

ly be used for the purpose of teaching and discussing the different sciences which are connected more or less directly with Phonography, especially in qualifying a person for the reportorial profession. He hoped to see such a club organized as had been outlined some time ago in the "Writer"

Prof. Clare gave a sketch of his connection with Phonography, and said that he found many persons like himself who studied it with no intention of making it a profession, but simply for the purpose of its assistance in other studies. Though he used it for reporting purposes when upon the staff of the *Guelph Mercury* some years ago, yet he now found it very useful in many other ways. His description of the way in which he had been led into the study of phonography at first, viz., by helping a fellow clerk decipher a love-letter, evoked no little merriment. He found it as legible as longhand, his old notes of many years ago being as easily read now as then.

Rev. E. Barker spoke of the service shorthand had been to him in his profession. He had to thank W. H. Orr, Esq., editor of the little *Pioneer*, nearly thirty years ago, for his being set on the track. He had plodded through the study himself, first learning Benn Pitman, then Graham, and finally settling down on Isaac Pitman, which he prized more highly every day.

After Miss G. A. Fraser (assistant teacher at the Atheneum) had favored the audience with a fine solo, the host of the evening responded happily to the many compliments he had received from the several speakers, and explained that his name was spelled properly, but the only difficulty was to pronounce it as the natives of Scotland pronounce the word *lough*. If people could not pronounce it correctly, he preferred being called *Bengof* to *Bengo*. He spoke of the arrangements which were contemplated for the approaching International Congress, and of the probable effect their meeting in this city would have upon our shorthand and phonetic organizations; after which, one of the happiest meetings it has been our privilege to attend broke up at a somewhat late hour, the guests evidently feeling that Phonography now stood upon a firmer basis in Ontario than ever before, and that Bengough's Atheneum was henceforth to be headquarters.

#### INCIDENTS OF THE REFORM.

Mr. J. J. Pritchard is teaching reading and pronunciation by means of the phonographic symbols, in the Central Prison, Toronto. He has met with great success in this original line.

Our office door had painted on its pane the words: "PRIVATE OFFICE." One day we scraped off the last letter in the first word. The sign faces everyone who enters the Atheneum, as the office is directly in rear of the counter. The result is that innumerable en-

quiries have been made as to the meaning of the word "Privat," and as to the consistency of allowing the second word to remain intact when it should be spelled "Ofis." The reply invariably is that the same reasoning which suggested the erasure in the first word caused the second to remain intact. That reasoning was, that the peculiarity of the one, and the inconsistency of the other, would raise the whole question of spelling, and set visitors a-thinking. What does the reader think on the subject?

Spelling reformers are well known when they once take a stand. In a town not many miles east of Toronto one of them entered the store of a Dutchman, who, broaching the subject, went on somewhat as follows:—"How vas it your boys so much time spend to learn to spel? In Germany the boys and girls spend not time to learn; they spel in simple fashion; but here, they spel, unt spel, unt spel; then they get dictation, unt again it is spel! spel! spel; unt they pass into the High School unt again they spel! spel! spel! Why, they spend all their lives in spelling, unt then they can't spel! The Dutchman's estimate is very near the mark.



#### THE SPELLING REFORM.

Joy of a Phonetic Reformer on observing the progress of the glorious movement in St. John's Ward!—*Grip*.

For some years the following sentence has stood as the shortest into which all the alphabet could be compressed:—"J. Gray: Pack with my box five dozen quails." A Utica gentleman recently improved on the above sentence as follows:—"Quick, glad zephyrs, wait my javelin box." G. W. Pierce, a Boston lawyer, has now forced the twenty-six letters of the alphabet into a sentence containing only thirty-one letters, "Z. Badger: thy vixen jumps quick at fowl."