

phonographer and attend to another business at the same time, is, in my humble opinion, far from being correct. Thousands of young men who are studying shorthand at the present time are compelled to labor for their daily bread, and they need all the assistance and encouragement they can get. In connection with this subject I would like to say a few words about your SHORTHAND WRITER. In my opinion it is as near perfection as a work of the kind can be. It benefits the student in many ways. Reading is as necessary as writing, if not more so, for by it the student will get a true idea of the formation of various words and besides be able to read his own notes with greater ease. Your journal also brings the student in contact with shorthand writers, of whose very existence he would remain forever in ignorance were it not for it. Its cosmopolitan character ensures that. I would not be without it for twice the amount of the subscription. My earnest wish is that it long may flourish, and be the means of spreading more and more the grandest study in the world, namely—

PHONOGRAPHY.

## THE REQUIREMENTS OF A REPORTER.

**A** CORRESPONDENT of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* asks that journal a number of questions relating to reporters, and the following answer is given:—As there seems to be something many men out of the whirl of a newspaper office do not understand, we give space to this knowledge-seeker's letter. A reporter's duties are so numerous and varied that only the most careful and constant reader of a daily journal can appreciate the many-sided characters of the service. Here is a paper with the hasty history of the day. We find politics, city and country affairs, military matters, religious conventions, government news, social events, criminal notes, interviews, articles on special topics, court proceedings, market reports, marine intelligence, sporting news, such as base ball, cricket, races both running and trotting, archery contests, pedestrianism, sprinkled in with commencement exercises, railroad subjects, together with the almost endless record of the day; the musical and dramatic criticisms, the great range of correspondence, and so on *ad infinitum*. Nothing is said and nothing can be given of the way this news is obtained, the short time to prepare long and important articles for the columns of the paper for the next morning; nothing of the reporter as a detective, critic, judge of evidence, or of his discrimination as to the value of news. These things come to the newspaper man only after prayer and fasting—sometimes a great deal of the latter. If any young man, with journalism in his eye, thinks that he could cut in these several branches, why, he has probably a better opinion of himself than a city editor would have after a month's trial.

We won't add a word as to the hours of work: A reporter's work is done when it is finished;

in other words it is never done. To-morrow is the same as to-day; it may be late to night, and early in the morning. His work is on public exhibition every day. It is compared with the work of accomplished journalists at every edition of his paper. When the reporter writes, his paper speaks. He is unknown. His personality is hidden. With all other work the laborer receives the credit. With a reporter, the paper he represents is the gainer, and of course to a certain extent he is, too. But the work is the wheel, moving round and round until the tire comes off, or the hub weakens, or the spokes break, or the axle gives way; then a new wheel is at hand to take its place. Reporters are gentlemen of intelligence, good social position, well read, hard working, inventive, shrewd, of unusual culture, and yet are generally indifferently well paid. On the monetary side, the profession is not attractive. It is not an easy matter to secure employment without experience in the many duties it entails. Our correspondent will see what breadth of reading and study the work demands. The subjects written upon in a daily paper are the only answers to his inquiry under that head.

## FONETICS.

**M**R. W. H. GRAHAM, of Los Angeles, California, is an enthusiastic advocate of Spelling Reform. He sends us an elaborate table exhibiting his system, and energetically adds:—

Let us all assist in the work of reforming the old tŕmwaisting hwopcrjawn konfounded roten roman arbitrazi abominashn.

The fŕv old vowels, i e a o u, shud be uzd most frekwentli in thar most komon short soundz, in akordans with the wel none prinsipl ov alfabetik filosofi, hwich represent: the simplest form ov the vowel az a short sound, and the shaded or hevier form ov the same az the koresponding long sound.

The Fonetik Armi iz growing stronger everi day. The tŕm haz kum hwen each popular Periodikal wil profit bŕf introducing intu it a small speling reform department.

The people ar now in advans ov the paperz, konsekwentli an argument in favor ov speling reform, hwen printed in the old speling, wil hav but litl praktiki baring. It iz the duti ov all ov our rŕterz for the paperz to assist in the work ov improving the English Orthografi, but no wun haz a moral rŕt tu uze it az it iz.

No wun haz a rŕt tu uze S for Z, y for short i, ed for t, ph for f. C for k s or sh, c s tce cŕse si ti ch chs sc sch sci &c. for the komon sound ov sh; ch for k, x for both ks and gz, qu for kw, wh for hw, pn or kn for n, uze dubel leterz for elementeri soundz, or praktis uther such lyk infernal desepshn upon the mŕndz ov inosent children.

Let us konshienshusli konsider the rŕt koars tu persue in theze materz and then enter upon our dutiz akordingli.