

## FOREIGN.

GABELSBERGER's system is principally used in Germany.

SHORTHAND is extensively studied at the Cape of Good Hope.

EARL BEAUCHAMP wanted to have the reporters' gallery in the Upper House removed, so that the members and speakers would face the pressmen, but the proposition was rejected. So it is true that some people *are* afraid to face reporters!

A PHONOGRAPHER has been employed to report the evidence given at the Court Martial now being held in England in the matter of the alleged bribery of the marker at Wimbledon. This is a noteworthy step in advance, for shorthand writers have not been employed in Court Martials in England until now.

We have received from Mr. M. Hurst, 23 Church Street, Sheffield, Eng'and, two curious photographs. They represent the contractility of phonographic forms—being fac-similes of postal cards, one of them containing 11,650 words, and the other 14,250 words. They were both written by Mr. G. H. Davidson, of London. With the aid of a magnifier they would be quite legible, but as we look at them with naked eye we are constrained to exclaim, as the frogs did to the naughty boys in the fable. "It may be fun to you, Mr. Davidson, but it's death to our poor eyes."

MR. J. H. AYERS, of the Telegraph Department of the Ipswich Post Office, has completed a task which testifies to uncommon practice and perseverance. He has carefully written out a complete copy of the Church Service in phonography. It is comprised within the compass of a volume similar in size to the ordinary printed Church Service, and is yet so legible as to be read by a phonographer with almost, if not quite, as much fluency as print. Some idea of the amount of labor involved may be gathered from the fact that the book contains 563 pages, and, on a fair average, each page includes 450 separate characters, representing a still larger number of words. The Suffolk, Eng., *Chronicle* thinks Mr. Ayers must possess not only patience and carefulness, but an enthusiasm for phonography to which the editor lays no claim.

In Westminster Abbey will be found the following inscription to the memory of William Lawrence, a writer of shorthand, who died 250 years ago. William Lawrence was probably clerk to the prebendary who indited the inscription in grateful remembrance of the services of this useful shorthand writer of the olden time:—

With diligence and trust most exemplary,  
Did William Lawrence serve a prebendary;  
And for his pains now past before, not lost,  
Gained this remembrance at his master's cost.  
O, read these lines again: You'll seldom find  
A servant faithful and a master kind.  
Shorthand he wrote, in prime his flower did fade;  
And hasty death short hand of him hath made.  
Well couth (knew) he numbers; and well measured  
hand,  
Thus doth he now the ground whereon you stand,  
Wherein he lies. So geometrical  
Art maketh some, but thus will nature all.

## ENCOURAGING WORDS TO LEARNERS.

An old-phonographer sends us the following, which we gladly insert:—

Will you kindly give me space in your valued journal to say a word of encouragement to beginners in the art of phonography.

When phonography was young it seems to me there was much more enthusiasm amongst learners than we see now-a-days. Isaac Pitman was our idolized chief, and no claimant had as yet arisen to distract our attention. Out doors or in, phonographic characters were everywhere present. Roofs and spires and trees and fences bristled with suggestive dots and strokes and curves and angles. Hundreds of young people, having once got an inkling of phonography, followed it up for the pure love of the thing and without any thought of becoming reporters. There should be more of this spirit now. It is not desirable that all should seek to be reporters; it is desirable that hundreds of thousands should learn to practice this extremely useful art. The dread "reporting machine" may one day cause reporters to quake in their shoes,—it cannot touch the usefulness of phonography in private life. Four of my family are now thorough phonographers, but I should regret to see any one of them try to make a living by it unless they gave promise of a special aptitude for the business. Yet I doubt not it will be to them, as it has been to me, the most valuable secular study of my life.

Algebra, geometry and some other pet hobbies have never, in my calling, been of the slightest use to me; but tell me, if you please, in what occupation a knowledge of shorthand may not be made serviceable? It is a great help in composition. Of this particular feature a striking instance occurred in my own experience. We had had a "grand occasion," and nothing short of a two column report would have pleased the Boss. Several smart men, including a clergyman, laid their heads together to get out the "copy." I was merely a clod-hopper, but had taken notes, and I, too, was busy inditing, each party unknown to the other. The thing leaked out, however, and I was sent for, reports were compared, and mine was adopted. Sermonizing was too slow and heavy. Phonography had given me a facility in composition that "astonished their weak minds"—as the saying goes.

Phonography is of great service in learning a foreign tongue; but my remarks on this head must be deferred.

Phonography is a *life-long amusement*. An intellectual hobby of this sort will help to keep you clear of smoking, drinking and other abominations. Begin the study and practice at once. In a cosmopolitan magazine like the *WRITER*, comparisons are odious, but there can be no harm in saying that while all have merit you are safe with Benn Pitman and perfectly safe with Isaac. Glide over the corresponding style and make permanent use of the reporting style. Remember further that phonography is no manner of use unless thoroughly mastered.