

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William H. Orr,

[“Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.”—Hon. Thos. H. Benton.]

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Phonographer's Mutual Assistance Association.

In another part of our present issue will be found a draft of a Constitution and Rules for a Phonographic Association for British North America, which were drawn up by a friend of the cause for our columns. It was his purpose to have formed an association at once and went ahead. Taking our advice, however, he has consented to defer so important a step until a Convention can be called at some suitable time and place to take the matter into consideration. The draft of the proposed Association is published in the *Pioneer* to bring it under the notice of Phonographers throughout the country, so that they can suggest amendments to it, or draw up a more suitable one in its stead. For our own part, we do not like the name, exactly; it is not comprehensive enough—it is too much confined. “The Brit. Am. Phonetic Association,” would be more appropriate. Then the entrance fee and annual subscription are too high and will look a little too compulsory. In the United States, where they have a Society which is now in the tenth year of its existence, they have recently abandoned all stipulated fees of any kind, keeping the expenses within bounds, and receiving voluntary contributions only. We do not know that there would be need of anything more here; but all that, of course, could be determined upon in Convention. The next question to be determined upon is, when shall the Convention be called, and where. A more central place, for the body of phonographers throughout the country, or a place where more phonographers reside, could not be named than Toronto. As to the time, we would say the 22nd or 29th of March, if that would be suitable to others. The reason we prefer it as late as that is, so that we may have two more issues of the *Pioneer* before the assembling of the Convention, which is desirable on several ac-

counts. Parliament will then be in session, and those phonographers who have never had the pleasure of looking in upon our wise men, can then have an opportunity.

We shall be glad to hear from as many of our friends as possible, previous to our next issue, upon this subject, and should we receive a considerable number of letters in favor of having a Convention, we shall draw up and publish a CALL for one, signed with the names of those who are in favor of it—naming such time and place as the majority prefer. Let communications on the subject be short and to the point, for we have very little time to spare from our other labors to attend to the matter. Let them be numerous however. We want every Phonographer who thinks it at all probable that he can attend, at some place or some time, to write and let us know it, pre-paying postage, of course. The Convention need not occupy more than one day, though no one would be compelled to stay if it should be necessary for two or more days to be taken up. It is not probable there will be any expense connected with it, for wherever it should be held, the friends in the vicinity will of course find a room for their visitors to meet in.

Correspondence.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, of Onondaga, says: “A ‘tho’ a very inferior Phonographer as yet, I do not think half so much of any other art as the ‘Railway of the Mind.’ I have had no time to study it, except what I have snatched from the duties of my daily labor; yet, under these circumstances, I can now write over 80 words per minute. You may imagine how agreeably disappointed I was on finding it so easily mastered. In fact it is so simple that I have, more than once, ‘wondered that I had not invented it for myself.’ Indeed, I once made an attempt to invent a system of shorthand, but on seeing your advertisement and having procured the Manual, I was so completely taken up with Phonography that I dropped my own work for a method which cannot be second to any. I think, on account of its utility, that before many years it cannot fail to be generally taught in the common schools of the country. The public ought to feel grateful for your kind endeavors in spreading a knowledge of art. I can as-

sure you that I have been very much gratified with it, and so would every person feel had they an intimate acquaintance with it. Each number of the *Pioneer* is like a feast, and from my heart I wish you and it success. I have gone through the Manual, but wishing to become still more proficient, I enclose \$2 for which you will please send me, by mail, a copy of Graham’s Hand-Book, a Reporting Cover, two Phonographic Pencils, &c.”

Henry Schroder, of Portsmouth, writes, in fine, and perfectly accurate Phonography:—“It would be utterly impossible for me to express my great delight with this beautiful system. I am so struck with its wonderful brevity, that I am almost disposed to doubt its veracity. But, when I examine any word which I have written, I am so convinced of its truth, that I am led more than ever to admire it.—It is the most fascinating and easy study that I ever entered upon. And now, in these dull times, I would advise all that can, to procure books and study it; which, if they do, they may rest assured they will never have cause to regret it. You must excuse me if I am not yet a perfect phonographer, as I have been at it for less than three weeks.”

“J. C. G.,” of Port Hope, wishes to know if Graham, in his Hand-Book, has improved upon the present system, and to what extent.

In reply, we would say that he has improved the Reporting style very materially, so much so as to render it much easier for a person to write two hundred words per minute than formerly. Most, if not all of the improvements incorporated in the Hand-Book have been in use for some time, among the best phonographic writers, but were never before published. As will be seen by the advertisement in this issue, the Hand-Book meets with the most unqualified approval of the principal reporters of New York and elsewhere. We are happy to say too, that it is meeting with a very extensive sale.

Longley’s “American Manual of Phonography” is preferred to Pitman’s by some.—Everybody is entitled to his own opinion.

THE TEACHER.—We regret to say that we are unable to procure any more copies of this valuable work. All the copies that have been printed are gone, and so great is the demand for elementary books that Mr. Pitman finds it almost beyond his power to supply that. Consequently “The Teacher” must remain “out of print” for the present, and our friends need not order any more of them.