

A TIRONIAN STENOGRAPHER

Was thus complimented by Ausonius :

Come hither, young and active scribe,
Prepare thy tablets to record,
In quickly flying dots and strokes
What I shall dictate, word for word.

O, wondrous art ! though from my lips
The words like pattering hailstones fall,
Thine ear hath caught them every one,
Thy nimble pen portrays them all.

Quick darts thy hand across the page,
No other movement scarce is seen ;
Yet in its track a thick array
Of signs instinct with meaning gleam.

My words no sooner are pronounced
Than on thy tablets they appear ;
My mind cannot keep equal pace
With thy light finger's swift career.

Say, who is it that doth betray
The cogitations of my heart ?
Who dares to thee my inmost thoughts,
E'er they are uttered, to impart ?

It surely is no human skill
That works such miracles as these ;
No other mortal e'er performed
Such feats with such consummate ease.

Nay, now I see, the mystery's clear,
Some kindly goddess, at thy birth,
Bestowed on thee this wondrous gift
In memory of her trip to earth.

—*Student's Journal.*

Nos. 648 to 671 of *Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly* contain easy lessons in phonography (Graham's system), which is only one of the many attractive features of this deservedly popular publication.

The American Young Folks, a monthly published in Topeka, Kansas, is doing a good work by giving its readers lessons in Standard Phonography.

Why was the first woman like the first letter of the phonographic alphabet? Because she wasn't right inclined.

What's the difference between a stenographer and a blind man? One is short-handed and the other is short-sighted.

A Standard phonographer, who was asked by the inventor of Tachygraphy why he had not adopted his excellent system instead of Graham's, said he had been informed that a tachygrapher, while making a *verbatim* report, could not be brought to a "dead stop" inside of fifty seconds. He suggested to the inventor that it might be well to provide his system with a safety air-brake, so that in the event of a "Fenian raid" similar to that which was made on the government shorthand writers by the land-agitators, any of his disciples, while engaged in hauling in, at the rate of three hundred words per minute, the harangue of some excited spouter, might be enabled to come to a halt quick enough to allow him to pack up his duds and make himself scarce. We understand the inventor is considering the advisability of following out the suggestion of the Standard phonographer.

FONETIK SPELLING.—The *Chicago Tribune* has put in use the following reformatory rules in orthography:—Omit ue in demagog, catalog, synagog, and other words ending in "logue" and "gogue." Omit the superfluous me in programme, making it program. Omit the second m in dilemma (dilema). Omit the superfluous te in cigaret, etiquet, parquet, coquet, and all similar words. Spell definit in all its forms without the final e, thus: definit-ly-ness; indefinit-ly-ness. Omit final e in hypocrit, favorit; also opposit-ly-ness and apposit-ly-ness. In words ending in "less," viz: carelessness, thankless-ness. Omit the fourth s in assassin (assasin) and other forms of the word. Change ph to f in fantom, fantasm, and all other forms of the word; also in fonetic-s-al, fonegraf, orthografy, alfabet, digraf, difthong. The *Utica Observer* has accepted of these changes.

A Hibernian quick-quillist tells us that a phonographer is very apt to fall into the evil of excessive *phrasing* when, after a midnight carousal, he gets to his boarding-house just in time to find the doors barricaded and the thermometer registering 167° below zero in the shade.

Mark Twain says that the difference between the speed of Standard phonographers and writers of inferior systems is equalled only by that which exists between sliding down a greasy pole and the locomotion of a blind fly in molasses.