

stenographers red hair, or were they writing so fast that day as to cause sparks to fly from their pens? We don't understand it; perhaps some ingenious friend will suggest a solution of the riddle.

LITERARY NOTES.

The *Notre Dame Scholastic*, of Notre Dame, Ind., one of the liveliest and most ably conducted college papers in America, has donned a handsome new dress.

Mr. Thos. Anderson's *History of Shorthand*, with a review of its present condition and prospects in Europe and America, has been issued in England. The work is very comprehensive in its scope, and must prove a very valuable addition to the library of every stenographer who takes an interest in the literature of the art-science.

Owing to illness, and other causes, the *Printers' Miscellany* fell behind in its date of publication, and Editor Finlay is issuing double numbers in order to gain time. The Feb.-Mch. number contains an interesting summary of the newspaper History of Quebec, translated for the *Miscellany* from the French by permission of the author, Horace Fetu.

AN HONEST CONFESSION.

MONTREAL, 8TH MARCH, 1882.

Editor COSMOPOLITAN:—When I undertake to teach our beautiful art (which I very seldom do), I make a point of giving my pupil all the good advice I can—even if I steal it. I was under the impression that, whenever I did steal, I always acknowledged the theft, like an honest man, but, by the February number of your valuable magazine, I find I am a greater humbug than I suspected.

It is true you did not receive the contribution "Fast speakers and How to Keep up with them" directly from me; but the friend who did hand it to you was evidently under the impression that it was my composition. I remember copying it from a magazine published some years ago, and in re-copying it for my friend, and slightly altering one or two sentences, I suppose I must have omitted to acknowledge the source whence it came.

It contains excellent advice for young aspirants to stenographic fame—a few printer's errors notwithstanding—and you did well to reproduce it; but "Honor to whom honor is due." I deserve great credit for stealing it, but that is about all I had to do with it.

Yours respectfully,
R. FIELDER.

A San Francisco journalist claims to have written one column per day for the last eighteen years. This amount of manuscript would make about 50,000,000 ems, printer's measurement, and would fill 1,500 octavo pages of solid nonpareil.

STENOGRAPHIC BLUNDERS.

There is some good reading in the report of the New York State Stenographers' Association for 1881. From a paper on "Blunders," by F. J. Morgan, of Syracuse, we extract the following as ludicrous instances of stenographic interpretation and transcriptions therefrom:

Gross receipts—Grocery seats. The mother's prayer—The matters prior. He was a little fellow—He was a little full. They captured two parrot guns—They captured two pirate guns. The woman was baking bread—The woman was begging bread. I found the horse in that pasture—I found the horse in that posture. Counsel offered paper in evidence—Counsel brought pauper in evidence. Arthur Waite, the chalk-talk evangelist—Arthur Waite, the Choctaw evangelist. The showers were not sufficient to meet the wants of millmen—wants of milkmen. In the intervening time he said nothing—in the entire evening time he said nothing. I came with my brothers, Horace and Henry—I came with my brother's horse and Henry. A medical witness, speaking of the illness of a lady patient, said: "She appeared to be somewhat unstrung and nervous." The transcriber made him say, "She appeared to be somewhat kneesprung and nervous." A minister, preaching a sermon on the death of a gentleman named Samuel, quoted: "And buds and blossoms in the dust." He was delighted to read in the next issue of the paper: "And buds and blows Sam in the dust." An attorney asked a female witness how she came to be employed by plaintiff, and she answered: "I saw a sign in the window, 'Female clerks wanted here.'" The blundering reporter rendered it: "Family color warranted here." An orator referred to the different religious sects or denominations "going for one another" throughout the country, and said: "Here we have one sect persecuting another," and was so reported, but the transcriber rendered it: "Here we have one sick person feeding another," and so it appeared in the morning papers.

Several years ago an eminent lawyer hired one of these professors to take testimony in an important case. The transcribed minutes astonished him. A "patent," upon which much depended in the suit, was converted into a "potentate"; a "solid frame" was turned into an "isolated farm"; the "furnaces of this country" were set down as "Fenians of this country"; "clerks and bartenders" were made into "clocks and barometers"; and the question, "Were you in the habit of visiting the house?" was written, "Were you in the habit of fastening the hose?"

[Mr. Morgan should, in justice to the stenographers, have pointed out that such "blunders" as the first one—"grocery seats" for "gross receipts," are partly the fault of the dictator.]

Editor Samuel J. Medill, the backbone of the *Chicago Tribune*, lives in an elegant flat on the North Side.