

opinion, a certain time is necessary in which the mind may digest the principles of shorthand writing, (which time, of course, varies a great deal in different individuals,) and no amount of study will force the intelligence beyond its capacity to hold and retain the knowledge sought to be acquired. In other words, it does not seem possible to "cram" shorthand into one's brain. It has got to become a part of one's being—a second natural self—before one can say that he is thoroughly master of it. And at such times as these, when the brain becomes weary and satiated, a change of study should be taken, and after a little while shorthand can again be taken up and prosecuted with renewed vigor, and to much better advantage than if one continued to peg away all the time without cessation.

In conclusion, allow me to say to my fellow-printers that it will pay them to take up the study of the art; pay in many different ways. Pay in cash, in intellectual development, in the acquisition of a useful and beautiful art; and I would strongly advise them to take up the study of it at the earliest possible moment. All, of course, cannot make verbatim reporters, but there are few who cannot do anything in the way of shorthand writing, and if it is only used for private work, it will amply pay for the time spent in learning it.

BOZ.

#### Adventure of an "Official" in the Wilds of Phonography.

Continued.

Wearing all over his face in general, but in the immediate neighborhood of his proboscis in particular, an expression that would have very easily passed off for a crockery crate, or the rack of an Acadian hay-cart, he advanced a few steps in the direction of the bar and addressed the court in the following language: "Your Honor, and gentlemen of the jury—It is a subject of sincere congratulation that the body of fellow-creatures to whom I am about to offer an explanation concerning my shortcomings is composed of men of high character and intelligence; men who are eminently qualified to discharge their important duties, and who are remarkable for their inclination to look always on the bright side of things. I regret—I may say I deeply regret—the occurrence of what has to the best of my knowledge and belief given the court business of to-day a very dark com-

plexion. While I am sensible of the fact that I have conducted myself in a very unprofessional manner, I feel confident, nevertheless, that when you have been made acquainted with the circumstances connected with the matter, the unfortunate mishap which has resulted from carelessness on my part will fail to find even standing room in your noonday thoughts or midnight dreams. As you, my intelligent friends, are aware, it is part of my duty to convert into shorthand characters each and every word uttered by the person giving evidence. As the present witness, Miss O'Shaughannasse, seems to be addicted to the habit of uttering her sentences in a very hesitating manner, and my pen being accustomed to moving in the society of tongues that turn out words at the rate of three and four hundred a minute, with such strict observance of punctuation that they look as though they were machine-made, I was, during an evil interval between her words, waylaid and overpowered by a feeling of drowsiness and carried off into the land of Nod, where I remained until Your Honor came over and effected my release. I must say that I feel very much pained, internally as well as externally, over this unpleasant matter, but I hope by closer attention to business in the future to efface from the minds of Your Honor and gentlemen of the jury the unfavorable impression which has been created by my strange conduct."

To be concluded.

*The Shorthand Review*, published quarterly, in the interests of Scovil's Shorthand, and "the only organ of the Scovil System," is a very neat publication. The number just issued has a portrait and biographical sketch of its editor, proprietor and publisher.

*The Students' Journal* for August has a full cargo of valuable articles. Among others, it contains the following: Egypt, Telephone Reporting, History of the Earth, Roman Gluttony, Evolution, The Evil that Men Do, etc.

The injunction to love your neighbor as yourself does not apply to the man who looks over your shoulder and breathes into your ear when you are writing.

The foremen of printing offices are respectfully asked to canvass their offices for subscriptions to the *Miscellany*.