

## INTRODUCTION.

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It is likely that nearly all who begin the subject of Shorthand writing are more or less influenced by the wish to be able to report verbatim. To take down the words of the public speaker as fast as they are uttered, is, in truth, the highest object of Stenography; and when it is considered that verbatim reporters can earn upwards of two thousand dollars per year, it is not to be wondered at that the idea is attractive, especially when it is remembered that the attainment of the accomplishment requires less expenditure of either time, brain power, or money than any other equally remunerative art or employment.

But though verbatim reporting is the highest business of Shorthand, it does not by any means constitute its only claim to attention. All improved methods of doing things are, in general, popular because they enable men to perform their processes and attain certain ends, with less drudgery, and in shorter time; and, in many cases, because without them the objects desired cannot be reached at all. Still, to the thoughtful, there appear to be wider, deeper and stronger reasons for thus extending the "range of human power."

The use of improved methods tends to lengthen life, by putting within the reach of the mass of men better conditions, more healthful circumstances and surroundings, as well as by diminishing the drudgery of life.

Improved methods make life fuller, by introducing within its limits more of sensation and thought. They tend to elevate, by putting within reasonable reach more of the intellectual