

KEY TO MR. DABNEY'S REPORTING NOTES.

Graham's System.

(From a sermon by Rev. John Wood, in the Congregational Church, Ottawa, July 16th, 1881.)

We ought to take the testimony of those who have first of all had experience by the ways of sin, and then had experience of the way of righteousness and the faith in God. These are the parties to tell us what they think in regard to Christian life. Many persons judge of Christianity, not by the testimony of those who have experienced it, not by this book, but by their own vain imaginations. They look at Christianity through their own depraved heart—the heart that cannot look without prejudice against the service of God—and they look at Christianity through that colored medium, and they form their opinion of it instead of coming to a personal experience of it, and then forming their judgment in regard to it. And how, then, can they know whether the way of righteousness is a good way or not. "If any man will do the will of my Father, he shall know of the doctrine." If any man will experience—will commit himself to the service of God, he shall know whether this is as we testify.

The "new version" is a boon to the itinerant Professor who writes the Lord's Prayer with the fewest number of strokes,—he saves fourteen words by it.

Who was the first phonographer? Some will say Isaac Pitman, some will say A. J. Graham. But no, gentlemen, it was Mr. Benn Pitman, though there's no denying he got the points from his elder brother.

Mr. John Rookus, formerly compositor in the *Daily Eagle* office, has accepted a situation as stenographer to A. M. Nichols, General Freight Agent of the C. & W. M. R. R., Grand Rapids, Mich., Vice L. S. Graves who has been promoted to the position of Assistant Car Recorder for the same company, with office at Holland.

W. S. Jordan, the well known Spanish student, has left Topeka, Ks., for Denver, Col., where he has been appointed to the position of private secretary to Superintendent Cushing of the Denver and Rio Grande Road. Mr. Jordan has acceptably filled a similar position in the land department of the Santa Fe, and his presence will be greatly missed in the social circles of Topeka.

Selected.

SYSTEMS OF SHORTHAND.

Charles Spiro, of New York, is the author of a new system of phonography. He was a Munson writer, and finding so many difficulties in the practice of the system in reporting, arising from the use of so many arbitrary characters, numerous word signs, etc., etc., he set about devising a system that should embody the following features: No shading; connective vowels; consonant and vowel stems alike capable of receiving all the initial and final hook modifications; no arbitrary characters or exceptions; the line position only for all words—the whole so simple that he has presented it in "only six short lessons, one of which is a reading lesson," and he thinks that a child of ten or twelve years could "undertake its study with every assurance of success." Some of its features are certainly desirable—indispensable to a system of shorthand that shall become universal. Every new system labors under the disadvantage of being *new*, very few, taking up the study of shorthand for professional or practical use, being willing to try an untried method. It is natural to prefer the footsteps of the majority, unless one has some means of knowing positively of a better way. Let Mr. Spiro give his new system as thoro' and severe a test as Benn Pitman's Phonography has received, and if it meets every emergency and "fills the bill" in every respect, let us hear about it, and we will give it a fair showing. Price \$1. Mr. Spiro's work can be had of D. L. Scott-Browne, 23 Clinton Place, New York City.

The first edition of Arends' system of shorthand appeared in Germany in 1860; and, as the author assures us, was the fruit of many years' labor. Before its appearance it was first reviewed by Alexander von Humboldt, who informed the author that he believed that his plan was better considered and more practicable than those of the leading European systems. At its introduction it had to undergo many hard struggles with the then established systems of Europe. Yet in spite of all hostile efforts, it flourished and spread all over Europe. It was taken up by the different nations of Europe, and at the present time has been adapted to the French, Spanish, Hungarian, Danish, English, Greek and Latin languages. The rapid growth and demand for Arends' system in Germany is shown by the fact that it is now in its 13th edition, and that, according to a rough estimate, the number of its followers has been fixed at twenty thousand. It must be understood that there is no similarity between Arends' system and the system now in use in the English language. To illustrate this fact, let us point out the following differences between his system and these latter: The word is given with its full vowel sound; vowel and consonant connections are made in the same manner; vowels are indicated by an upward stroke, and are therefore light, and consonants are written by down strokes, and therefore heavy; there is no similarity whatever between the consonant signs, and even slanting to the right or left does not interfere with their legibility; there is only one line to