

Fast Writing.

A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press about a gentleman in Toronto who essayed to write five thousand words in eight hours, and who failed in his attempt to do so. Some one has written to the New York *Evening Post* to say that he could easily perform the feat, and that he knows some penmen who would laugh at such a test. A writer in the *Oshawa Reformer* says, there is a man in that village who offers to write ten thousand words in eight hours, and the London *Advertiser* thinks it can find another man to write at that rate of speed. Some of those who criticized the Toronto man's feat probably forgot that he had to copy the words from a dictionary, which would be a very different thing from writing them in sentences. Still, he should have been able to get through his task in eight hours. We have no doubt that when the champion fast writer of Canada is discovered, he will be found in some daily newspaper office, for that is a sort of business which greatly develops fast and legible writing. A newspaper man performs feats of writing every day, without thinking any thing about them, which would cause a copying clerk to brag for a week. The skilful reporter, by long practice, and the daily repetition of great feats of writing, acquires a staying power which few clerks can hope to attain. A gentleman connected with the St. John *Daily Telegraph* staff, not long ago, wrote out, from his notes, a report which filled four and a half columns of nonpareil type, each column twenty-six inches long, and contained over nine thousand five hundred words. He performed this task in less than seven hours, and was writing better and more freely during the last hour than during the first. The copy furnished to the printer by him, in the execution of this task, was as legible as print, properly punctuated, and complete in every respect. No particular note was taken of the feat at the time, and it would have passed into oblivion but for the stray paragraph from Toronto, of which we have already spoken. The gentleman who performed this feat, so far from thinking that he was writing up to his speed, believes that he can write fifteen thousand words in eight hours, from dictation, in a legible hand, and those who know his speed and staying powers are not disposed to dispute his claim. We mention this matter so that our friends throughout the Dominion may have their attention drawn to the subject of rapid penman-

ship, and we are ready to publish any well authenticated feats of rapid penmanship performed by the craft. For rapid, legible penmanship is not less important than rapidity in composition, and a reporter who can keep five compositors going, when writing out a late report, is a treasure on a daily paper. Let some of our friends give us their views and experiences of fast writing.

History of the Press.

This number of the *Miscellany* brings to a close Mr. Geo. W. Day's History of the Press in St. John. All will agree as to the great value of this contribution to the history of this province, and will, no doubt, bear the author in kindly remembrance therefor.

A kind but modest friend has furnished us with a history of the press of York County, N. B. The thorough manner in which this arduous duty has been performed will commend itself to all, and, no doubt, he will receive the hearty thanks of every lover of his country.

How about a History of the Press of Halifax? Is there not some self-sacrificing editor, printer, or reporter in Halifax who will undertake the task of collecting the data for an article on the above subject, and put it on record in these pages? We ask as a great favor, that some friend will find time to devote to this subject. The future historian will have cause to bless the name of any one who will seize the present opportunity of helping him onward in his prospective work.

We invite those who have any knowledge of printers, natives of the Dominion of Canada, who are working in any foreign country, to send in the names of all such, together with a short account of where they served their apprenticeship, how long since they left home, where they are working, and any other particulars that might be considered of interest to their former friends and companions, shop mates and acquaintances.

CANVASSERS are wanted for the *Miscellany* in every city and town in the Dominion of Canada, United States and Great Britain. Write to the editor for terms.

A correspondent wishes to know where brass space lines (used in place of leads) can be had and what they cost. Some of the type foundry men will please answer.