

public with such excellent evidence of his disordered intellect, as he has, by attempting to treat a subject between which and himself hangs the curtain of profound ignorance. T. W. B.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Oct. 23.

#### Phonographic Squibs.

In response to a petition from the members of the Bar to the Bench of Montreal, Hon. Justice Johnson stated, on behalf of his brother Judges, that they had concluded it was in the interest of justice and of the profession generally that they should make some order in the matter to the Prothonotaries. That order was—that hereafter only such stenographers as are willing to accept 20 cents per hundred words be employed. There has been no authorized price heretofore, but the custom has been to charge 30 cents. Some are of opinion that the present rate will have the effect of reducing the amount received by the stenographers by one-third, but we cannot believe it will have any such effect. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that while they will receive a less amount per 100 words, still, by applying all the speed-giving improvements of Graham's "Standard" system, they will be able to more than double the total amount received, to say nothing of the stimulus that will be given to shorthand generally by a little competition and the extra study and research induced.

Arthur J. Barnes, a shorthand reporter of St. Louis, has been sued for an alleged breach of promise of marriage, by a young German woman, who places the damages at \$10,000. The most curious part of the affair is, that while he can speak English only, she can only speak and understand the German language. Mr. B. explains the matter by saying that the girl misunderstood an order he had given to her to go to market and purchase material for a dinner, and, instead, got herself ready to be married—evidently thinking more about bridegrooms than beefsteaks.

The *College Annual* is the name of a very interesting journal published by Messrs. Loomis & Aument of the Sterling Business and Phonographic College, Sterling Ill. Standard Phonography is, of course, the system taught by them. As a penman, it is said, Prof. Loomis has no equal. Enclose stamp for specimen of his penmanship.

#### A Professional Tramp.

"'Texas Jack' is the sobriquet of John T. McGinty, one of the most noted tramps in the Union. Talk about Bayard Taylor, Mayne Reid, Stanley and all the other travelling celebrities, they will have to take a back seat when 'Texas Jack' brings out his history of adventures by land and by sea. He has travelled from the rock-bound coasts of Maine to the Gulf of Mexico; he has tramped from the Lake of the Woods, at the head waters of the Mississippi, to the 'Crescent City.' There is not a State or Territory in the Union that he has not visited; and he has wandered through Europe and Asia. He has been in London, Paris, St. Petersburg and Berlin, and has wandered through Sunny Italy and La Belle France, and visited the scene of the late unpleasantness between the 'sick man' and the 'bear,' and has paid his devoirs to the Sultan and the Czar. He has visited Mt. Arrarat, but was not equal to the task of climbing the mountain and gazing on the remains of the ark. He has paid his respects to the shrine of Mahomet and made the pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city of the Moslem, although he does not wear the 'green turban,' and he has visited Constantinople, wandered through Turkey and Greece, and at last crossed the Atlantic and came back to the 'Land of the Free and Home of the Brave,' where he has wandered from the shores of the Gulf to the golden shores of the Pacific, and has 'set type' on every newspaper in the country. He has dived for gold in the mines of California; he has 'whacked' bulls across the plains, hunted buffalo with the Sioux and Commanche, and has witnessed some of their blood-curdling war dances, and has been on the war-path with some of their most noted braves, and was on familiar terms of intimacy with 'Captain Jack.' He travelled down the Missouri on a flat-boat and the Mississippi on a raft, and has 'jumped' more railroads than any man in the Union; he has drank beer with the flaxen-haired frauleins of the capital of Austria, and danced, with all the vivacity of a gay Irishman and the chivalry of an American, with the dark-eyed senoritas of the land of the Montezumas; in a word, he is a travelling phenomenon, but is now on his way to the city of his nativity—Boston—where he intends to settle down and where he has an interesting wife and family. We wish him all

Renew your subscriptions to the *Miscellany*.