

# PHONETIC PIONEER.

THE LITERARY LOCOMOTIVE, An Expositor of the Phonetic Reform Edited and published monthly, by J. B. Moores, Newburgh, Orange Co., N. Y. Price 30 cents per annum.

This is a little magazine of eight pages, of two columns each, about the same size as the "Phonetic Journal." It is printed on fine paper, and contains a large amount of interesting matter.—One feature which renders it very useful, is that of a course lessons in Phonography, illustrated by suitable engraved characters. It is printed partly in phonotypy, and partly in the common style. Five copies of it are sent for \$1.00.

**PHONOGRAPHIC PENS.**—The "Phonographer's Pen," (steel) made by McIntyre, about which a correspondent inquires, we never heard of, and if such exists, we have no hesitation in saying that it is but a name given to his wares by some sharp manufacturer for the purpose of conveying the impression that his pen is superior to others. There is really no such thing as a Phonographic pen, except it is any pen which may be used exclusively for writing phonography. A pen which will write long-hand well will write phonography well. A first rate soft gold pen however, is a thing every student who can afford it should have. The Phonetic publishers of Cincinnati, and Messrs Fowler & Wells, of New York, sell gold pens, which write Phonography beautifully, but anybody who knows how to select a good pen can please himself just as well in any of our own cities.

## Why we Should Study Phonography.

PERHAPS no greater injury has been inflicted upon the phonetic reform than the attempt to recommend it to the public for its pecuniary value. That it has a pecuniary value—that it may open for many a poor young man or woman a place in the world they never could have attained by other means—admits of no doubt; but serious objection is to be made to the practice of perpetually appealing to selfish motives to induce persons to commence the study of phonography.—Zeal founded upon such motives generally disappears in a short time, and the phonetic cause suffers from the discouraging reports made by those who started well in the phonographic race, but discontinued it because their motives for study were insufficient. What are the motives for studying the higher branches of mathematics compared with those for studying phonography? The probability is, that phonography would, to the majority of persons, be of practical service ten times where the higher branches of mathematics would be of service once. Looking at these different studies, in respect of the training they give to the mind, phonography must be adjudged as quite equal to mathematics. What for every-day life, is the ability to compute ec-

line, to determine the risings and settings of the sun, to ascertain the cubical contents of a barrel, to arrive at the length of the hypotenuse of a right-angle triangle, the length of the other side being given, compared with the ability to jot down a memorandum, to sketch a letter or speech, to make an extract from a letter or book, to take in full or in part a lecture or sermon, with the rapidity of speech? To the lawyer, what would be a knowledge of algebra compared with phonography, by which he could preserve an indisputable record of testimony or the charge of the Court? To the principal of a commercial establishment, what a knowledge of the laws of permutation or the ability to find the cube, or square root of a number compared with the ability to use phonography in such a manner as to conduct his own correspondence, instead of committing it to the hands of a corresponding clerk? To the general writer for the press, what is a knowledge of conic sections or the ancient languages compared with the knowledge of phonography, by means of which "many ideas which daily strike us, and which are lost before we can record them in the usual way, may be snatched from destruction, and preserved till mature deliberation can ripen and perfect them."

It ought to be urged upon educationists, that phonography should take its place in our common schools, because it will make its students thoroughly acquainted with the elements of the English language; because it will tend to correct faulty pronunciation; and because of the facility it affords in the acquisition of learning. John Howard Tice, Esq., General Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools, in his Annual Report for 1854, says: "An education that does not embrace a knowledge of phonography must be regarded as incomplete, and short of the wants of the age; and I would therefore recommend its early introduction into the Grammar and High Schools, as one of the regular branches of study." Says Dr. James W. Stone: "I deem phonography, when thoroughly learned, an invaluable adjunct to education; and one which, acquired in youth, would not be parted with in manhood for thousands of dollars."

If the value of phonography as a time-saver in writing, as a facility in acquiring education, as a means of improving the memory, taste, and invention, does not induce a young man or woman to learn phonography, other motives need not be sought for. By those who are preparing for literary pursuits, or who are already devoted to literature, phonography will be accepted as a boon as soon as it is presented. To such chiefly phonography must look for support.

## Steam—Lightning—Phonography.

Within the last hundred years important changes have taken place in almost every department of industry. The mechanic no longer seeks the swiftly running stream to propel his machinery, but erects his mill or factory on ground the most convenient for labor or for market, and brings the elements into subjection to perform his drudgery; the stage-coach horse power, for locomotion, is almost forgotten in consideration of the iron-boned steed, hatched to the enormous wheeled palace; the sea-voyage of weary months is now performed pleasantly in as many weeks, by the applica-

tion of steam to navigation; and the mar of business no longer waits the rapid transmission of thought by such conveyance, but communicates through the length and breadth of our wide-spread country with lightning speed.

Thus the genius of invention and improvement has been abroad in the land, and although for a long time she confined her skill to building steamboats and making railroads, constructing machinery and teaching the lightning how to talk, she has not altogether forgotten the world of intellect; and PHONOGRAPHY, her last, most promising and glorious boon, presents to the world an alphabet of letters so simple and facile that he who uses it may readily keep pace with the fastest speaker,—affording a system of writing as much superior to that of the old script alphabet, as railroads are to the old truck-wheeled wagon, or the electric telegraph to the post-boy's plodding gait.

We do not wish to underrate the value of the present system of writing; it has been of great service in its time, having done much in the way of civilizing and enlightening the races of men. But the present state of things in the scientific world demands a change in the character of our written language. Science is a stern ruler; her laws encircle every art; and although for a long time they may remain undiscovered or not applied, yet as the world progresses in knowledge and learns wisdom from experience, it will cause them to be developed, and future ages will derive the advantages of conforming to them. These facts have been illustrated in the various facts to which we have alluded; and they are still to be expected in such departments as have not yet undergone the remodelling process of modern ingenuity. They take their turn in the great circle of progression; and it is our privilege to demonstrate the laws that apply to the art of writing, as required at this stage of the world's history.

The spirit of our age demands two new features in the art of writing: First, *Speed in its execution*; second, *System in its orthography*. In treating of the first desideratum, we shall briefly refer to the old roman alphabet, and the habit of writing it requires.

Like the ancient implements of industry and modes of labor, the alphabet of our fathers was constructed at a time when the ingenuity of man had not been brought into full play. The letters are complex, and the use of them cumbersome in the extreme. To illustrate: take the letter *b* for example; to make this letter, the fingers have to perform four inflections or movements, while it represents but a simple sound; in making the letter *m* seven inflections are required, while it, too, represents but one sound; and every letter of the old alphabet is thus complex, to a greater or less degree, although they are designed each to represent but a single sound.

Now while there is this complexity in the