

Communications.



THE ASSOCIATION QUESTION.

TORONTO, July 14th, 1881.

To the Editor of the WRITER,

SIR,—I have read with much interest the communication of Mr. Frank Yeigh regarding the establishment of a Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association, and agree with him in every particular. I do not see why we should be so far behind our brethren in the United States, in this matter. There you will find in every state a Stenographers' Association supported by the leading reporters of the state. And why should not that be here? I am sure if some of our best reporters would take the matter in hand it would be a grand success. It would not be a bad idea to grant certificates, say 1st, 2nd and 3rd class, to those who pass an examination to be prepared by competent persons. This would, to a certain extent, do away with a great many of those self-styled reporters who crowd the market, and it would place the art of reporting upon its proper footing. This process of examination would be beneficial to all; the merchant and lawyer would then be able to get a reliable correspondent. Let some of our leading reporters now take up this matter without delay. They surely can devote a few hours a month to the matter.

I am, yours truly,

T. PINKNEY.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

LONDON, 1st July, 1881.

To the Editor of SHORTHAND WRITER:

Dear Sir,—I have read your journal with the usual degree of interest, and I am now glad to avail myself of the opportunity that it affords to those wishing to express their opinions, or to ask for information on matters connected with the art. I may state that in this letter I have both of these objects in view.

No doubt many of my fellow students have oftentimes, as I have myself, wished for explanations as I shall now endeavor to elicit from our elder brethren. It must be very evident to all who are in any way connected with it and who read the various communications of the profession that there exists a fear that the supply is growing in advance of the demand. For instance one says, "It is doing an injury to

"the profession to place before students shining examples of men who have secured remuneration in active positions through their knowledge of the art." Now is this not the most natural incentive to all lines of business? Will not the recognized professionals of to-day admit that it was through this kind of encouragement that they took up and conquered the art? If they fail to gain the proffered prize then of course it cannot be of any practical use, and therefore it cannot interfere with those who have; the injury is then to themselves and not the profession. The same individual further on states that "it is contrary to sound principle to attempt to prohibit instruction in this branch of education." Thus I quite agree with, had the remaining part of the letter been in keeping with it, but it seems to be the prevailing feeling amongst the profession that we students will yet displace them from their positions. I think it is totally uncalled for, if men of high attainments are so scarce in this branch as is admitted, then why do they not make an effort to climb a little higher, where, according to their own idea, they will be safe for a time at least from incompetent aspirants. I hope some of the profession will now explain, or else give us something more edifying and encouraging in the future. By so doing they will consult their own interests.

Yours very respectfully,

ASPIRANT.

SUGGESTED REFORMS.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER:

Dear Sir,—There are four things in connection with shorthand that I would like to see. (1.) Uniformity in all reporters' notes. (2.) The National Association consider this at their meeting in September. (3.) The standard of our profession raised or braced up by means of newspaper articles. (4.) The printed matter of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER doubled for twice the subscription price. What say you all, gentlemen?

Yours very truly,

E. D. SNYDER.

DOWAGIAC, Mich.,

May 21st, 1881.