­deavoured to achieve by a very curious shape in the type, by which each should so lock in with the other that the required contact should not fail ; but he carried his inven­tion beyond the power of practice, for having resolved the characters into their component parts, he cast a series of signs exactly resembling the “ pothooks and hangers” of a schoolboy’s copy-book, so that not only was every word to be composed, but every letter :

The English founders soon improved upon this idea, cast­ing each letter complete. This however requires several letters to be cast in several forms, the initial, medial, and final letters not being always quite alike. The following will give an idea of how script is cast and composed:

Most of the English type-founders, aware of the practical defects of this method, have, by a careful adjustment of the fine strokes at the beginning and end of each letter, cut founts upon the ordinary square body, which answer every purpose. From the nature of the metal, however, and its liability to wear and become battered, script is an expen­sive fount. (b. d.)

TYPOGRAPHY, the art of printing. See PRINTING.

TYRANT, among the ancients, denoted simply a king or monarch ; but the ill use which several persons invested with that character made of it, has altered the import of the word ; and tyrant now conveys the idea of an unjust or cruel prince, who rules in a more despotic manner than the laws allow.

TYRE or Sour, a seaport of Syria, anciently a city of extensive commerce and great riches, but which has now fallen into a state of insignificance and poverty. It was formerly called the Queen of the Sea, and ancient writers dilate with wonder on its magnificence and extent. The more ancient city of Tyre was founded by a colony of the Sidonians, on the shore of the continent : it was taken and destroyed by the king of Babylon, when a new city was built on an island about one third of a mile from the shore. Con­cerning continental Tyre we have no information except that which is contained in the Bible ; from which we learn that it was a large, wealthy, and splendid city. Its existence is acknowledged by the Greek writers, but all trace of its history was lost, as it was destroyed before their time. It was never rebuilt, and not the least trace of it remains, nor could its site be determined. It was not known to have been built on the coast, opposite to the island. When Babylon was conquered by the Persians, the Tyrians were restored to comparative independence ; and it was then that Tyre was rebuilt on the island, and attained greater splen­dour than before ; and such was the power of this insular city, from the resources supplied by commerce, from its strength, and the advantages of its position, that it arrested the progress of Alexander’s conquests longer than any place under the Persian dominions. That celebrated conqueror spent eight months before Tyre, and only suc­ceeded at last by constructing an embankment or cause way between the mainland and the island, giving his troops and engines free access to the latter. The Tyrians how­ever made such a valiant defence, and occasioned so great a loss to the conqueror, that he vented his rage on the con­quered city, ordering 2000 of the inhabitants to be nailed to crosses, and 30,000 to be sold for slaves. In the storm of the city 8000 bad been previously slain. He set fire to the town itself ; yet it quickly recovered from the devas­tation of war, and, only nineteen years after, sustained a seige of fifteen months from the fleets and armies of Anti­gonus, when it was again taken. After this second capture, it was subjected, with all the surrounding country, to fre­quent changes of masters, from the continual contests which took place among Alexander’s successors, the kings of Egypt and Syria, until it was finally absorbed, with all the rest of the world, in the growing empire of Rome. But by this time it had greatly declined in importance. The rise of Alexandria in Egypt was perhaps more injurious to the prosperity of Tyre than its capture by Alexander, as it gradually rose to be a great emporium of traffic, which it thus diverted from Tyre, and dried up the source from which its prosperity had flowed for about a thousand years. Through the skill and industry of its inhabitants, it still remained a considerable town, so long as the Roman dominion continued. Tyre declined with the rest of the Roman empire, under the devastations of barbarian con­quest. It was subdued with the rest of Syria by the Arabs ; in 1124 it was taken from them by the crusaders ; Saladin made an ineffectual attempt to recover it in 1187 ; and it was finally taken in 1291, by Khalit, the sul­tan of Egypt, who razed it to the ground, that it might never again afford a stronghold to the Christians. It was taken by the Turks in 1516, when it was finally ruined; and it now presents to the traveller the aspect of a miser­able and ruined village. It has been visited by many mo­dern travellers, who all concur in giving the same account of this desolate place. It is called by Sandys a “ heape of mines.” Volney describes it as a miserable village of fishermen, containing only fifty or sixty poor families, living but indifferently on the produce of their grounds and of a trifling fishery. The houses are wretched huts, ready to crumble into pieces. And thus we see the fulfilment of the prophecy, that Tyre should “ be a place for the spread­ing of nets in the midst of the sea;” conveying a lively image of desolation, a convenient place for the drying of nets being generally a naked rock or beach. According to the most recent accounts, Tyre was beginning somewhat