

in book form, and was presented by Mr. Thomas J. Woods, who in a suitable speech expressed his pleasure at making the presentation. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Mullins.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, one of the most industrious of the hard worked class of journalists and authors, and a writer of great and varied gifts, is still properly credited with a good deal of the incisive editorial matter in the *Daily News*. Novelist, journalist, historian, lecturer, Member of Parliament, Mr. McCarthy is a representative man in all the branches of literature and politics, which he has essayed with courage and success. Some of his friends lament that he has been drawn into the whirlpool of Irish agitation; but, despite his thirty year's residence in England, he is Irish, "native and to the manner born," and, master of his own destiny, it is not for friends or admirers to limit or select the field of his labors, or the political and personal objects of his sympathies. Journalistic London has reason to be proud of counting among its ranks men whose talents command alike the respect of friends and foes.

Mr. T. J. Woods (president of the London Shorthand Writers' Association) after congratulating the members, at their recent annual meeting, on the continued unanimity which had prevailed in the association since its formation in 1866, spoke at some length on the question of rival systems of shorthand, pointing out that the association was not pledged to any particular system, but always welcomed well-considered improvements in the art. Referring to a proposal to teach shorthand universally in schools, Mr. Woods expressed a decided opinion that, apart altogether from any objection the ratepayers may entertain to the teaching of accomplishments in rate-supported elementary schools, the attempt to impart a knowledge of shorthand in Board and elementary schools would be a great mistake. A very small percentage of students of shorthand ever attain real proficiency in its practice, and supposing the highest success attended the efforts of the teachers, a large proportion of the scholars in the Board schools would not derive the slightest benefit from a knowledge of the art, while on the other hand the time necessary to teach the signs might be far more profitably spent in more suitably equipping the scholars for the position they will probably be called on to occupy in after years.

SHORTHAND REPORTING IN OUR COURTS.

(*St. John, N.B. Daily Sun, October 6th.*)

There was one thing which the recent election trial in King's county brought very prominently before the eyes of the public—or at all events that portion of the public who were present at the Court last Monday afternoon, and that was the quickness with which the evidence was disposed of by the employment

of shorthand writers. In about two hours' time four witnesses were heard, one of them being examined at great length, and comparing the rate of speed of examining him with that of witnesses in other trials where shorthand writers were not employed, it is safe to say that in all probability had the evidence been written by the Judge in the ordinary way on trials in the Supreme Court, Mr. Travis would not have left the stand before Tuesday afternoon at the earliest. And if such a saving of time, and consequently of expense, was effected in one day, how great would have been that saving if the crowd of witnesses called by the petitioners had been heard. This proves, as have all the cases tried before our courts where the evidence was taken by shorthand writers, the great necessity there exists for the introduction of shorthand reporting into our Supreme Court at all events. The public and suitors could afford to pay a liberal salary to the official reporter, for, with the lessening of the costs of trials in the way of jury fees, witnesses' fees, &c., all parties would be the gainers, and the shorthand writer would, in effect, more than pay for himself. And there are other advantages which were clearly apparent at the trial referred to above. Mr. Gilbert was enabled to press the examination of his witness without being constantly interrupted to have the evidence taken down. His Honor the Judge was freed from the drudgery of several hours of hard writing, and was therefore enabled to give his undivided and undistracted attention not only to the evidence itself, but to the manner of the witnesses in giving it, and the opposite council could also watch the trial more closely—all parties knowing that the evidence was being taken down word for word, and that they could get it afterwards if they wanted it. The Opposition are calling out for reform and retrenchment in public expenditures. Here is a chance for Attorney General McLeod to institute a radical change which will commend itself to the public generally and inaugurate a system which, if ever adopted, would not be given up. Shorthand writers are employed in the courts of the United States and the Province of Ontario, and New Brunswick should no longer be behind the age in this respect. If it should be deemed unwise to make such a radical change without experimenting, let the Legislature give the judges the same power to appoint as is done by the Dominion Controverted Election Act of 1874. All that is necessary to commend the system to the public is a fair trial.

The first printing press in the United States was worked in 1620.

The first daily newspaper appeared in 1802. The first newspaper printed in the United States was published in Boston on Sept. 25, 1790.