

He has secured a position upon 'ne local staff of the *Globe*, where he will remain till February, when he will leave for Ottawa, as amanuensis to Mr. George Eyvel, of the official Hansard staff. Mr. Robinson has spared no pains to fit himself for future work. For writing exercise he used Macauley's *Essays*—the effect of which upon his literary style is plainly discernible already. He learned to write thirty words per minute upon the type-writer in two weeks with only evenings for practice. We predict a successful future for this young man, who secured both the positions referred to through the medium of our Bureau.

Mr. H. R. Wilmot, Shulie, N. S., in renewing his subscription to the *WRITER* encloses a very beautiful specimen of Isaac Pitman's vocalized reporting style of phonography. The outlines are as clear as copper-plate. The writing is done in violet, and shows well with a carmine line running between the columns. We have considered the specimen worthy of a frame, and it will adorn our sanctum. Enclosed with this specimen was an ornamental ornithological elaboration for which the Commercial Colleges have such an affection, but whose only virtue in our eyes is that they occupy time in production which might otherwise be utterly wasted, besides bringing shekels to the coffers of the Colleges. A third specimen is one for persons of weak eyesight, and consists of the Lord's Prayer written in a circle within the circumference of a dime.

The Toronto University College Modern Language Club is intended to give the student's in modern languages that opportunity for acquiring a practical knowledge of French and German more particularly, which is very imperfectly supplied by the lectures. It has had its origin in the recognition of the speaking and writing of those languages as the only true method of learning them. Its meetings are successively English, French and German, and the programme consists of essays, readings and debates, or, as a substitute for the latter, an informal talk over a chosen subject or author. During last session the professors in these languages were occasionally present and always showed the heartiest interest in the success of the project. Such a practical example of a breaking away from the cramming system deserves commendation and imitation.

As the Canadian libel law stands, actions for libel can be instituted without any guarantee for costs being paid into court. Hence it is that newspaper proprietors are peculiarly open to be made the subjects of that kind of annoyance. The law provides that in some cases security should be given for costs before an action can be brought. This necessary precaution does not apply to libel, and hence those who have to set forth the public news of the day are always at the mercy of the people who fancy that a libel consists in telling unpleasant truths. It is only necessary to make the statement in order to show how useful it is that the law should be so amended as to cause security for costs to be given in cases of action for libel, or that some other course,

such as the concurrence of a Judge in the validity of a suit, should be obtained before it could be progressed with.

"At the suggestion of BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER, the Minister of Education has recently announced his intention of inserting a clause in the regulations re-modelling the High and Common Schools, making shorthand an optional study in the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of the Province; and he has also amended the regulations relating to Mechanics' Institutes, so that the government grant will be allowed when evening classes are conducted in shorthand. No doubt this step will lead to important developments in the Educational system and will be a great aid towards the Spelling Reform movement. Hon. Adam Crooks is said to be a firm believer in shorthand, both as an educating and money-making art-science.—*Newmarket Era*." [By a departmental oversight, the High School and Collegiate Institute regulations have been issued without the clause relating to shorthand. The change has been made in the curriculum of Mechanics' Institutes, and several will take advantage of it, notably that of Port Hope.—ED.]

Berlin (Ont.) *Daily News*:—"We see that quite a number of educationists and newspaper people are advocating a reform in spelling. All who are at all acquainted with the English language know that there are many words which have too many letters, and are not spelled according to the proper sound of these letters. Now in our view of the case the only way to reform spelling is to reform it. Some will remember the terse saying of General Grant—who said many terse sayings which became historic. When the politicians and the press of the States were voluminously discussing the resumption of specie payment, the General said, "the only way to resume is to resume"—and resumption came. Now if the Bengoughs (why not Bengof?), Houstons, and other reformers want to see reform in spelling let them reform. Others will probably follow." So they will. As to the reform in proper names, that is not asked for until the reform becomes general in ordinary words; but when that time does arrive, the name Bengough will not be altered, for the letters, and no others that we now have or probably will have, could more precisely express the true sound, which is that of the Scotch guttural. Usually it is pronounced "goff," but the termination is the Highland Scotch form, sounded thus:—hard g, short o, as in *on*, short u, as in *up*, hard g softened somewhat by the palate, followed by the aspirate explosent. The curious may be interested in knowing that *Ben* signifies a *mountain*, and *gough* a *voice*,—hence, if the name be peculiar, there is meaning in it. The pronunciations have been various, ranging thus in absurdity:—Bengoff, Bengow, Bengo, Bun-gay, Bing-gee, and Pink-eye! But the latest and best came the other day on a phonographic postal card—Benjo!