



CONDUCTED BY T. WILLIAM BELL.

The Value of a Stenographer's Notes.

In the Court of Appeals in Montreal a very important judgment was recently given concerning the admission in evidence of a stenographer's notes and testimony. It would seem that one Stanislas Leonard committed perjury as a witness in the Superior Court, where his testimony was taken by a stenographer, who, in giving evidence against the prisoner in the trial for perjury, produced his notes, which presented a true photograph of the words uttered by the accused. The appeal was made on the grounds that the stenographer had not been properly sworn, and that stenographic notes are not properly admissible to prove an offence and ought not to be employed in the aforesaid manner. The judges endorsed the judgment of the court below, holding that the evidence of the stenographer in cases of this kind is of vital importance, and is, in fact, the only means of fastening the guilt upon the guilty.

LONGHAND WRITING.—A rapid penman can write 30 words in a minute. To do this he must draw his pen through the space of a rod, $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet. In 40 minutes his pen travels a furlong, and in five hours and a third a mile. We make on an average 16 curves or turns of the pen in writing each word. Writing 30 words a minute, we must make 480 to each minute; in an hour, 28,800; in a day of only five hours, 144,000, and in a year of 300 days, 43,200,000. The man who made 1,000,000 strokes with a pen in a month was not at all remarkable. Many men, newspaper men, for instance, make 4,000,000. Here we have, in the aggregate, a mark of 300 miles long to be traced on paper by each writer in a year. In making each letter of the ordinary alphabet we must make from three to seven turns of the pen—or an average of three and a half to four.

Funnygrafik Phakts.

Fast young men—Standard Phonographers. The chief end of a phono. is the point of his pen.

Yawcob Strauss and Burdette are the Standard Funographers of America.

Why is a shorthand writer like an African pugilist? Because he is a stun-nigger-pher.

Phonographer to Her Majesty Queen Victoria—The shorthand reporter of a criminal case.

For those who have a diary we would prescribe the use of phonography. It's away ahead of burnt brandy and sugar.

What's the difference between shorthand notes and bank notes? The former are usually taken with a pencil, while the latter are always taken with thanks.

A phonographer who can trot out 172 to 200 words per minute is very fast. When he gets his speed up to $210\frac{1}{4}$ he can distance Dexter every day in the week.

Grahamites make money, buy new clothes, and get their bills receipted. Inferiorimitator ites make no money, preserve their old clothes, and occasionally get them reseated.

We learn from the *Shorthand Writer* that Benn Pitman is now teaching young ladies how to make up beds. He gives instruction to about one hundred girls each term. He made up a very comfortable little bed some time ago for his "Manuel." The result is it sleeps so soundly that even Pullus cannot awaken it.

Whenever a newspaper reporter secures a "complimentary," and gains admittance to a negro minstrel show, he is either conducted to a private box, or placed in the arms of a cushioned orchestra chair; whilst the less fortunate parliamentary reporter, when attending the House of Commons, is obliged to crawl up into the "gallery."

With a view of establishing harmony between our phonographic editor and those individuals who are continually finding fault with the tone of his productions, we are considering the advisability of supplying with each number of the *Miscellany* a blank page, which subscribers who hold opinions on shorthand matters that do not exactly coincide with those set forth in our phonographic department, may fill up with Carter's blue-black, to suit their own peculiar ideas.