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# THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

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

William E. Orr,

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

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## Distribute the Documents.

Who that has learned Phonography does not recognize in it a means for the promotion of good in the world second to no other branch of learning which is not a fundamental one? As an auxiliary to the more necessary studies embraced within a Common School Education, how does Phonography compare with Music, Drawing, Geometry, Painting, the Languages, etc., in its power to discipline, inform, and turn to practical account, the mind of the possessor? It is true that one who has a natural aptitude for any of the above mentioned branches may turn them to practical account by engaging in the business of teaching them, but to what great degree of eminence do many persons attain through either of them?—They elevate a few to distinction and place in the world; Phonography will elevate all who devote a good degree of their energies to its study, and is more accessible than any of them, because for a dollar or two the apprentice or the farmer's son can procure the necessary instruction, and during the spare hours which in this favored land fall to the lot of every person, no matter how humble, he can qualify himself for taking a leap upward in the scale of humanity such as will surprise even his most intimate acquaintances. He does not need to be, at the outset, a child of fortune, with parents wealthy and intelligent enough to send him for a year or two to some distant Grammar School or College, as would have to be the case to aim at efficiency in the Languages and kindred branches. He does not even need to employ a teacher, but can sit down from time to time, as he has opportunity, and with a fixedness of purpose which says “it can be done and it will be done,” he may acquire at leisure, a knowledge which, if he has any desire for intellectual life, will aid in putting him into a prominent position before the world. Phonography is a noble art, and has been the means of elevating to his present standing, many an able Editor, many an eminent Statesman and Orator, many a leading Politician, many a learned Judge, many a skillful Reporter, many a wealthy Banker, many a successful

Merchant, many a Mr. Speaker, and many an Honorable Gentleman in the Councils of the Nations. From poverty in their younger days, many of these have gone up with rapid strides to places of honor and emolument, solely through an early acquired facility in the use of this railroad system of putting thought to paper. Of a natural slowness of conception which bade fair to forever debar them from competing successfully with the host of aspirants around them, many persons, by accidentally becoming acquainted with the fact that there exists such a thing as Phonography, have got upon the right track, and by its use have so quickened and cultivated their thought-originating faculties as to soon overtake and pass by many another person whose natural abilities were far superior to their own. There are yet millions of persons in the world unblesed with a knowledge of the fact that there is any speedier method of writing than the one handed down to them by their fathers—millions of persons groping in the dark shades of tall, scrawling, irksome LONG-hand, who might be pushing forward with alacrity in the light of beautiful, brief, playful Phonography!—And millions more are growing up in Europe and America, and thousands in Canada, who might be benefitted by a knowledge of the existence of this labor-saving Art. How are they to be informed of it, reader? We will tell you of one way—it is by distributing tracts, pamphlets, and periodicals, and selling books treating upon the subject. Most persons can afford to give away a few tracts, and in so doing may be the means of accomplishing a vast amount of good at an insignificant cost to themselves. Had it not been for a single copy of a little monthly periodical entitled “The Universal Phonographer” which the publisher chanced to send by mail to the proprietor of the printing office in which we at the age of sixteen, were engaged, we probably should not have heard of the existence of such an art as Phonography until too late for the knowledge to be of half value to us, owing to other engagements precluding its study. As it is, we shall never cease to be grateful for the benefit Phonography has been to us, individually, nor to manifest our gratitude by endeavoring, as

opportunity offers, to place in the hands of others—the young especially—a knowledge which cannot possibly injure, but which may be productive of inestimable good to them and others.

We have distributed, gratis and otherwise, a very large number of circulars and periodicals, and shall continue to do so. And this every Phonographer, also, should do. We have on hand a large number of beautiful double-column circulars, entitled “PHONOGRAPHY, WHAT IT IS, AND WHO SHOULD LEARN IT,” which we should be happy to furnish to all who will take an interest in distributing them among their neighbors. Any person enclosing us 10 cents to prepay the postage will receive, by return of mail, a package of 150 of them gratis, for distribution. We have a good many thousand of them, ~~so no one need fear of getting a supply.~~

We have also on hand a large number of copies of the Pioneer for most of the months for which it has been issued. These contain a great deal of information in reference to Phonography, and might be distributed throughout the country to good advantage if each of our phonetic friends would order a few dozen copies for the benefit of their neighbors. We will send fifty of them, free of postage, to any address, for the insignificant sum of 20 cents.

**THIS ISSUE.**—We have delayed the issue of our February number from week to week, in consequence of the non-arrival of a lot of new books which we wished to announce at first opportunity. They are now, (March 14th) on hand, and all orders have been filled. Sometimes it takes a box of goods a very long time to go a few hundred miles by railway when there are frequent unshippings to be made, and the roads are pressed with business. The catalogue we publish to-day on our last page is a correct view of what we have on hand at present, and can furnish by return of post. Send along your orders now for such things as you need, and they will be promptly filled, to the extent of our ability. The March number will be issued about the close of the month.