

out the work. The staff of five on whom he has hitherto relied has been too small to do the work otherwise than hurriedly.

During a comparatively recent investigation made by a Committee of the English Parliament, Mr. Hansard, whom they examined, in the course of the investigation deposed that if a full report of the debates of Parliament were prepared, the service of sixteen or eighteen reporters would be required, besides a good staff of superintendents. William Saunders, conductor of the Central News Agency, also stated that about twenty reporters would be required to give a full report of the debates, and that the reporters would need to be relieved every five or ten minutes. Sir John Rose, who was also examined by that Committee, stated that the Canadian House of Commons sat very much the same number of hours as the British House of Commons. It is therefore only reasonable to infer that the daily work required to be done by Parliamentary reporters at Ottawa is as heavy as at London. It is well-known that the London *Times* employs fifteen reporters in the British Parliament. Up to eleven o'clock at night these fifteen reporters take fifteen minutes turns; after eleven the turns are reduced to ten minutes; after twelve they are reduced to five minutes; and, after one, to two and a half minutes. Seeing therefore that fifteen to twenty men are only considered a reasonable staff to do efficiently the Parliamentary reporting (for both Houses of course) in England, it cannot surely be wondered at that five reporters, however competent they may be, should find it a most laborious task to turn out good *verbatim* reports of all the debates of the Canadian House of Commons, day by day.

PROF. DAN BROWN.

DAN BROWN was born at Huntington, Pa., in June, 1841; in 1844 his parents moved to Fairfield, Iowa. Prof. Brown began the study of Benn Pitman phonography while in the army, in October, 1862. In May, 1863, he commenced practicing as a shorthand clerk in a Military Court at Corinth, Miss., and in September, 1863, he associated with him, in his court work, Frank E. Nevans. In October, 1863, he was detailed as a reporter for a military commission at Memphis, Tenn., where he remained until the close of his three years enlistment in May, 1864. After a short visit at his home in Iowa, he reported during the Presidential campaign of 1864, in Illinois, and Missouri, and spent the winter of 1864 in the office of the Adjutant General of the State of Missouri.

In January, 1865, returning to his home, he commenced reporting in the sixth, and other Judicial Districts, of Southeastern Iowa. In 1870, with John T. Bell, of Omaha, John Hall, and John Gray, now of Chicago, he assisted in reporting the impeachment trial of Gov. Butler of Nebraska, and the proceedings of the constitutional convention of the State of Nebraska.

In 1871 he accepted a position in the office of the general passenger agent of the "Burlington Route" at Burlington, Ia., and in 1872 he went to Chicago as corresponding clerk for Henry Starring, general baggage agent, C. B. & Q. R. R., and other railroads. In April, 1874, he commenced teaching phonography for the Chicago Athenaeum, where, with one assistant, he has instructed 620 students in the phonographic art. In 1878 he organized the Chicago Bureau of Phonography. Although he teaches and practices the Benn Pitman system of phonography, he is familiar with, and reads, most of the published systems.

CHAS. A. SUMNER.

(See Portrait in June Number.)

CHARLES A. SUMNER is a son of Judge Sumner, and was born August 2nd., 1837, at Great Barrington, Mass. He was educated at colleges in Chester, and Hartford, Conn. After leaving college he studied law, and about this time became interested in phonography. In 1855-6 he was a newspaper reporter in Washington. In the latter end of 1856 he went to California, and was engaged on the *Sacramento Union*, and reported the Legislature for that paper. It was through him that shorthand was introduced into the State Courts of California. For a few succeeding years he edited and published several newspapers. He served through the civil war, and was Colonel of the 1st Nevada Infantry. In 1865 he was elected Senator for Nevada, and in 1866 was chosen president of that body. Returning in 1868 to California, he again edited the *Times* and *Herald*. In 1870 he was appointed reporter of the San Francisco Municipal Court, and is now reporter of the Supreme Court of California. Mr. Sumner is not only known as a phonographer of high standing, but as an orator, statesman, and poet, he is favourably mentioned by the press. Here is a specimen of his poetic muse:—

THE SHORTHAND REPORTER.

The man of words! I know him well; his every form and feature,
Present to me in simple guise, a most familiar creature.
While prominent upon the list—by general concession—
The actual act of public talk is not in his profession.
In short—for short is his address—his business is the writing
Of speeches in the proper shape from very poor inditing.
He takes a threadbare piece of cloth; reweaves it, clean and shining;
Ah! mysteries and miseries of his acute refining!
Who knows of his alchemic toil? who thanks him for his study,
O'er crucibles of ugly signs;—expressions rank and muddy?
Evolving from a jumbled mass some thoughts of useful meaning;
From loads of innutritious chaff, some wheaten kernels gleaming.
Is gratitude for such a work from wordy men expected?
Where toughest skill is exercised, least debt is recollected.
I've seen unnumbered Solons gloat, in halls of legislation,
Because the text constituents quote enhanced their reputation:—
Until their fame collapsed in shame from one good, square translation!