

BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER.

Conducted by THOMAS BENGOUGH, Official Reporter, York County Courts.

VOL. III.

TORONTO, FEB.-MARCH, 1883.

Nos. 10-11.

GLIMPSES OF GOTHAM.

A long cherished desire of the Conductor of the WRITER was gratified last month, when he paid a flying visit to New York and Brooklyn. Some points noted in connection with the shorthand profession are deemed worthy of record.

THE GENIUS OF PHONOGRAPHIC UNITY.

A visit to New York would be a failure if the phonographic visitor did not see and converse with the "Genius of Phonographic Unity"—Mr. D. L. Scott-Browne, the publisher of the "only professional" shorthand journal, and the best text-book on phonography in the world; the manager of a bureau which is the headquarters in New York city for stenographic help; the only publisher in the profession who rejoices in a double name, one-half of it—presumably the better half—having been part of the marriage settlement from his wife. Entering the Clinton Street headquarters, we asked if Mr. Browne was within, and in a few moments there appeared, from behind the wall which separates the business office from the students' room, a small, spare, hollow-chested Illinoisian, who in his earlier days had reversed Horace Greeley's advice and "gone east." Making a physical effort to look prodigious, we asked Mr. Browne if he recognized a "Canuk." Upon reading our card he looked up and expressed himself delighted to see his old enemy, remarking, however, that, judging from the pugnacious character of the articles contained in the COSMOPOLITAN in reference to himself, he expected to see a great big Irishman with a shillelagh over his shoulder. He had some pretty hard things to say of the International Association, chiefly because they were not sufficiently careful in admitting only first-class men. He admitted, however, that the organization is now in better shape than at first, and was careful not to reflect on Canada as a place unworthy of the presence of that august body. We have reason to hope that when he reaches Canadian shores this summer he will be perfectly satisfied with the composi-

tion of the Congress. He grew enthusiastic in speaking of his new text-book, and exhibited some specimens of the genus *studenstenograficus* who had reached a speed of 100 words per minute after thirty lessons. While admitting this to be a very good exhibit, we were not content to allow an American to walk away with the laurels so easily, and therefore stated a little fact, namely, that for several months past we had been addressing mixed audiences in various Canadian towns, and teaching them to read shorthand sentences after half an hour's instruction. The topic was at once changed. The respective merits of the type-writer and caligraph were briefly discussed—Mr. B. favoring the latter, though he uses and sells both machines. Two caligraphs and a type-writer were ranged along the wall, while the furniture necessary for students occupied the room. In the rear is Mr. Browne's private office and the tuition room. The business is managed by a lady assistant, Mr. Browne confining his attention chiefly to teaching. Mrs. Browne was away in North Carolina, recruiting, so we missed the anticipated pleasure of looking upon the beautiful face of the author of the "hel-hook," and the valuable assistant of the genial genius who presides over the headquarters. Mr. Browne is very free in his manner, and a stranger would at once feel at home with him. We do not wonder that he has gathered about him a host of students and writers. As one of them remarked "Mr. Browne has got hold of the wires, and he has made this the headquarters. He has put me in a half-a-dozen positions, and offered me more evening work than I could do."

THE OTHER AUTHORS.

Time did not permit a visit to Graham, Munson, Burns, Lindsley, and the lesser lights. Readers of New York stenographic journals need not be reminded that the best of feeling does not exist between the exponents of some of the rival systems. A joke current around Browne's will illustrate.