

—Professor A. Graham Bell, late of the Boston University, (but now of Washington,) whose brilliant invention of the telephone has placed him in the foremost rank of the scientists of the age, and from whom, if report speaks truly, more astounding discoveries will shortly emanate.

Professor A. Melville Bell's chief publications are: "The Principles of Speech and Cure of Stammering," "The Elocutionary Manual," "The Emphasized Liturgy," "The Standard Elocutionist," "Visible Speech," "Popular Stenography," "The Shorthand Master Book," "The Reporter's Manual," "Universal Line Writing and Steno-phonography," &c., &c. Professor Bell's works on Visible Speech, &c., are being reprinted in America.

#### MR. HENRY PITMAN.

**H**ENRY Pitman, brother of Isaac Pitman, was born in 1826, being now 54 years of age. At a comparatively early age he mastered shorthand, and followed his vocation as reporter on several newspapers. His chief sphere of labor has been and is Manchester, England, where for 23 years his way of the phonographic sceptre has been productive of incalculable benefit. For years he has conducted phonographic classes in offices and institutes in Manchester. His work, too, as a phonographic lecturer, deserves a notice in this brief sketch. Ever ready to encourage the slightest sign of interest in the art, he may constantly be found discoursing on the principles of and advantages to be derived from the study of phonography. Besides being a devoted disciple of shorthand, he is greatly interested in the spelling reform; and he champions the co-operative, anti-vaccination and anti-tobacco movements.

#### SCOVIL'S SHORTHAND.

**T**HIS system of shorthand was invented by the Rev. W. E. Scovil, who devoted forty years of his life to experimenting and perfecting it. He was born in Kingston, New Brunswick, in 1810, and died in 1876. The system was first brought before the public in the year 1867, since which time ten editions of the text book have been issued. The foundation of the system is the common alphabet, a table of terminations and syllabic characters,—characters representing all the consonantal combinations of frequent occurrence. These tables, with a few prefixes and suffixes, and rules and principles for abbreviating, constitute the elements of the system. Its founder claimed as its merits over phonography that it is not phonetic, except in cases where words are thereby shortened; the vowels are joined to the consonants as in longhand, and not implied by position; and the thickening, shortening and lengthening of characters is reduced to the lowest possible minimum. This system has an organ in the *Shorthand Review*, published in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### THE FLEDGLING REPORTER.

By T. W. G.

**D**ID you ever watch a fledgling reporter taking notes in church? In all the glow of an early enthusiasm he has felt it his duty to bring his note-book and pencil into play wherever anything in the shape of public speaking is going on, and though he has some compunctions about it, he takes them at length to church. Cautiously does he produce them while the text is being given out, and everybody is settling comfortably into place and there is the least danger of his being noticed, and carefully does he assume an attitude which he fondly hopes will delude those behind him into thinking that he, too, has ears only, and not fingers, for the sermon. With a conscious look he fags away some twenty or more words a minute behind the preacher, who he feels certain has detected him in the act, and is levelling his discourse at him. But there is no one more persevering than a young reporter who has "got it bad," and he doesn't give up, but sticks to the sermon until it is done, and having succeeded in taking from one-half to two-thirds of it, he pockets his book and thinks about the frightful time he will have when he goes home and tries to read his notes.

#### ACCURATE REPORTING.

By Greybeard.

**I**N our earlier years we all had the principle instilled into us that "if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well." I have known inexact reporters to lose valuable and lucrative engagements through their carelessness. Some have done their work in a slipshod way, and full reliance could not be placed upon them for doing their work properly, as, for instance, omitting the figure 0 from a number or by leaving out a short qualifying clause, turning, it may be, a negative into an affirmative statement, or *vice versa*. One reporter whom I knew—we will call him Bob Carrol—once astonished his employer by terming a collision on a railway as an "infernal confusion." It was the same man who perpetrated the blunder in writing a sermon of making the Israelites "swallow" the Philistines instead of "slaying" them.

The weakness of poor Bob Carrol is not uncommon, for it is only too easy to find imperfect work. I am of opinion that unless a man is endowed with a physical and mental organization of a very superior kind he should train himself to habits of intelligent cautiousness if he would attain accuracy and score a professional career of the highest usefulness. Happily there are some reporters who accomplish their work in an almost perfect manner. There is an extraordinary amount of safety in Phonography when well written. As a rule a mistake occurs from an unfortunate error in the imagination,