

lightened, and the printer—which is the great desideratum—gets "copy" the more quickly. The man that has the first turn—and the order is decided by lot—goes in to the Commons at 4 o'clock, and stays here three-quarters of an hour, perhaps, taking down all that is in his opinion worth reporting; when the next man takes his place in the gallery—now appropriated to the craft, and placed just over the Speaker's head—he goes to the Reporter's Room, which is close by, and there converts his short-hand notes into writing, which, leaf by leaf, as it is thrown off, is immediately taken to be set up in type. It takes two or three hours to write out one half hour's "turn," according to the importance of the subject and the ability of the reporter: but it is said of Mr. Charles Dickens, that when on Perry's staff he wrote out the copy of a whole column and a half of the *Morning Chronicle* in an hour. The length of each "turn" is much reduced as it grows late, and if the debate be prolonged to 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, will not, perhaps, exceed as many minutes.

Sometimes, when there is a stiff debate on hand, such as a "no-confidence" question, the Prime Minister will speak for several hours together, and consequently all the reporters will have a hand in it. The speech may be in several places at the same time: part may be in the act of being written out by the reporter, part on the way from the House to the printing-office, part on the editor's table, where he is writing his leader, part in the compositor's hand, and part in the process of delivery. Nay, more: in these days of electric telegraph, the first portion of a speech is often read in Liverpool or Manchester before the remainder has passed the orator's lips at Westminster."

The "gallery" view of Parliamentary orators is of course somewhat different from that of the general public, who have not to write down what the orators say. "A reporter does not care so much about your crack speakers, unless they are slow of speech. Lord Palmerston is liked very much, altho', generally speaking, his *ipsissima verba* have to be taken down. He is not a quick speaker and by no means a fluent one, especially in the beginning of a speech. He is like an old coach-horse, whose limbs are rather stiff at first, but work better when the blood gets warm and the circulation quicker. It is so, decidedly, with the "Bottle-holder": he cums and hals, and—ur—speaks—ur—as—ur—though—ac—though—he—ur—were unaccustomed to it. Now he proceeds very hesitatingly and with caution; and presently, all on a sudden, he proceeds briskly with a few sentences—somewhat in the style of one walking along the street and treading on an orange peel by accident. He is an easy man to report: he delivers his words as if they were pebbles, and should not

be lost to those for whom they were intended. He is undoubtedly a very deliberate speaker, and being a popular and a leading man, whenever he is on his legs the House is remarkably quiet, but on holdings are abandoned, and private conversations cease. Lord Stanley is not so bad, he speaks with a tolerable fluency, but is rather indistinct in articulation. His father, Lord Derby, is by no means a friend of the reporters, for a great deal of "copy" has to be written out whenever he opens his lips. Bright is fluent, distinct—and often wrist-aching. So are Gladstone and Sir George Grey, Macaulay, when in the Lower House, was the terror of the reporters, as he had a most rapid delivery, and rarely stammered or hesitated for an apt mode of expression, for he generally prepared his orations beforehand. In the year 1836, he delivered a most brilliant oration at an Anti-Slavery meeting. At the close of the meeting, Mr. [afterwards Mr. Justice] Therry told Mr. Macaulay that, from his rapid mode of speaking, and from so much of the merit of the speech being dependent on the accurate collocation of the words in which his many metaphors and figures were expressed, it would only be an act of justice to himself to furnish a report of the speech. At first, he hesitated, and expressed some doubts whether he could furnish sufficiently ample notes for the purpose. However, on Mr. Therry telling him due attention should be paid to any notes he thought proper to furnish, if he forwarded them to the *Morning Chronicle* office by 8 o'clock that evening, he agreed to do so. On going to the office of that journal at the above hour, Mr. Therry found a large packet, containing a verbatim report of the speech as spoken—the brilliant passages marked in pencil, and the whole manuscript was thumbed over, furnishing manifest denotement that no speech in Enfield's *Speaker* was more laboriously and faithfully committed to memory than that delivered by the great historian of the age.

In *David Copperfield* will be found the most accurate as well as humorous description of the difficulties of stenography, by one, as we have said, of the ablest that ever sat in the Reporters' Gallery. Lord Campbell, when a young man, sat there also, and also on Perry's staff; so did Hazlitt and John Payne Collier. Justice Talfourd, too, was a reporter, and Courvoisier Phillips, and last, but by no means least, Mr. Special-
Correspondent Russell.

AN ORTHOGRAPHIC SNARE BY RUFUS CHOATE.—One day, when some nice questions of philology were being discussed by a select party of Boston humorists, Rufus Choate asked them each to write down the

following sentence. To the surprise of all except the proposer, no two copies were alike in orthography. We have tried the experiment, and we yet have been unable to find any one able to write it correctly. Please read the words aloud to some of your learned friends, and compare their written copies with any standard dictionary;

Profering the carnelian hues, and separating the innuendoes, I do declare that the peddler's gray pony ate a potato out of the cobbler's wagon which the sibly had gauged."

"A Bad Spell."

At a recent spelling exercise of the Students of the South-Western Normal School I gave out the word *Erysipelas*. One hundred and nine students engaged in the exercise, about fifty of whom spelled the word correctly. Three or four made no attempt, and the remaining fifty-four invented the following original forty-five spellings:

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| 1. Eresipelas. | 24. Earisipillus |
| 2. Eresypelas. | 25. Eycersipelas |
| 3. Erycipelas. | 26. Errysipelas |
| 4. Erysipelous. | 27. Errisiplys |
| 5. Erysipilas. | 28. Erryisylyas |
| 6. Erysipulus. | 29. Errisiphis |
| 7. Erysipilus. | 30. Erycipelas |
| 8. Erycipalous. | 31. Eresipilus |
| 9. Erecipalus. | 32. Erisipilus |
| 10. Erecypelas. | 33. Eresipelas. |
| 11. Erecipelas. | 34. Ayresipelas. |
| 12. Erecipelas. | 35. Araccipolis. |
| 13. Ereyipilas. | 36. Eresipalus |
| 14. Eresyprelous. | 37. Aracipilis |
| 15. Eresipillous. | 38. Arecypillus. |
| 16. Eresypalis. | 39. Aracipilous |
| 17. Eresypilas. | 40. Irecisipilas. |
| 18. Erasyppalis. | 41. Irresipilous. |
| 19. Erasipelas. | 42. Irricicipilus. |
| 20. Erasipelis. | 43. Irresicipilas |
| 21. Erasypal. | 44. Irresicipilis. |
| 22. Erisipelas. | 45. Iruisippias |
| 23. Ericipilias. | |

It will be observed that the student who is responsible for No. 21 was so exhausted with his attempt that he could not finish the word.

About two years ago, this word was spelled thirty-one incorrect ways, by the same number of pupils, in a Western graded school. The class numbered thirty-six, four of whom spelled the word correctly. "One was sensible enough not to undertake it."

I believe that there is but one spelling in this list (that of the graded school) that is like any one of the forty-five methods given above, viz. No. 25 and No. 2.—W. I. HENKLE, in the *Indiana School Journal*.