

The annual meeting of the New York State Shorthand Association will be held at Syracuse, N. Y., commencing on Thursday, the 19th of this month. A cordial invitation is extended to all phonographers of the United States and Canada. Headquarters will be at the Vanderbilt House. The first day will be devoted to business, and the second day to social pleasure.

MR. JAMES E. MUNSON writes that, owing to a severe attack of rheumatism, he has not been able to attend to business since May. He is well now, however, and hard at work. He feared he should have to forego his trip to Canada this summer because of his sickness, which has put his business very much behind, but he thinks he may come over late this month or early in September. Canadian disciples and many friends. We extend to Mr. Munson our sympathy in his sufferings, express our joy at the prospect of his visit to this Dominion and promise him a hearty reception.

FOREIGN.

MR. THOMAS, the editor of the *Phonographer's Herald*, is dissecting Isaac Pitman's new dictionary.

A MR. HUNT, of Bristol, has issued a system of shorthand which may be learned in a couple of months.

One of the 9th Lancers, in Afghanistan, amuses himself by teaching shorthand to his fellow soldiers.

ISAAC PITMAN, in the *Phonetic Journal*, has adopted a system of semi-phonography. It is intended as a stepping-stone to his "pure" style of reformed spelling.

The late General Election made a busy time for shorthand writers. Mr. Henry Pitman, of Manchester, estimates that 2,000 phonographic reporters were employed in note-taking throughout the United Kingdom. MR. GLADSTONE said "the reporting was admirably done."

Editorial Notes.

PARTICULAR attention is drawn to the advertisement of our Shorthand Employment Bureau. See second page of cover.

We have received a poem entitled "Cosmopolitan," after the style of Longfellow's "Excelsior." As there may be more to follow, we will hold it over that a comparison may be made and the best one will be published.

We have concluded the purchase of the subscription list and good will of the well-known *Phonetic Magazine*—the oldest shorthand journal in the United States—from its late publisher, Mr. S. B. Wright, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and will consolidate it with the SHORTHAND WRITER.

Rev. Wm. D. Bridge, of East Pepperell, Mass., who has been a phonographer since 1854, sends a critique of Mr. Pinkney's forms in his transcript of the article on "Hansard" (page 44). He points out several words and combinations which, he avers, are not in accordance with the rules of Graham's Standard Phonography. We shall publish Mr. Bridge's letter in next number.

It is questionable whether the profession of shorthand writing is improved by students advertising for positions when they can write only seventy or eighty words per minute. It is impossible to do satisfactory work at that speed, and those who attempt it only lower the standard of more deserving men. No one should accept a shorthand position with salary attached unless he can write at least one hundred words per minute.

Our good friend Fortune sends us a postal card written in shorthand by a printer's boy 16 years of age after studying phonography for 3 or 4 months. We print a fac-simile of the card

on page 57, omitting, however, the name of the writer, lest injury be done to native modesty, which is such a rare virtue as to call for special protection. The phonographic forms are as full of grace and beauty as the whole production is of playfulness.

Human ingenuity is frequently devoted to singular purposes of a not very useful description. At the Dusseldorf Exhibition, a member of the Rhenish and Westphalian Stenographic Society exhibits a German postcard containing Voss's translation of the first three books of Homer's "Odyssey" and part of a very long debate which recently took place in the German Imperial Parliament. The number of words in the extract of the "Odyssey" is 11,000, while in the parliamentary debate the number is 22,000. The whole of the 33,000 words have been written in the Gabelsberg system of shorthand and with the naked eye. The quantity of matter in this German shorthand and manuscript would be equal to what is contained in about twelve columns of the New York *Sun* set in solid agate type.

The late Henry J. Raymond, in the early days of his career, before the era of telegraphy, was sent to Boston to report one of Webster's speeches. Rival city journals also despatched their reporters, each selecting their best shorthand man to work against Mr. Raymond. After the speech had been delivered, the New York reporters took the night boat, and all, except Mr. Raymond, enjoyed themselves as well as they could. Raymond, however, sat quietly in a back cabin and was observed to be writing furiously. Upon examination it was discovered he had a fully-equipped printing