

the International Congress the choicest of the papers read before our Convention. In this way there would be an identification of Canada with the other great nations in the worthy rivalry of honorable achievement.

We shall be happy to place our Bureau rooms at the disposal of our Canadian brethren for the purpose of a Convention, and to aid in every possible way the accomplishment of the ideas here suggested. In view of the probability that the International Congress will be held in Toronto in 1883, the representatives of the Dominion should actively organize a fraternal society and be ready to entertain their distinguished visitors from other lands in such a manner as to uphold the excellent reputation of Canadians for hospitality. Let us hear from the fraternity in all sections of the Dominion.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SHORTHAND WRITERS.

The coming Congress at Cincinnati on the 31st of August gives promise of being an important and largely attended assembly. Although the International Association is not widely known or well understood in this Dominion, we hope to be able to make such railway arrangements as to secure the attendance of a Canadian contingent respectable in point of numbers, and enthusiastic to a good degree.

The importance of Conventions is recognized by nearly every profession to-day, and shorthand writers have surely more reason for favoring fraternal gatherings than have the members of many other brotherhoods. No toil is so wearing or wearying to the physical and mental constitution as the combined brain-and-hand labor of the shorthand writer, and on hygienic principles alone, such gatherings are a necessity. We once heard propounded the theory that the human system requires a seventh part of lifetime (in addition to the third devoted to sleep) for rest and recreation from labor. Hence the physical and mental necessity for Sabbath observance. The theory was made applicable still further, and an annual vacation was advocated, in order that the tiredness which had accumulated during the remaining months of the year might be thoroughly dispelled. Whether this theory, in its fullest application, be founded upon science, we do not know, though the testimony of our senses is in its favor, for "tiredness" always implies "heaviness,"—caused, as it would seem, by the system being weighted down

with what, for lack of a more scientific term, we should call "tire-germs."

On whatever theory it be based, the important fact remains, that when vacation time comes, brain-workers need a rest, and are benefited by change of scene, occupation, and society. Conventions furnish the needful in these respects, and on this ground alone are worthy of support.

But there is another important consideration. The shorthand writer who isolates himself, and trots about on his own little cabbage-leaf, oblivious to the hum and roar and rattle of the world's workers, is a loser in every respect. He grows selfish and suspicious, morose and mercenary: so selfish that he can see no virtue in any shorthand system or working method other than his own; so suspicious that he declines to communicate discoveries lest his rivals should appropriate their benefits; so morose that he loses the opportunities, which shorthand writers obtain more frequently than almost any other class, of influencing society in its progress toward what is elevating; and so mercenary that he values his professional skill by dollars and cents, and catches no thought of educational, social, or moral revolution, involved in the art-science of shorthand. To rub off professional prejudices, and warm the heart with professional enthusiasm, nothing can be compared with a well-conducted Convention.

Still another important object attainable by means of Conventions is, the noting of progress made in the various branches of the profession, and the devising of plans for further usefulness. The interests of shorthand require systematic, persistent, perpetual agitation. Legislators must be taught to recognize our just claims; educators must learn the merits of our art; business men and corporations must be convinced of the supreme time-saving and hence money-making value of shorthand. The army of shorthand writers,—stenographers, shorthanders and phonographers, must also be educated in the ethics and etiquette of the profession; in the relation of the profession to the progress of society: in the most correct, rapid and satisfactory methods of performing their various duties. Here is work enough for an annual Convention in every State in the Union and every Province in the Dominion.

There is another branch of our profession which is assuming constantly-increasing importance and dignity, viz., Typewriting. We trust that this art may al-