

office in his cabin. His manuscript was taken page by page by the compositors, set up immediately, and upon the arrival of the boat in New York, at five o'clock in the morning, Mr. Raymond's report, making several columns of the *Times*, was all in type. These columns were put into the form at once, and at six a full report of Daniel Webster's speech was selling like wild-fire on the streets.

A leading article in *L'Unite Stenographique* for February treats of the extended use of shorthand among the military, and of its special importance in war offices. And war is the great thought and care of all the nations of Europe. Prussia, bloated with conquest, goes on making yet greater preparations in weapons, in system, and in subjecting every man over 18 to years of drill, which makes of him as perfect a machine as they make of their iron and steel. All the other nations are obliged to prepare and hold themselves prepared for an avalanche of this mass of havoc. In actual service a single minute of gain or loss of time or movement may be decisive. Exactitude is above everything a requisite. The general must give orders briefly, hastily and in all directions; his aides take them down in shorthand and fly with them to their address. His information as to movements on the field comes to him in the same way, sure and prompt. The wires of the telegraph or telephone may be cut by the enemy, but stenography aids even the lightning to do its work in time, and prevent the consequences of orders arriving too late. Concision and secrecy of character are two qualities of the mystic symbols that are invaluable in actual service.

Some observations made lately by the *Scientific American* in connection with its account of the great improvement and revolution in telegraphy by the substitution of Faradic machines for the vast array of batteries hitherto used in the great offices, go to shew that in the coming age of wire, stenography will be one of the most useful agents as adjunct to the telephone and telegraph. Even now, in the great centres of intelligence, news must go to press so quickly that the stenographer cannot take time to transcribe his notes. In lieu of sending one shorthand reporter to take the notes of an important speech or discussion, a whole staff is sent under direction of a chief, often as many as ten to fifteen. One writes for five, or, perhaps, ten minutes when, at a signal, a second moves his pencil, continuing the notes while the first withdraws to a side room and reads his in the mouthpiece of a telephone, at the other end of which, in the printing office, a compositor sets up the matter from the reporter's lips; before he has done, and read his type back to the reporter for verification, other wires and compositors are engaged, and No. 1 presently returns to take his turn again in catching the speaker's words.

Ever-circulating magazines, which have, through many years, been so usefully employed in England as a means of mutual improvement and friendly correction among students, seem to

be scarcely known in France. The stenographic periodicals there are giving interesting accounts of their management, and of their constantly increasing extension. In the United States, although the post office authorities borrowed the term "phonographic paper" from the British postal regulations as one of the items allowed to pass as third class matter (for the benefit of home students), they would never allow circulating magazines, written in phonography, to pass at less than letter rates. They seem at last to be ashamed of this oppression on the large class of poor but ardent, aspiring students who live in secluded country homes, and cannot meet or see any fellow students, or gain such help in the line of study they desire to pursue. Many circulating magazines are now going the rounds through the States. If the conductor takes the precaution to have all the paper uniform, and with a printed heading showing its title and "students' essays," "no personal correspondence," it is now allowed to pass. In England, neat covers, like those used for the better sort of diaries, form the wrapper; but across the lines a circular envelope is mostly used.

The careful observer will find many curious blunders and "solecisms" in the newspapers of the day. Upon a hasty glance over a few recently, we discovered some choice gems. "With every edition we send out more or less sample copies," writes an editor who has gone through college and obtained an education,—"more or less." The same author writes, "We were once knowing to a case where," etc., etc. This is evidence that he is a "knowing" editor, whatever his education may have been. Similar to this construction is the following sentence from a High Church paper whose editors are supposed to have studied English prose writing:—"On the question of the New Constitution attempted to be brought in, a number of insuperable objections present themselves." In the same paper appears an announcement by an insurance company which states that "No minister, especially those with a family, should be without an insurance against accident." If the agents of this company handle ministers as carelessly as they do the Queen's English, the ministers need insurance against accident at the hands of the insurance company. The learned and classic editor of the *Canadian Spectator* used this expression recently:—"A minister should be a little abreast of his people, but not very much." This is surely a slovenly use of language. Examples such as the foregoing are quite common, and the critical reader may discover scores of them. We have noted these because all (except the insurance advertisement) are sips of clerical pens, and such "clerical errors" are almost un pardonable when the standard of ministerial education is so high. Words are tools, and those who live by their use should know how to use them properly. Shorthand writers and newspaper reporters can see readily how intimately this subject is related to their own work, and they may take valuable hints from the exposure of the above peculiarities.