

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform

William H. Orr,

["Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor."—*How Tho's H. Benton.*]

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VOLUME II.

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NUMBER II.

The Phonetic Association.

We continue the list of names of persons who, by sending in their names for that purpose, have been enrolled as members of the British American Phonetic Association. Names have come in lately of late, and contributions still more so. This is not as it should be. There are a large number of phonographers yet throughout the country whose names ought to be enrolled upon the list. Lest there should be misapprehension in the matter, we will again state that any person wishing to become a member has only to send in his or her name and address to the Secretary at Toronto, A. Webber, Esq., or to this office. Donations towards the objects of the Association are voluntary, and will be applied mainly or wholly to publishing a volume containing the list of Members, two copies of which are to be sent to each member contributing 25 cents or upwards.

CLASS.] OTTAWA COUNTY, C.E.

3. GEORGE EDWARDS, Thurso.

MEGANTIC COUNTY, C.E.

2. JAMES MACKIE, Telegraph Operator, Bute.

MONTMAGNY COUNTY, C.E.

2. W. WESTON, Telegraph Operator, Montmagny.

BROME COUNTY, C.E.

3. Miss EMILY KNOWLES, Teacher, East Farnham.

3. Miss HANNAH ALLEN, " " "

3. Miss LOIS FABER, " " "

YORK COUNTY, C.W.

2. CHARLES SIMPSON, Newmarket.

KENT COUNTY, C.W.

* 2. GEORGE W. VERRAL, Printer and Reporter, Chatham.

ERRATA.—George Campton's address is 135 York-street, instead of King-street, as printed in the June number.

Learning Phonography without either Book or Teacher.

While visiting some friends near London, C.W., a few months since, and sitting a few minutes alone in the parlour, we took up an old copy-book lying near, and was not a little surprised to find a page or two of it covered with phonographic characters. Upon examin-

ing the book a little more closely, we were even more surprised, and not a little amused as well. The writing was quite different from ordinary phonographic writing, the letters being all written singly and all placed side by side upon the line. It could hardly be called Phonography either, for there was no attempt at "writing according to sound." Every old-style letter in the words written was represented by a phonographic stroke, dot, or dash, each placed separate from its neighbor, and a good space left between the words. We could read it tolerably well, considering the singular style in which it was written, and found it to be an extract from the *Phonetic Pioneer*. On inquiring as to its author, we were informed that it was the work of one of the family—a young man of twenty-four or twenty-five, an old school-mate of ours, which both of us were bare-footed six-year-olds in the back-woods of Durham County—to whom we had sent one or two copies of the first issues of the *Pioneer*. In two or three evenings, occupying three or four hours, he had learned to write Phonography so well that any other Phonographer would be able to read a communication from him in that style, and this without any other aid than the simple Phonographic Alphabet, which we present in another column.

The English *Phonetic Journal* mentions the case of a reporter who acquired all he knew of the Phonographic art from committing to memory the forms contained in a book similar to the Reporter's Companion, without having ever seen or heard of the elementary works. Whether or not our friend in the West has become a Reporter without other aid than the Alphabet we are unable to state, not having since heard from him.

THE READING AND WRITING REFORM.—

The Reading and Writing Reform consists in the introduction of a complete alphabet of thirty-six letters, to represent all the sounds in the English language. This alphabet is adapted to Longhand and Shorthand writing, and to printing. Phonetic Shorthand is as legible as common writing; while it is written in one fourth the time, and with half the labor. By means of Phonetic printing, children and ignorant adults may be taught to read accurately in from twenty to fifty hours' instruction, and, with a few hours' additional practice, they are capable of reading books printed in common spelling. The education of the poor is thus rendered not only possible, but easy.

MARRIED!—We do not intend making it a practice to publish Marriage Notices in the columns of the *Pioneer*, still, when we become acquainted with the fact of any of our phonographic friends becoming united to a kindred spirit, we shall deem it a matter of sufficient interest to our readers to give a notice of the time and place, when and where the important event—to somebody—took place. We find the two following notices going the rounds of the press—one of the parties concerned, it will be seen, is the Vice-President of the British Am. Phonetic Association. We wish our brother of the quill every imaginable felicity, and hope that the life-partnership into which he has just entered may become to him a fruitful source of blessings of almost every name and nature:

At Montreal, on board the steamer John Bell, on the 3rd August, by the Rev. Professor Young, of Knox College, Toronto, the Rev. D. E. Montgomery, M.A., of the Free Church, South Gower, to Jane, eldest daughter of Captain Richard Rennie, Fifeshire Royal Artillery, Glasgow, Scotland.

At Montreal, on the 3rd August, on board the steamer John Bell, by the Rev. D. E. Montgomery, of the Free Church, South Gower, J. R. Edwards, M.A., Editor of the *Montreal Transcript*, to J. Somers, eldest daughter of the late Colin Galbraith, writer, Edinburgh, Scotland. The two brides were given away by Captain Creighton, commander of the John Bell.

THOSE PRIZES.—We hope our readers will not neglect to make some effort to obtain the prizes offered in our last number, and at the same time help to increase our subscription list, which is as yet far below the paying point. Please turn to the July number and see if the prizes offered are not worth competing for, to say nothing of the good which may be done the cause of phonetic progress by the distribution of ten, twenty, thirty or fifty copies of the *Pioneer* each month. Up to the present date (Aug 19th) no orders in competition for the books, &c., have yet been received, but there is time enough yet, as the prizes are not to be awarded until the 15th of next month. The names of the successful competitors will be announced in the August issue, and if the articles to be awarded are already in possession of the person entitled to receive them, that fact can be communicated to us immediately by post, and any others books which we have will be sent instead.