

Its existence and subsistence was somewhat precarious, and occasional levies were made upon its friends around to keep its head above water. But during all these vicissitudes it maintained the true faith. It gave out no uncertain sound. Bold, unflinching, defiant, then, as now, it maintained the great doctrines. Mr. C. C. Olin purchased up the stock mostly, and became pretty much its main stay. He was desirous of finding a man dyed in the wool, as to the faith, talented, persevering and resolute. He was recommended to the present editor and publisher of the *Free Democrat*, who engaged to edit it on a salary, on condition that Mr. Olin would remove it back again to Milwaukee. Judge you whether he got what he sought.

Mr. Booth entered upon his labors in May of 1848, and soon after purchased the entire establishment, and became sole owner and publisher. In 1849, he changed the name to *Free Democrat*. It remained a weekly paper until September 16, 1850, when the Daily and Tri-Weekly were added to its publications.

I have thus run over briefly, the historical outline of the four American presses of our city. For more than ten years, three of these establishments have been under the same management. The *Sentinel*, with Gen. King, the *Wisconsin*, with Mr. Cramer, and the *Free Democrat*, with Mr. Booth. It would be invidious to speak of these gentlemen separately. But I venture to say that three more industrious and persevering men have not lived in this city. And what superior papers have they respectively furnished? It is not flattery to say that three more accomplished men in their respective spheres are rarely found. The evidence of this is seen in the wide influence of their respective papers upon the public mind. Neither of them have been the recipients of public patronage to any extent, or gratuities from any source. The growth and prosperity of their several establishments has arisen from their enterprise, their talents and their industry.