

PHONETIC PIONEER.

How to Become a Phonographer.

If you wish to become a good and rapid writer of this useful art, you must make up your mind to practice it a little every day. At first your writing will be stiff your words uncouth, and not perfectly written in the best and briefest manner; but practice will make the letters familiar, and when this is the case you will write them easily and well. By reading the Phonographic works, you will be led to observe the best forms for words, and this will help to make you a correct writer.

If you have friends who know Phonography, write letters to them, and receive and read the answers. This will assist you greatly. If you have no friends to whom you can write, enter your thoughts in a Diary; make it your rule to write something daily. Even if you think you have thought, said, or done nothing worthy of being written down, then write down that. Write, if it be only for the sake of writing. At first it will be more labor to write in Phonography than in longhand; but after a few weeks' practice you will be able to write much faster in the new style, and in a few months you will write from four to six times faster than you now do.—*Phonographic Reporter.*

From the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Phonography Again.

ITS PRE-EMINENT ADVANTAGES.

DEAR DOCTOR,—I am glad this subject has been broached in the pages of the Advocate. I have no doubt that its introduction there will be the means of inducing many to turn their attention to the subject, who otherwise might never, perhaps, have given it a passing thought.

The advantages accruing to the individuals who possess a knowledge of some system of brief-writing, cannot well be over-estimated. They are such as must strike the mind favorably at the first glance.

As we look at the locomotive speeding its way over its iron course, we feel proud of the age in which we live, and look back with feelings of commiseration to the days of our fathers, when, with their lumbering stages, it took them days to perform what it hardly takes us hours to execute. And yet are not the triumphs of short-hand writing over that slow and laborious system of longhand as great as those of steam over the old stage-coach? I think they are. I humbly conceive what steam is to the one, short-hand, and especially Pitman's Phonography, is to the other. It is true we write not by steam, but by a method every way cheaper and safer, namely, by sound.

So simple, so brief is this beautiful system of writing, that a popular orator of the day calls it the "railway of the mind," and the Hon. Thomas Benton once said, had he possessed a knowledge of phonography in his youth, it would have saved him twenty years of hard labor. However hyperbolic these eulogies may at first appear, a moment's reflection will, I think, convince any one of their correctness. By the new method of writing the practiced scribe can write from one hundred and fifty to two hundred words per minute; or as fast as the most fluent speaker can speak.

There is no young man, whatever may be his position in life, who would take pains to learn the few dots and strokes of which the system is composed, but would be a gainer to a degree of which he has now no conception. For all the purposes of journalizing, extract making, letter copying, etc., its value is above price. To the young man just entering on his career as a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I would say, make yourself

master of Pitman's Phonography. It will secure to you weeks and months of precious time, which you may spend either in the pastoral work or in mental improvement, which, but for such knowledge, would have to be spent in the slow and tedious drudgery of writing.

All other systems which have come under the notice of the writer are entirely the productions of their respective authors; while phonography, though first invented by Mr. Pitman, has been improved and brought to its wonderful state of perfection by the suggestions of hundreds, if not of thousands of the most experienced short-hand writers. It is an easy system to write, as there are none of those awkward curves to be made which deform other systems and render them so difficult. For brevity it is without a parallel.—This feature astonishes every one who examines the system. It is read as easily as it is written. This arises from the philosophical character of the system. It is simply a system of dots and strokes, which represent the elementary sounds as they are heard in the English language. The student of phonography has more helps to assist and encourage him than are to be found in all other systems put together. The New Testament and the Book of Psalms are published in phonography, and there are several monthly publications issued from the press in the same style.

THOMAS WALTERS.

THE READING, WRITING, AND SPELLING REFORM.

—The present method of learning to read is exceedingly tedious, and destitute of interest to both teacher and pupil. A new method has been introduced, by means of a phonetic alphabet, which makes it easy, rapid, and pleasant, and leads the pupil to acquire a correct pronunciation. It has been proved in numerous instances that children can be taught to read ordinary print.—"Probably one half" the children who frequent our national and other schools from the working classes, "leave the schools and are absorbed into the laboring community of the country, not being able to read," writes the reliable school inspector, Mr. Mozely, (Minutes for 1815, vol. 1, p. 228.)—Those who can not read are totally uneducated. Hence, with all our schools we have an ignorant population.

The present method of writing, it is admitted by all, is "cumbersome in the last degree, and unworthy of these days of invention, we require some means of bringing the operations of the mind and of the hand into closer correspondence."—This want is supplied in Phonography, a new system of phonetic short-hand, which is more legible than ordinary writing, and may be written six times as fast.

The present method of spelling is a disgrace to a civilized people. To obtain a knowledge of it, requires several years study, observation, and practice in writing. By enlarging the alphabet, so that it may contain a letter for every single and distinct sound in the language, the art of spelling may be learnt in a few years. The difficulty of learning to spell, and therefore of learning to write, which involves spelling—is the principal cause of our national ignorance. The phonetic alphabet, containing forty three letters, has been introduced, and is now extensively employed both in this country and the United States.—*English Phonetic Journal.*

Phonography.

Phonetic Short-hand is as legible as common Long-hand, and can be written five or six times as fast. So great is its simplicity that it can be learned in a few hours. An hour's daily practice for a month will enable any person to write it

with certainty, and some degree of freedom. One hour's practice per day for six months, will enable persons to take verbatim reports of Speeches, Sermons, Lectures, etc., and to read them with accuracy at any future time.

"An education that does not embrace a knowledge of phonography," says John Howard Tice, Esq., General Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools, in his Annual Report for 1854, "must be regarded as incomplete, and short of the wants of the age, and I would therefore recommend its early introduction in the Grammar and High Schools, as one of the regular branches of study." The Rev. Thomas Hill, Chairman of the School Committee, Waltham, Mass, in the High School of which phonography has been introduced, says:

"I should be taught in the common schools, as one of the best possible aids in obtaining a subsequent education." John S Hart, Esq., Principal of the Philadelphia High School, writes, Some of them (former pupils of the school) not yet turned twenty, are now making more money by Phonographic Reporting, than the Principal of the High School, after having given himself for more than twenty years to his profession."—Judge Kane, of Philadelphia, remarks: "To the professional man, and indeed to every one whose pursuits in life call upon him to record incidents or thought, (and whose pursuits do not?) it is one of the greatest labor saving machines of the age. Dr. J. W. Stone, Representative in the Mass. Legislature, says: "I deem Phonography, when thoroughly learned, an invaluable adjunct to education; and one which when acquired in youth would not be parted with in manhood for thousands of dollars." Col. Benton thus testifies to the value of Phonography: "Had this art been known forty years ago it would have saved me twenty years of hard labor."

Testimonials for Phonography.

"Before all our railways and telegraph wires are stretched over this land, Phonography will be even with the locomotive and lightning. They belong to the same generation of genius, in this age of improvement; and though Phonography may lag a little at present, it is only in consequence of a later birth. Its growth and importance will be equal to either—its utility is equal to the other two combined, and the last scratch of its pen will record their decease."—T. ELLWOOD GARRETT, Reporter, St. Louis.

"It is my humble opinion, that Phonography will eventually supersede the present system of writing, reading and spelling as the steam-carriage train surpasses the old eight wheel wagon."—SIR WILLIAM DUNBAR, Bart, Chairman at Mr. Pitman's Aberdeen Lectures.

"The young should learn this art, and use it as a means of intellectual culture, not unfrequently might it prove a key wherewith to unlock a well-furnished cupboard." I am glad to find Phonography among the regular studies at the High School of this city. Why should not so useful an art be introduced and taught in the Grammar and even Primary Schools?—P. B. in the Philadelphia Register.

"I consider the art of Phonography as one of the most valuable inventions of our prolific day. It should be taught in the common schools, as one of the best possible aids in obtaining a subsequent education. All the higher instruction of our academies, colleges and professional schools is given by lectures—lectures which are forgotten in a month after delivery. Why should not every student take down at least the principal part of these lectures in Phonographic notes?—Rev. THOS. HILL, Waltham, Mass.

Phonography is regularly taught in the Waltham Public Schools.

"Some of them (former students in the Phil. High School) not yet turned of twenty, are now making more money by phonographic reporting, than the Principal of the High School, after having given himself for more than twenty years to his profession. Those who have not entirely mastered the art, still use it as far as it is at their command, taking notes partly in phonography and partly in longhand. There is not an hour in the day, nor a class in the school, out of Division II, in which I do not see the students using this art, and with practical advantage."—JOHN S. HART, Principal of the High School, Philadelphia, Pa.

"When a practical compositor, I have frequently set page after page from phonographic copy, and in no instance was it necessary to consult the author."—ISAAC EXLAND, of the New York Tribune Office.