

# THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

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## Editorial and Contributed.

### MR. N. R. BUTCHER.

**M**R. Nelson R. Butcher was born in the year 1858, and has therefore reached the age of 23 years. He first began the study of shorthand about six years ago at London, Ontario, beginning with "Webster's Teacher," a small book revised by Mr. A. J. Graham, whose works he subsequently took up and has used ever since. From that time forward he has shown special aptitude for the art, and has with diligent study reached the goal of his ambition, being now one of the official reporters of the Superior Court of Ontario. Mr. Butcher's first position as shorthand writer was in the office of Messrs. Matson & Law, Land Agents, Toronto, where he was employed for over nine months as corresponsent, &c. He left to take the position of corresponsent in the law office of Messrs. Blake, Kerr, Boyd & Cassels of this city, a place which he successfully filled for over three years. During his stay in the latter office he was frequently called upon to do court reporting, having at various times accompanied the Hon. Ex-Vice-Chancellor Blake and Hon. Mr. Spragge, Chief Justice of Ontario, and taken particulars of cases for them. He left this firm to take the position of official court reporter, which he now holds. He is the youngest reporter on the staff. While at Barrie recently Mr. Butcher was called upon to read a lengthy portion of his notes, and for the readiness with which he did so, received the compliments of the presiding judge, which speaks well for the system he writes. Mr. Butcher has reported some very important speeches, notably those of the Hon. Edward Blake, Vice-Chancellor Blake, and Rev. Dr. McKay, the English delegate to the Wesleyan Conference, a speech which was the subject of much comment. He has from time to time contributed articles to this journal. He uses the "Remington Type Writer." Mr. Butcher is a staunch supporter of the Graham system, which he thinks is better adapted to actual verbatim reporting than any other now in use.

We have to acknowledge the kindness of our friends in responding to our request for news paragraphs. We hope, however, to hear from many more of them, and that as frequently as possible.

### TROUBLES IN THE CAMP.

The *Phonographic Meteor* for July, informs its readers that it has withdrawn D. L. Scott-Browne's advertisement from its pages. In making this announcement the editor speaks of Browne as being a quack doctor, who does little else for the profession than advertising his own sweet self. Thos. DeQuincy, the writer says, mentions a man who had such an abnormal opinion of himself and his own right to apothecize, that he seldom uttered that puissant pronoun "I" without gravely raising his hat. The *Meteor* man wonders whether that egotistical individual was Mr. D. L. Scott-Browne. The article is embellished with a picture of a quack doctor whose *gin-ial* countenance, we hope, is not offered as a *fac simile* of the editor of the *Phonographic Monthly*.

Our neighbor Browne, we incline to think, is destined to fill the chair of quack doctorship, for we find another note recorded in his favor in the current number of the *Printer's Miscellany*, where he is styled "The Phonographic Quack of the Nineteenth Century." The article, a decidedly vigorous one, is headed, "A Stalwart of the Stalwarts," and the writer calls upon Mr. Browne to step forward "like a little man" and plead guilty to the charge of having attempted to assassinate Standard Phonography by publishing, in his Christmas number, a *fac simile* of forged reporting notes; representing the same to be from the *Miscellany* man's pencil and offered a ten year's subscription to any person or persons who should succeed in making a correct transcription of what Browne termed "Illegible Standard Phonography."

The *Miscellany* man very kindly intimates his willingness to forgive his assailant, should he make the necessary *amende honorable* within any reasonable time, and we sincerely hope that the latter gentleman will accept the terms and thereby help himself as much as possible out of the very unenviable position he must now find himself placed in before the phonographic profession.

In the name of everything that is phonographic let us have harmony. When we look back over our young life in the phonographic world and think of the jolly times we have had and are now having; of the good things that our friends and brother editors are now saying