

dying, a messenger came as if from the Duke of Wellington, and tried to force his way into the sick room, but I discovered that he was a reporter dressed in the old yeomanry uniform.

—*The Journalist.*

STENOGRAPHY IN FRANCE.

THE Eighth General Assembly of the French Stenographic Institute was held last month in Paris, and formed the closing session of the first International Stenographic Congress held in France. After the

minutes of the preceding Congress had been read, the resolutions discussed and drawn up by the various commissions were adopted in order to be transmitted to the Minister of Public Instruction. A paper was read by M. CLEMENT, on "the progress of the Association." Since its foundation in 1872, it has awarded 2015 diplomas of stenography and supported the establishment of forty journals printed in stenography published in France, Belgium, Spain and Africa. The session was closed by the inauguration of a bust of M. Duploye, the author of the leading French system of shorthand. —*The Journalist.*

Communications.

FAST REPORTERS.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8th, 1880.

To the Editor of the SHORTHAND WRITER:

SIR,—In the November number of the WRITER, Mr. E. E. Horton says that "Mr. T. A. Reed, of London, England, the fastest shorthand writer in the world, claims as his utmost speed only 185 words a minute." Either Mr. Reed is very much faster than he thinks, or he has a reputation better than he deserves. I am personally acquainted with some half-dozen reporters who reach 200 words a minute, and one, Mr. James Holland, of St. Louis, whose speed I have often had the opportunity of testing, who far exceeds that rate. Mr. James Holland is a phenomenal reporter. In a recent one minute test in St. Louis, he wrote 281 words of hard matter (from Proctor's lectures on Astronomy) and read his notes fluently. My informant, Mr. George Brown, of St. Louis, himself an exceptionally fine reporter, was one of those present at the time and witnessed the trial. Mr. Brown can, himself, write over 200 words a minute, or at least could nine years ago when he and I were on the staff of the St. Louis *Republican*, and he has since (he informs me) increased his speed. I have also seen John J. McElhone, of Washington, and the Murphy brothers writing with equal rapidity. Mr. McElhone told me last winter that he has written 240 words in a minute. Mr. Eugene Davis, of New York, formerly of Montreal, is another fine reporter who, I am satisfied, can take 200 words a minute, and reports French more readily and accurately than ordinary reporters can report English. I could also mention the name of Andrew Devine, of Washington, formerly of Ottawa, who also exceeds the maximum speed of the "fastest shorthand writer in the world." Mr. William Colebrooke, of Chicago, formerly a colleague of Mr. Horton and myself on the *Globe* staff, frequently reported Punshon's lectures and sermons *verbatim*, and Mr. Horton knows the speed which that means—a rate often exceeding 190 words a minute, and always diffi-

cult matter from the unusual words employed by the "the Methodist Pope." I think I have given evidence which will convince your readers that Mr. Horton's claim for Mr. Reed is hardly tenable.

With the other statements contained in Mr. Horton's letter, I heartily agree. He deserves the thanks of the profession for having called public attention to the subject.

I am &c., Fraternally yours,

GEO. C. HOLLAND.

A LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE.

LONDON, ONT., Nov. 28, 1880.

To the Editor of the WRITER:—

Would you kindly allow me space in your valuable journal to relate my experience in connection with the mystic art of Phonography, believing such to be instructive as well as interesting to others who are wrestling with hooks and lines. About four months ago a friend of mine showed me a copy of Isaac Pitman's "Teacher." I purchased one, and commenced to study it in earnest, and what I expected would be a tedious task has become a pleasant study. At the end of three months I could write fifty words per minute. I now take down all I can of the sermons I hear on Sundays, and while of course it is not a verbatim report, yet I find myself improving rapidly. I think it excellent practice for an aspiring reporter, for it enables him to form a more correct idea of the manner in which he should report a speaker than by the usual way of having a reader. My mode of procedure from the outset was to read all my notes and transcribe them into long-hand again. I would advise every reader to adopt the same plan. I believe the study of this valuable art is conducive to the improvement of other branches of our education, especially composition, while it also quickens our thinking faculties and strengthens our powers of memory.

I am, yours truly,

ASPIRANT.