

THE....

Stenographer's Companion

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

Published by

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THE COMPANION is published in the interest of the Shorthand and Typewriting profession, also Employers and Employees. All systems and all machines will receive equal recognition in its columns.

The columns of THE COMPANION are always open to correspondents. We shall be glad to publish matters of interest to the profession in all its branches. Communications should be addressed to the Editor, who is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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READERS OF THE STENOGRAPHER'S COMPANION ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO PATRONIZE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN ITS COLUMNS, AND, WHEN DOING SO, TO MENTION THIS PAPER.

TO ALL CONCERNED.

The following are some of the principal objects for which the COMPANION is intended:

1. To bring stenographers to the front.
2. To help increase their earnings.
3. To assist them when out of employment.
4. To have their services appreciated as they deserve, and to uphold the art in every respect.

WOULD-BE STENOGRAPHERS.

The COMPANION often hears of persons who, whilst taking a course in shorthand and typewriting, at a school established for the purpose, and have been studying shorthand for say two months, and can write a little, apply to firms when they learn of a vacancy for a stenographer. They sometimes answer an advertisement by letter, stating they can do shorthand and typewriting work, and that they "feel competent of giving entire satisfaction." We are all aware that competent stenographers out of employment are scarce. It was only the other day that the writer had a conversation with an employer who said he had to do his own correspondence, having been unable for the last few weeks to get a satisfactory amanuensis. Imagine these individuals applying for a position who have been from two to three months learning the art.

but such we regret to mention is the case. They call and say they come from the school they are or have been attending, and even have the audacity, without the slightest authority, to refer the employer to the Principal, who, on being made known of the application of his pupil, is naturally much surprised and vexed, knowing too well that no student of shorthand can fill a position in from one to three months. The COMPANION intends to put a stop to this state of affairs in the interest of the shorthand schools and competent shorthand-writers and operators. There is one young man in particular, however, who has been making the circuit within the past month, and the COMPANION has heard from a few firms, on whom he has called, that he referred them to the Principal of the school he has been attending. He is, of course, given a test when he applies, and when he shows his "transcription" to the dictator, he is simply told such work will not do in an office, that he is incompetent, and better return to the School he has been attending until he is proficient, which would be the right thing for him to do instead of receiving these remarks, which he deserves. It is about time he had a lesson, and, if he will read "Pointers for Stenographers" in last month's issue of the COMPANION, he will learn something to his advantage.

ANOTHER HANDSOME SALARY.

Here is one more concern which pays a "large" salary, but this time it is \$3 a week, instead of \$2, which is a "little" higher than the wholesale house referred to in the September issue of the COMPANION, offered.

The following advertisement appeared in one of our daily papers on the first of last month:—

"Wanted a young lady or young man to fill situation of stenographer and typewriter, salary \$3 a week. Address—"

If the advertisers are in need of a competent amanuensis who is self-dependent, it is a question whether such a person can be found. Nil Desperandum, however, who replied to the \$2 advertisement last February, and also the \$3 one on October 1st, states he can rough it through the winter and is willing to offer his services as the following letter shows:—

Montreal, Oct. 1st., 1898.

Dear Sirs:—

Referring to your advertisement in to-day's—for "a young lady or young man to fill situation of stenographer and typewriter; salary \$3 a week." I beg to offer you my services.

I have had about four years' experience in a large wholesale house in this city, and can offer you highest testimonials from my last employers as to ability. I have a good college education and can speak and write French and German fluently; and am a rapid shorthand-writer and operator.

As to the munificent salary of \$3 per week, I feel that I could not conscientiously earn such a salary, but I am a small eater, and could probably live on ice until the summer months, and then cotton is cheap, so would not need very expensive clothing, and, therefore, would be willing to accept half that salary. I would also, to make doubly sure of earning same, if you MUST pay such a sum, be willing to do odd chores around house, carry coal, milk cows (I am a good farmer too), bring your lunch down (you wouldn't board down town, would you?) shovel the