

thumb and pull out a plum. If there is a figure that in its setting is entirely proper they will pull it out and let it stand alone that it may seem very audacious. From all these causes come scattering reports, and the shorter they are and the more pungent the better they are liked. Men like a little pepper and short snatches of queer things, or of old phrases, or of ludicrous images. These are naturally sought and put into the newspapers and sent abroad all over the country.

Now, I don't object to it for myself. I would just as lief they would continue to do it, so far as my own personal feeling is concerned. Only this, I know that if Professor Pierce had in his lifetime undertaken to give an hour's discussion upon one of the abstruse subjects, no man on earth would have tried to give it in the space of three minutes. If Professor Agassiz had spoken on some scientific subject requiring exact terms, no man would have done it with him. If the reporters wanted an exact statement they would have gone to him or else omitted it altogether. So it is in all professions except that of the preacher. The reporters, many of them belong to the university of letters and they are accomplished, personally and materially, in literary matters, but my impression is that the writers for the New York "dailies" have not had a very strict religious education. (Smiles.) There are one or two papers in New York that are so anxious on the subject of Christian disposition that they give their whole influence to save it from danger; but in general I think I may say that the training of the gentlemen who conduct that paper has not been theological. (Laughter.) I would not mind the misrepresentations for myself, but they disturb a great many good men. They disturb particularly the editors of religious newspapers. They take them up and moan and lament the defects and heresies and other pulpit troubles which afflict Plymouth Church. Now, I am a kind and good-hearted man and I cannot bear to give these good men distress and I think this unconscious wrong done by the reporters to the feelings of religious editors ought to stop. Then this misrepresentation has another effect—it lays me under the imputation of hedging. I may make a statement which will be perfectly correct and which I am willing to stand up to, but it will come out in the newspapers in a manner which is very surprising to me indeed. When I see it I don't know my own offspring. It will go all over the land if it is daintily done. A week or ten days after the sermon will come out in full and people will say, "Well, there's nothing in that." "No," says another, "there's nothing in that." Ah, he has just corrected that; he did not dare stand to it." Thus I am charged with insincerity and with want of courage, and with hedging.

I have said these things not for the sake of asking the gentlemen to be more careful. I ask nothing at all; I am quite content to leave the reports of my sermons to that general

equity and honorableness which I believe pervades those who are not in the profession of reporters.—*N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 1878.

HANDWRITING AND CHARACTER.

 YOU never take a pen in hand but you are showing something of your own character. The very style of the handwriting is an element of the determination of character. The way in which a man dashes off a letter is very much the way in which a man uses his voice. There is a modulated ease in the tones of handwriting. Without professing to be experts, like Messrs. Chabot and Netherclift, we can certainly gather a general idea of character from handwriting. A minister was commenting on a very strong despatch in the presence of his sovereign. "The language is strong," said the statesman, "but the writer does not mean it; he is irresolute," "Whence do you see irresolution?" said the king. "In his *n's* and *g's*, please your Majesty." Only it is to be said that a great deal of humbug is often talked by people who profess to be judges of handwriting. I showed a professor of caligraphy a letter which I had received. He took a very unfavourable view of the handwriting. It was the handwriting of a man without learning, without genius, without feeling. "And now, sir," I said, "will you look at the signature?" The letter was written by Lord Macaulay.—*London Society*.

Biographical Sketches.

T. WILLIAM BELL,

Whose portrait we give in this number, is a native of Montreal, 21 years of age, is familiar with seven leading systems. Commenced with Duploye in the early part of 1877; passed his examination, received a diploma from Paris and became a member of "L'Institut Stenographique des deux Mondes" in October of same year. He is a thorough Grahamite and has done much to bring the use of phonography under the notice of typos through the columns of the *Printers' Miscellany*, of which he is the phonographic editor.

JOHN CAREY.

John Carey, of Quebec, was born in that city in December, 1857, and was educated in the Quebec Seminary. He is a law student, and has recently obtained the degree of Bachelor of Law (L. L. B.) at Laval University; began the study of Graham's system in January, 1877, and was the first to introduce shorthand reporting in the Quebec Law Courts, of which he was appointed official stenographer in September, 1877; is a member of the firm of Carey and Lynch, reporters. Has reported many important trials, amongst others that of the "Ataiaya" last summer, and a great number of railway cases.