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# Le Sténographe Canadien

## Canadian Shorthand Journal

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### SHORTHAND IN TEN EASY LESSONS.

#### LESSON VI.

#### The Halving Principle.

As a thorough knowledge of the alphabet is essential to the student, the same should be written out from twenty-five to fifty times every day until the student is perfectly familiar with the various signs.

We now come to a highly important and, at first sight, perhaps rather difficult principle of our art - that of having a consonant to express the present tense of verbs, or the addition of *t* or *d*. In order that you may thoroughly and easily master this important principle, we must ask your earnest attention to the following comments, illustrations and exercise. Referring to the remarks on page 31 of the "Teacher," we find that a thin consonant is made one half its usual size to indicate the addition of *t*. A thick letter when halved expresses the addition of *d*.

A vowel before a half-sized consonant is read before both letters, as *east* - *act*. A vowel after a half-sized consonant is read next to the primary single, double, or treble letter; thus, *God*, *cot*. The half-length consonants are named *ket*, *dent*, *art*, *elt*, *emt*, *end*, *will*.

The half-lengths *u*, *n*, *l* and downward *r* written thick, express the addition of *d*; thus, *made*, *made*. *Ld* and *rd*, like all the other

thick letters, are written downward, but are not used when a vowel intervenes; *it* and *ri* are most frequently written upwards, and the upward form of the latter letter is used in preference to the downward character, as a much better distinction is thereby obtained in quick writing;

thus, *felt*, *fold*. Such words as *lead* and *read* should be written

When a circle *s* follows a half-sized consonant it must be read after the *t* or *d* added to the primary letter; thus, *pat*, *pats* (not *past*).

No final vowel can be placed after the *t* or *d* added by halving. This rule requires the learner's particular attention.

Here you should make yourself an exercise by writing out two or three times all the letters of the phonographic alphabet that may be halved for *t* or *d*. This exercise will suggest such words as *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*; *chit*, *chat*, *art*, *late*; *mat*, *mad*, *knit*, *mid*, *mud*, &c. Wherever possible, form words by inserting a vowel rather than leave a more consonantal outline.

The halving principle for the expression of *t* or *d* applies equally to hooked and unhooked letters

*pat*, *prate*. In each case the added *t* or *d* is read last, that is, as a final sound. A consonant with a circle *s* or loop *st* prefixed or suffixed, or even with circle *s* at both ends, may be halved.

Work for this month to end of Exercise 51.

Those of our readers who are desirous of taking up this valuable course of shorthand lessons, can do so by purchasing the "Phonographic Teacher," "Key to Phonographic Teacher," and two of Isaac Pitman & Sons' Students' Note-Books No. 1. These works will be sent post-paid by the Copp Clark Co. Ltd., [4 Front Street, West, Toronto, on receipt of 50 cents.