

STENOGRAPHY IN OLDEN TIME.

STENOGRAPHY is on the eve of being superseded by the invention of the pianotachygraph. Its history is little known and is very curious. We may first remark that modern nations are much behindhand in the practice of stenography. David, in fact, says in one of his Psalms, *Lingua mea calamus scribæ velociter scribentis* ("My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.") The Hebrews, therefore, knew the art of writing as rapidly as one could speak. But it was at Athens and Rome especially that stenography was practised. Xenophon employed an abbreviated alphabet to write the speeches of Socrates, whose works he edited. This was 178 years before Jesus Christ. The Romans, who, with the spoils of Greece, carried the arts and usages of Greece into Italy, brought back that kind of writing and vulgarized it among all classes of the population. Under the Consulate of Cicero may be seen the first traces of stenography. The great orator was himself very expert in the art, and took a pleasure in teaching it to a freed slave named Tiron, who wrote down his pleadings.

Soon stenographic signs were alone used in writing in Rome. Seneca, Brutus, and Julius Cæsar, and many other illustrious men employed it. One day Cicero wrote from habit in Tironian signs to his friend Atticus, who could not understand the letter. The great orator then offered to teach him stenography, and he learned it in a very short time. Augustus gave lessons in stenography to his grandsons. The old stenographic method was preserved in France until the eleventh century, and letters from Louis le Deuonnaire, son of Charlemagne, in Tironian characters, still exist. In 1747 a Benedictine named Pierre Carpenter reformed the Tironian alphabet and published, in Latin, a volume on his new method. At present stenography, which is only practised by a few writers, has been modified and improved; but it does not appear to be shorter or more simple than that used in antiquity.

THE CHEROKEE ALPHABET.

THE Cherokee Indians have an alphabet of their own, the invention of one of their tribe named Sequoyah, who, himself unable to read in any language, appreciated the value of the white man's way of transmitting intelligence by writing, and secluding himself in his hut, evolved from his inner consciousness the alphabet which is now used for printing the Cherokee language. This alphabet is phonetic. Sequoyah discovered that the entire Cherokee language consisted of different combinations of eighty-two syllables, and so he constructed his alphabet of eighty-six characters, each representing one of the eighty-six sounds in the language. These characters or letters any lad of ordinary intelligence can

learn to distinguish and pronounce in a week, and when the alphabet is learned the pupil can read anything in the Cherokee language. The ease with which the art of reading may be acquired has led the principle men in the Cherokee nation to encourage its study in various ways, believing that many of their tribe could be induced to learn to read in Cherokee who would never attempt the accomplishment of so difficult a task as learning to read in English. It is to encourage the Cherokees in the study of their written language and in the pursuit of knowledge generally that the Cherokee *Advocate*, a weekly newspaper, is printed, partly in the Cherokee language, at the cost of the whole Cherokee nation.

A TRIAL OF ENDURANCE.

LORD CAMPBELL, Chief Justice of England, who never seemed to know what fatigue was, once presided over a case which had lasted for some time, and which he was very anxious to bring to a close on a particular day. Evidence continued to be taken down until 10 o'clock in the evening, and he then called upon the counsel to address the jury. They not unnaturally protested, but the judge was inexorable, and they were forced to submit. Their speeches were finished about 1 o'clock next morning, when Lord Campbell, with the utmost composure, began to sum up the evidence, closing about 3 o'clock a. m. ! Fancy the feelings of the unfortunate reporter who had to do the entire work without relief, and who was nearly dead, as well he might be, before the trial was over.

KEY TO JOHN CAREY'S REPORTING NOTES.

Q.—Look at that and say whether it corresponds.

A.—It looks like it,—a small piece like that, of that shape.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Dalton pick this up?

A.—I did not.

Q.—Did he give it to you?

A.—Handed it to me.

Q.—What did you do with it?

A.—I retained it in my possession,—I showed it to Mr. Skeffington.

Q.—Will you state what occurred with reference to the little piece of steel?

A.—I gave it as my opinion in the first place that it was a piece of a chisel, and came to the conclusion immediately afterwards that it was a piece of a screw-driver. I looked at it more closely and said then, that is a piece of a file.

Q.—Was this before the present plaintiff was arrested or after he was arrested?

A.—Before.

William Wainwright, assistant general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway is an experienced phonographer, and claims to write 200 words a minute.