

preferable to any other. But our correspondent is making a great mistake in dabbling in so many systems. The idea of writing three within two years is altogether too absurd. Any one of them is good if adhered to; but all combined are almost worse than useless, if the writer have not very well learned the principles relating to any one of them.

Q.—“Is there any phonetic dictionary of Benn Pitman's system?” A.—No.

Q.—“What do the salaries of correspondents run on railroads and mercantile houses in the Western States, who write 80 words per minute and middlings in longhand?”—Learner. A.—We are glad to know that our correspondent does not profess to be more than a learner. The prospect is that he will be a learner for some time to come, judging from the construction of his question. Salaries in the Western States range from \$60 to \$100 per month, but we would advise our correspondent to take a good deal less than the latter sum—if he gets a chance.

### NEWS GATHERINGS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE GROUND IT COVERS—HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS.

The New York Associated Press is composed of the leading journals of New York City, which, clubbing together, save a vast amount of expense by having a capable corps of men to cover the important places in the United States. They have an organization similar to that of any newspaper office, with chiefs of departments, etc. The cities of Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, and other places have representatives of this association, whose business is to send all the important news. Besides this, there are other associations for the same purpose; for example, the Western Associated Press, the National Associated Press, the North Western Associated Press. Many of these associations are on such friendly terms that they exchange their news, thus saving expense.

The New York City Associated Press is composed of the Tribune, Times, World, Express, Sun, Herald and Journal of Commerce. When a paper is sold, if a member of the association, the Associated Press franchise goes with it, and cannot be separated from the paper, as in the case of the Express, which was absorbed by the Mail some time ago, the Mail and Express using the Express' Associated Press franchise. At present it seems that a party of stock jobbers have secured control of the New York Associated Press, which makes it somewhat unreliable in its news. This clique now have control of three of the papers of New York, the World, the Express (now the Mail and Express), and the Tribune; though it is claimed the latter is controlled by Whitelaw Reid, its editor.

The National Associated Press, a formidable rival to the other associations, was started but a year or so ago by Mr. James Goodsell and a few others. This association has been very

successful, and is rapidly becoming more and more popular with the papers of the West, because of the reliability of its news. Among the papers using its news are the Chicago Daily Herald, Indianapolis Times, and Louisville Commercial.

The Western Associated Press, with headquarters at Chicago, has acquired a bad reputation, owing to incompetent management. The Tribune, Times and Inter-Ocean and Cincinnati Gazette, are the leading papers using its news.

The Northwestern Associated Press is composed of those in the North, and some papers in Iowa and Illinois.

Nearly all the foreign news is gathered through Reuter's Agency, with headquarters in England. Its representatives can be found in all parts of the Old World. Of course all the leading papers have special correspondents at important points abroad, but most of our dailies procure foreign news through the Associated Press, which in turn gets it from Reuter's. Among the notable foreign correspondents are G. W. Smalley, of the New York Tribune, and Jennings of the World. The New York Herald has a larger staff than any other paper to cover foreign points and pays out more money for special cablegrams, which have added so much to its popularity. The Toronto Mail gets much of its news through a special arrangement with the Herald, thus giving the freshest news to its readers.

Each of these companies mentioned have a separate organization, with its own officers; and each is supposed to give, without political bias, full reports of all important events. In some instances, sorry to relate, this rule has not been adhered to, resulting deleteriously to their own interests. The best and only course to pursue, when papers of varied political opinions are to be subserved, is to give impartial reports; this cannot be done when any of its managers have axes to grind.

### THE PROFESSION OF JOURNALISM.

THE INFLUENCE OF COLLEGES UPON THE NEWS-PAPER PRESS.

At the last Tufts College commencement dinner, Mr. Z. L. White, editor of the Providence (R. I.) Press, was called upon to speak for the profession of journalism. He said, in substance: “I have been asked to say a word for a profession which does not need speaking for; the press, like the poor, you have always with you, and it needs no word from me to introduce it. The profession of journalism has grown up almost within the memory of those present. It is only a few years ago that newspapers were not the power that they are to-day. Among the influences tending to change the character of journalism and to elevate it to its present high standard, that of the colleges of the country and its institutions of learning is one of the strongest.

The importance of the influence of the pro-