

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William W. Orr,

[“Hast this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.”—*Hon. Tho's H. Binton.*]

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Phonetic Convention.

Since the last issue of the *Pioneer*, we have received but comparatively few letters pertaining to the proposed Convention, but these we have received are strongly in favor of the step, and most of the writers promise to attend if possible. We have also received several applications for membership in the proposed society, the draft of whose constitution and rules were published last month, some of them from persons unacquainted with Phonography, yet desirous of seeing the cause prosper.

After consultation and consideration of the matter we have come to the conclusion to announce that a Convention of Phonographers and Phoneticians, and all well-wishers to the cause, will be held in Toronto, on Thursday the 24th day of March next, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock. The place will be announced in the next issue of the *Pioneer*, and also in the Toronto daily papers, a few days previous to the time. We hope as many of our readers, and their friends, as possible, will make it convenient to attend on the occasion.

NEW PHONOGRAPHIC COPY-BOOK.—We have just got up a new and beautiful article, which we have christened “The Canadian Phonographic Copy-Book.” It is considerably larger than Benn Pitman’s Copy-Book, and contains, on the back of the cover, a Price List of books for sale at “The Canadian Phonetic Depot”—meaning, at the office of this paper. We can send six of them, postage free, for \$1.00; or eight, postage unpaid. They are about the cheapest and best article for use in the Reporting Covers, or otherwise, for either pen or pencil practice, that we have for sale.

Owing to the want of time we are unable to give our usual Phonetic matter this issue.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. WILLIAM HALSTRAD, of Victoria College, Cobourg, sends for five copies of the Reporter’s Companion, for several students of Phonography in that institution. Phonography has been represented in Victoria College, by one person and another, for a number of years, and is of late attracting considerable attention on the part of the students.—We hope soon to see it made a regular branch of the instruction imparted in the College.

MR. G. F. WHITFIELD, of Waterford, in sending for a set of books for a friend, writes: “With pleasure I note the spread of the Phonetic system of writing, as one destined, from the very nature of its relation to the advancement of all science and art, to become universally understood and applied. It is sad to reflect that, while physical science has engraved her name in letters of iron on every mountain and in every valley of the civilized world—has spread her metallic pinions from continent to continent—has breathed from shore to shore and from sea to sea, so little has been done to develop the mighty mind—the conscious thought. True, men think, but their thoughts, like flowers born to blush unseen and waste their fragrance on the passing breeze, are spoiled in the hands of the potter, ere they receive the angel’s form and speak. Many of the world’s best thoughts are lost forever, for the want of a brief system of writing. Good thoughts are scarce, and great thinkers are short lived, simply from the excessive toil they have to undergo in developing their minds, and getting their thoughts properly coined and before the world—What better system could be invented than Phonography? What greater aid has ever been before the world for the cultivation of *Mind*, and the preservation of *Thought*? None, certainly. Then who could be backward in so great a work?”

MR. A. SUTHERLAND, of Cobourg, sends for twelve sets of instruction books, with which to teach a class in Phonography. Thus the cause progresses.

A short time since, we issued and sent to the address of the clergymen of Canada, a Circular, calling their attention to the value which a knowledge of Phonography would be to persons in their profession. We received numerous responses, and orders for books. Rev. J. O. PUMROY, of L’ORNOVAL, in ordering our Manual, &c., writes as follows. “I have received your Circular to Clergymen, and gladly avail myself of your offer. I have not had any book but Webster’s Teacher (of 1853.) I commenced studying last summer, but through press of business I have only studied about 30 hours, yet I am able to write faster than with longhand. Surely you deserve our gratitude for introducing to our notice so beautiful, philosophical and labor-saving a method of writing. I intend if possible to stimulate some of the young men of this vicinity to study it.”

MR. JAMES B. DIXON, Teacher, of Colborne, has commenced the business of teaching Phonography, and orders about two dozen books to be sent by express. He writes that he is likely to have a large class. We wish him every possible success in his new and laudable enterprise.

MR. ALBERT ANDREWS, Teacher, of Aurora, who has done considerable for the cause of phonetic reform in his vicinity, writes, under date of Jan. 31st: “I cannot express in words the satisfaction which arises in my mind from the consciousness that I can write a letter in short-hand. No great interest has been taken in this movement by the community in general, in this vicinity, but there are a few individuals who are entering heartily into the cause of phonetic reform. Mrs. M’MALLY (also a Teacher) is pushing forward with considerable zeal.

MR. CLARK, one of my fraternity also, who is now teaching in one of the adjacent sections, has so far become acquainted with the art as to be able to read the Corresponding Style. One of my scholars has written all the exercises in Pitman’s Manual, and is going over them a second time. She understands well what she has done, and writes a fair hand. Three or four others are making some advancement, but being so much employed at home by their parents, during the evening, and not attending school with much regularity, are not making as great proficiency as I could desire.”