

Mr. Arthur Bristow, of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, wishes to start an ever-circulator, and would like to hear from any of our Benn Pitman subscribers who favor the formation of one. Mr. F. Craig, of Peterboro, would also like to join an ever-circulator written in Isaac Pitman's system.

The editor of the *Metro* does not think much of the Shorthand Writers' Associations, and doubts their usefulness and utility. This is what he says: "The apparent results are disappointing. There are some associations which exist principally upon paper, while the reports of many of those that do exist are the reverse of cheerful reading. We know of many who have succumbed to the inevitable affairs of circumstances, and the records of defunct societies would furnish food for useful reflection." We can agree with our contemporary. We can point to but a few successful associations on this continent. There seems to be something radically

wrong in the management of these institutions, but we imagine that one of the chief reasons why shorthand societies do not exist in greater numbers, and those that are formed are not more successful is the lack of assimilation between professional writers and those who are yet amateurs or advanced students. We are sorry to say that there is a feeling on the part of many practiced phonographers to turn the cold shoulder to the student, and discountenance his efforts to master the art. We do not mean to say that this feeling is universal among reporters, but that it does find expression in some, we are convinced. In this connection we would give vent to our opinions on another subject, the seeming selfishness of shorthand reporters to rigidly keep to themselves any useful points in the art they may have discovered by experience—contractions, word signs, and the like. The pages of the *WRITER* are always open to the reception of any notes that would benefit the plodding student in his study of phonography."

Communications.

LADY STENOGRAPHERS.

ITHACA, N.Y., Nov. 11th, 1880.

To the Editor of the *WRITER*:—

In the October number of your excellent magazine, you state that the appointment of a lady as official stenographer to the courts of Washington County, Ohio, is the first case of a lady's being appointed to such an office in the States. This I think is a mistake. Mrs. Palmer, of Utica, a member of our State Association, has held the position of official stenographer to the county courts of three counties of our state for the past four or five years. And I think Miss Pulsifer, of Maine, has held a similar position for a much longer time.

Respectfully yours,

THEO. C. ROSE.

SHORTHAND AMONG THE ROMANS.

OTTAWA, October 24, 1880.

To the Editor of the *WRITER*:—

In "Middleton's Life of Cicero" it is related that on one occasion Cicero having learned that some of the senators present could write "shorthand," caused a report of the proceedings to be taken in full. Does not this look as though something analogous to our phonography was known to the Romans?

Yours truly,

JOSEPH POPE.

KANSAS CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. W. J. Jordan, the Secretary of the Topeka Stenographer's Association, sends us the following items, for which he will accept our thanks.

Mr. L. S. Wilson has been appointed Stenographer to the Governor of Kansas, John P. St. John.

Would like to see you at our annual dinner. Come and cartoon us. We are a jolly crowd, I tell you, the facetious element being strongly represented.

The officers of the Topeka Stenographer's Association for the ensuing year are as follows: T. J. Tilley, President; G. W. Loomis, Vice-President; E. T. Hall, Treasurer; W. J. Jordan, Secretary.

15,000 WORDS ON A POSTAL CARD.

THE contractility of Phonography has another illustration, this one being from the United States. Mr. E. L. Knapp, of Dowagiac, Mich., writes: "I notice in the September number of your magazine some account of postal cards upon which have been written a great number of words, the highest number being some 14,000. I have a card written by myself when I was studying phonography which will beat that. I have a postal card the size used in the U. S., upon one side of which are written 15,000 words in legible phonography in Graham's system. It was written with the naked eye, but is difficult to read without the aid of a glass. The matter written is a charge to the jury in the case of the People vs. Owen Lindsay, a murder case tried in Syracuse, N. Y., and reported by Tinsley and Morgan, and a portion of one of the arguments to the Jury by counsel for the Defence."