

to the original, that the difference is only observable on account of the ink he employs being blacker than that used by the printer.

Such manipulative skill and wonderful eyesight as must be possessed by Mr. Davidson are great gifts, even for a man of the age of thirty-two, and as they can only co-exist with, as we should imagine, a very perfect condition of physical health, we trust that these rare faculties may be preserved to him unimpaired for many years to come.

The foregoing was written for insertion in our May issue, but was crowded out. We have since learnt with great regret that Mr. Davidson was taken ill on the 18th, and died after a few hours of unconsciousness. The sudden death of an intimate friend on the previous Monday caused a shock to his nervous system, and this sadly terminated the career of an exceptionally talented young man.—*Printing Times and Lithographer.*

PHONETIC SPELLING.

Mr. J. Howard Hunter, M.A., as Principal of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind, at Brantford, Ont., wrote as follows in a recent report:—

"Until the world insists upon representing the vocal essence of a language instead of its mere conventional form, we cannot have a universal alphabet for either blind or seeing. Phonetic spelling is, however, making its way, and we are apparently on the eve of a great revolution. Some of the public journals have lately been using such forms as *program*—which is already recognized by so accurate a scholar as Mr. Skeat in his *Etymological Dictionary*—and *catalog*, which has the justification of the German form. But the English Philological Society goes vastly farther. That learned body, whose head-quarters are at University College, London, and which reckons among its leading spirits such names as F. J. Furnivall, the eminent Shakespearean scholar, has already adopted such changes as *iland* for *island*; *foren* for *foreign*; *rein* for *reign*; *feld* for *field*; *ake* for *ache*; *ov* for *of*; *traveler* for *traveller*; *ar* for *are*; *giv* for *give*; *cum* for *come*; *du* for *due*; *lookt* for *looked*; *tugd* for *tugged*; *er* for *re* (in *centre*, etc.); *driven* for *driven*; *promis* for *promise*; *forset* for *forfeit*; *hight* for *height*; *o* or *e* for *eo* in *people* (*peple*), *jeopardy*, *yeoman*, etc. These apparently startling changes are really in most cases only restorations of the old and simple spelling, from which, on a sorrowful day, our forefathers strayed, leaving their posterity to wander up and down in the wilderness these four hundred years or more. To the blind, in a much greater degree than the seeing, these changes are important, spelling is so difficult without sight, and space is so valuable in embossed books. At the Louisville Convention, a committee was appointed to report on the whole question at our next biennial gathering, which is to be held in August, 1882, at Janesville, Wisconsin.

NO LITHOGRAPHED PAGES.

We issue this number *minus* the usual lithographed pages, hoping that the doubling of the amount of reading matter will recompense for the variety of phonographic characters. We are making business arrangements which we trust will enable us to make a permanent enlargement in size of the magazine.

NEWS NOTES.

CANADA.

Mr. George Eyvel, a member of the Hansard staff of reporters in the House of Commons, has disposed of his interest in the *Sarnia Observer* to his former partner, Mr. Gorman, who will conduct the business in future.

Mr. James L. Gould, formerly of Hamilton, is now shorthand writer for Messrs. Beatty, Chadwick, Biggar & Thomson, Solicitors, in this city. He came to Toronto on a telegram from us, and was at once placed in the position.

Mr. Edwin Hartt, formerly of Clinton, was placed, through our Bureau, with the firm of M. Staunton & Co., wall paper manufacturers, Toronto and Yorkville, some months ago. He is filling the position with credit to himself and pleasure to his employers. He is one of our most promising "boys."

Mr. Wm. C. Coe, Deputy Clerk of the County Court for the County of York, learned shorthand, and has made a good use of it. He now takes all the County Court examinations, and writes them out on the Caligraph purchased from our Bureau. He produced in one month sufficient work to pay for the machine, and is now on the high road to prosperity and fame.

Mr. Edward E. Horton has been working assiduously for several months past in perfecting his new type-writing machine, which he thinks of calling the "Typograph." He has secured patents in Canada and the United States, and is applying for a patent in England. The new machine combines several most valuable advantages not to be found in any other machine. We had the pleasure of seeing and testing the model machine while it was "in the rough," and we can testify to the ease with which it moves. We predict a revolution in the type-writing business when this machine is placed upon the market.

Speaking of female shorthand writers leads us to speak of female type-writer operators. Miss Horton, sister of Messrs. E. E. and Albert Horton, two of our best Canadian reporters, was one of the first in Canada who used the type-writer. She is employed pretty constantly by her brothers and other reporters, and can write for a whole day—as she has done for us—at the rate of about 35 words per minute. She makes a neat and accurate transcript. The demand for type-writer operators must increase as the system of shorthand writing becomes