

## PHONOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT.

*To the Editor of the Miscellany:*

SIR,—In my first letter to the *Miscellany* on this subject the value of the labor and time-saving art of shorthand-writing to typos was spoken of. It will be remembered that I then directed the attention of your readers to the fact that success does not always depend upon a mere knowledge of any system of phonography, since it becomes absolutely necessary that the reporter should be provided with a speech-photographing apparatus of the most improved and approved form, which, as I then said and now repeat, is alone found in Andrew J. Graham's Standard Phonography,—the most beautiful system of shorthand-writing yet offered to the world. The letter to which I refer seems to have produced a remarkable effect upon some of the victims of the various shorthand humbugs, who, in attempting to prejudice the public in regard to the statements contained therein, have afforded us an excellent opportunity of peeping into their empty knowledge boxes, which has clearly revealed the fact that they are simply ridiculously ignorant of anything in connection with the beautiful art, save the outlandish rules and regulations of some of the cast-off styles known as the old English phonography, Taylor's shorthand, Mrs. Burns' system, Scovill's stenography, or some other one-horse system. Yet, for some reason or reasons better known to themselves, these nefarious shorthand heathens persist in their attempts to mislead the uninitiated by endeavoring to pervert my statements, which has rendered it necessary for me to publish comparison plates, demonstrating the great superiority of Standard Phonography to the systems with which it has been compared, and at the same time serving to substantiate my own statements. It will be observed, by referring to the comparisons, that the majority of those which form what is known as the better class of worthless systems, have been shown up in their true colors.

Since the publication of my last article, I have been considering the advisability of encroaching upon the valuable space of the Phonographic Department of the *Miscellany* by giving further comparisons, and have decided to ask space for one more plate—which will present a comparison of a system known as Munson's Complete Phonography with Andrew J. Gra-

ham's "Standard." It was after a most careful examination of the lightning systems which we frequently read about, that I selected Munson's, it being, in my opinion, one of the leading imitations of Standard Phonography. Mr. Munson's text-book, "The Complete Phonographer," which is now before me, is certainly a publication worthy of a place in the library of the most fastidious, of course it should be understood that I am simply speaking of its mechanical appearance, which is all that could possibly be desired. It is bound in attractively stamped and gilt green cloth, printed on thick cream-laid paper, and in a large, clear type which is restful to the weary eye. To Messrs. Harper & Bros. belongs the credit of making the "Complete Phonographer" a work likely to sell at sight.

It appears to me that the "Complete Phonographer" has been placed on the market by Munson, Harper Bros. and others, with a calculation of netting a few dollars and cents, and without considering the glaring injustice they do to inventors of phonography and the young student who contemplated learning the art. The author does not seem to have invented anything in connection with phonography, unless it is the peculiar style he has of giving the improvements of others in disguise,—a full exposition of which is to be found in *The Student's Journal*, Vol. I. Mr. Graham has unmasked what he calls "Munson's wholesale piracies," so ably, carefully and completely that I shall modestly refrain from attempting to throw any further light on the matter. I cannot but remark, however, that, in my opinion, Mr. Graham speaks of Munson's improper conduct in rather positive terms. He tells his readers that Munson has not only helped himself to Standard Phonographic improvements without his permission, but that he has also wilfully ignored him as the inventor of those improvements. Now, I maintain that Graham should be a little charitable on this point, even though provoking it must be to find one's self victimized in any shape or form. Mr. Graham, before charging Mr. Munson with being an unmistakable literary thief, ought to consider the possibility of typographical errors, which are of frequent occurrence. I say that Munson's omission to give the inventor of Standard Phonography proper credit may have been unintentional. Although I must admit that the author of the "Complete Phonographer" does not pretend to be the originator of anything of