

BENGOUGH'S  
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SHORTHAND WRITER.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

(Concluded from last Number.)

Mr. H. Binmore, of Chicago, the oldest reporter in the West, made some very interesting and amusing remarks about Convention reporting. Mr. Binmore looks like a Frenchman, has an English accent, and is as full of good humor as an egg is full of meat.

Mr. C. Kenyon is a young man and hails from Omaha, and he evidently has had some very practical experience in amanuensis work, upon which topic he read a paper before the association. After impressing upon shorthand men the necessity of thorough preparation before taking positions as amanuenses, Mr. Kenyon concluded his remarks by stating that he was authorized to hire two stenographers for offices in Omaha, one at \$65 and the other at \$75 per month, to begin with. But he wanted "good" men, and after hearing his recital of the exploits of one whom he called a "good" man, who thought nothing of taking 200 letters from dictation and transcribing them in a forenoon, your humble servant, as well as several others, concluded that he was not that kind of a good man, and would generously let some other fellows take these fine situations.

Thomas I. Daniel, of Jackson, Michigan, is a born reporter. He is a printer, having learned his trade in Guelph and Hamilton, and was at one time a compositor on the *Detroit Free Press*, where he was known as a "lightning comp." He writes the most microscopic kind of Graham shorthand, and with Charles Flowers, of Detroit, has written 245 words in a minute. He is also one of the fastest type-writer operators in the country. Mr. Daniel read a lengthy paper on the state of the profession in the Wolverine State, occupying over half an hour in delivery, and the said address is written in full on the two sides of a U. S. POSTAL CARD, which I begged from him as a phonographic curiosity.

Professor Dan. Brown, with his partner, Mrs. F. A. Holland, were very attentive to the delegate, and the professor worked hard to make the Convention a success. He believes in Bartholomew's Stenograph, but doesn't think shorthand writers need be afraid that their occupa-

tion will be taken from them by the reporting machine.

I was much struck with one thing about this Convention. At no time during the proceedings did any expression in favour of any one system escape from any delegate. System was at a discount, but shorthand and shorthand work were the topics of importance. We felt we were there as stenographers alone, no matter whether we were of the Pitman, Graham, Munson, Cross, or any other stripe. Our differences as to system were buried out of sight and no one had the bad taste to attempt a resurrection. Had the attempt been made, President Bennett would have sat down upon the offender heavily, and the Convention would have sustained him in such action.

In the words of the theologically argumentative Dutchman, "I was glad I was here to-night," "I have been there and still would go," and if I am able I intend to visit Cincinnati when the Association meets there next September.

Such meetings as that at Chicago broaden your views, discover to you what others are doing in the same field as yourself, and brush away any cobwebs of conceit concerning your mastery of reporting, that may be lurking in hidden corners of your brain. Close contact with minds keener than your own sharpens your wit and brightens your understanding, and makes you to know that if you are to keep pace with your fellows in the race for business and position, you must ever be striving to perfect your system and your methods of doing work. I obtained a feast at the Convention, though I was unfortunately unable to attend the banquet.

For our reports of the Conventions at Buffalo and Chicago, respectively, we are indebted to Mr. E. E. Horton, of Toronto, and Mr. F. W. Wodell, of Hamilton. Numerous matters connected with the change in business relations prevented the personal attendance of the conductor of the *Warren*. The magazine was well represented, however.