

PHONETIC PIONEER.

PHONOGRAPHIC TEACHERS.—We ought to have, ere this, mentioned the efforts which are being put forth by Messrs SAMUEL CLARK, of Hamilton, and AUGUSTUS WEBBER, of Toronto, to instruct the public in the respective cities in which they are located, in the art of writing with the rapidity of speech. Mr. Clark has delivered several lectures upon the subject, and some time ago, had a class of forty pupils, composed of the scholars of the Central School alone. When we last heard from him he was on the point of organizing another class. Mr. Webber, in a very tasteful circular, just received, informs the public that he is forming his 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th morning and evening classes. He is doing good service in the cause, and making it pay besides.

PHONOGRAPHIC PENS.—We have procured from Cincinnati some of the genuine phonographic gold pens and holders, selected for us by BENN PITMAN. They not only execute both long and short-hand beautifully, but are splendid looking articles into the bargain. The holder is a triple-extension one, and has a black lead writer and holder into the bargain. The latter arrangement is so skillfully managed, in the construction, that nobody without examination, would suppose there was anything more than a single pen-holder, and pen. We can send them by mail, post paid, for the price they are sold at in Cincinnati, namely, \$3.00. We will warrant them to give all the satisfaction that a pen can give, and to be made of the pure stuff.

PHONOGRAPHER'S NOTE-BOOK.—This is a book of double-ruled writing paper, done up in similar style to the Copy-books, but with stiffer cover. It contains one and a half quires of thick paper, and is ruled somewhat closer than the Copy-books. We can send them, post paid, for 25 cents.

If there are any Americans among our readers, they will perhaps be pleased to know that we have a lot of copies of the "Declaration of Independence," printed on sheets 12x18, suitable for framing, in beautiful Phonography. We send them by mail, post paid, for 12½ cents each.

Persons who order books etc., and send more than the proper amount, with a request that we "send the balance in anything we think best," should let us know what books etc., they have already, for the article we might think best to send might be something they already were in possession of.

COPY-BOOKS.—Our present lot of Copy-books are some larger than the first. We send three of them, post paid, for 50 cents.

We cannot take subscriptions to the *Pioneer* for less than one year, nor for portions of a volume. All subscriptions must commence and end with the commencement and ending of the volumes—that is with July. We have all the back numbers except one, at present, but another will soon be out of print, and then we will only be able to send the remaining four for 1858. We will send extra numbers for those lacking, however, which can be used for giving away, etc.

EASY LESSONS IN PHONOGRAPHY.—The *Type of the Times*, and the *Youths' Friend*, published by Messrs Longley, of Cincinnati, have commenced a series of familiar Lessons in Phonography, to be continued for several months. The *Type* is published twice a month, at \$1.00 a year. It contains a key to the Reporting exercises of the *Phonographic Magazine*, and both journals are sent together for \$1.50 per annum. The *Youths' Friend* is published monthly at 50 cents per annum. It is an attractive little paper, and contains a page or two of phonetic print. We will be happy to receive and transmit orders for any of the above. We have received a goodly number of orders for the *Phonetic Journal* and *Phon Magazine*, at \$1.00 a year. Every student of Phonography should take the *Magazine*, with either the *Journal* or the *Type*. Those who subscribe must not expect to receive their numbers by the first day of the month upon which they are dated. So costly is the production of phonographic works that their publishers find it difficult to make a living out of the business, or to produce first-rate works, without giving their personal attention to almost every department. Consequently, when a new book is to be issued or other important matter attended to, the periodicals have to be delayed a day or two. Even the *Pioneer* must not be expected to make its appearance on precisely the same day of each month. A press of other business sometimes renders it impossible for us to get it out for days after we would wish to see it.

An apology is due to friend Smith, of the *Richmond Advocate*. The excellent notice of the *Pioneer* and recommendation of Phonography, in the December number of our paper, credited to the *Picton Times*, should have been credited to the *Advocate*.

The December number of the *Phonetic Journal* copies our remarks upon "Phonography in England" without giving the least intimation of its source.

HOW TO ACQUIRE SPEED IN PHONOGRAPHY.—J. R.—To acquire speed in phonographic writing three things are necessary: 1. You should have settled forms for the more frequent and effective words of the language. 2. You should become thoroughly and practically acquainted with the principles of phrase-writing. 3. The hand should be prepared for rapid writing by systematic exercises. A ready, rapid movement of the fingers cannot be secured by merely establishing forms and writing at a comfortable rate. Commit to memory some of the Exercises in the *Reporter's Companion*, and write them hundreds of times as rapidly as you can. This practice will serve to give ease and celerity of movement to the muscles of the hand. If you cannot procure a reader, continue your study of the principles of word-forming and phrase-writing till you feel no hesitation as to the word-forms and phrases to be used; when, if you have acquired speed in writing, by the above-mentioned process, you will have no great difficulty in reporting the majority of public speakers.

Phonetics and Foreign Languages.

An eminent advantage that Phonography holds over all systems of Stenography is its perfect adaptability to foreign languages.—With the aid of a few extra characters, that have been provided, to stand for sounds not heard in the English, any foreign tongue may be daguerreotyped. Nor is this the only valuable feature. By accurately representing foreign languages we are not only enabled to master them with ease, but by simplifying our own orthography we aid foreigners in the acquirement of our language, which is perhaps more important.

It is an admitted fact that the English orthography is one of the most difficult for foreigners to acquire. With the Phonetic Alphabet it is one of the easiest. Mr. Royce tells us that in an experimental class in Oswego, he had representatives of five different nations; the American, the French, the German, the Scotch and the Irish; and that with the aid of Phonotypy, the foreigners mastered English as readily and quickly as the Americans did.

A friend of the cause, in Michigan, wrote to us a few days since, on this same point, as follows:

"A Pennsylvania Phonographer, in corresponding with me, writes good German to me in Phonetic short-hand. I greatly surprised a German preacher lately in this way. In half a day I taught him to read and write phonetically. He read after me as I wrote in Phonetic long-hand—and when I wrote 'konst du dijs lasen—ih kon dijs frijen,' he read it readily, and his delight nearly raised him from his chair!! "Well now," said he, "there is something curious, nice, and reliable in this sound-writing; I must learn it all, long-hand and short-hand, as soon as I can." Thus man wisely ordered a Phonetic New Testament to perfect him in English enunciation; a commendable idea certainly."

Mr. Pitman, in an article entitled "Phonography vs Stenography," in a late number of the *Phonographic Magazine*, thus speaks of the reliability of Phonography in the representation of foreign languages: Writing foreign languages is entirely practicable, if the Phonographer who attempts it is familiar with the signs provided for the purpose, and has a good ear to readily catch sounds. We have known it done a thousand times. A lady at our elbow carried on a Phonographic correspondence in French. In the acquirement of foreign languages we have known of reported instances where Phonography has been of great service.

How I Learned Phonography.

I waited three years to have an opportunity to take instructions under a teacher, and as I still saw no prospect ahead for such a thing, I