

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

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Editorial and Contributed.

OURSELVES.

WITH THIS number we complete our first year, and are very much gratified with the support that has been accorded us. Certainly, we have not made any money, but we have paid expenses, which was more than we expected to do when we embarked in the enterprise, and much more than Mr. D. L. Scott Browne, in the July number of his monthly thought possible. In it he said: "The editors are endeavouring to give an unsectarian periodical to the phonographic fraternity, and deserve success for their enterprise. They have dipped into shorthand engravings rather extensively, devoting eight pages to this kind of printing. Better go carefully brothers. Past experience may teach you the lesson that no shorthand publication has ever yet survived that dipped into shorthand engravings to the extent of even eight small pages per month, unless we except some English publications; but then, these would be no criterion to go by, as Munson, Benn Pitman, Graham, Waring, Lindsley, Parkhurst, Stoll, Wright, Theophilus and others know to their sorrow. Phonographers in America are not willing to pay the price necessary to publish a magazine printed largely in shorthand. This Canadian journal is a dollar-a-year publication. Now, no man can make a permanent success of a magazine containing so much shorthand for less than a subscription of \$5.00 a year; Graham tried one at that price and failed before the close of the first year. But there is a way to produce such a journal for \$5.00. However, Bengough Bros., if you have a large bank account, you may be able to divide it among the phonographic fraternity in a good publication for a short time. We wish you abundant success with your excellent and generous undertaking." Had we not counted the cost and felt the pulse of our phonographic brethren ere launching our little magazine, this emphatic warning of a veteran publisher would have paralyzed us, but we simply smiled and sailed on up the River of Uncertainty past Sticking Point, into the Ocean of Security, and now with the breeze in our quarter, we have all sail set and our craft is heading for Cape Inevitable. We are going to have a pleasant cruise and we invite all phonographers to come aboard and enjoy the refreshing breeze. A twelve

months trip will only cost you \$1, and we guarantee a full supply of fresh water and wholesome food on the voyage.

In other words, we started the "ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER" determined to make it a success, and our past year's experience has told us there is not a doubt of it. Our subscription list is increasing daily. We send with this number some opinions of the WRITER and will feel obliged if subscribers will pass them among their friends. If each subscriber will in renewing, send the name and subscription of another with an item of interest to phonographers, we will be delighted. We want to start next month with 5,000 subscribers, and with your help we can do it.

The lithographic portion of the WRITER has not been as good as we could wish, but we hope to keep on improving until we attain the perfection we look for. We shall be glad to receive articles, illustrations, or suggestions for the improvement of the Magazine.

TOASTED SHORTHAND.

AT A CHICAGO BANQUET.

JOHAN RITCHIE, in responding to the toast: "Stenography; the Lightning of the Press," said:

"The thought which has been uppermost in my mind since I have been here has been that, whenever in general society I meet a man resplendent in swallow-tail coat and pallid neck-tie I shall know that I am in the august presence of a newspaper man; and whenever, in the exigencies of fortune, I am called upon to subsist on the tender end of a cold, dyspeptic lead pencil I shall revert with feelings of epicurean regret to the time when I formed a constituent part of this oriental gorgeousness.

This toast, to which I have been assigned to respond, is one of such liberal dimensions that I may not be able to properly cover it in the limited time allowed. If not, never mind me, but go right along with the rest of the proceedings, just the same as if I wasn't anywhere around.

Merely for the sake of argument, I will charitably assume that a majority of this assemblage can write longhand; therefore it will not be