

PREFACE.

A wonderful impetus has of late years been given to the study of Shorthand owing to its constantly increasing use in the business world and amongst professional men generally. This has resulted in a demand for simpler methods of instruction, and the natural consequence has been the publication of a great number of Shorthand text-books, the presumable object of the writers being to facilitate the acquisition of the art. The compilers of these recent publications, have, however, presented little or nothing that is new in exposition of the art; but, as will be found upon comparison, have merely followed the methods set forth in the text-books which have been before the public since almost the beginning of the century. The attempts of some of these authors in the direction of simplicity have merely resulted in abridgement—insufficient explanation and lack of illustration; while the predominating tendency has been to fill the text-books with a bewildering mass of theoretical technicalities which not only serve to confuse the mind, but in many instances render the study so discouraging that the student is compelled to give it up in despair.

This work presents the Pitman system of Phonography as modified by Graham—the system which is used most extensively in the United States and Canada—but the plan of presenting the subject to the learner differs radically and materially from the methods used by either of these authors. The method here presented has been thoroughly tested, and the results obtained sufficiently justify the writer in stating that, to the learner, it possesses advantages over the older methods which can scarcely be exaggerated, and that if the instructions are faithfully followed, it will render quite unnecessary the enormous expenditure of time and effort, and the immense amount of blind practice heretofore required in order to attain proficiency in the art.