

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William H. Orr,

["Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor."—Hon. Tho's H. Benton.]

Publisher.

VOLUME II.

OSHAWA, C. W., JULY, 1859.

NUMBER I.

No Postage on the Pioneer.

From the following clause in the Official Circular to Postmasters, issued from the Postmaster General's Office, June 12th, 1859, it will be seen that the *Pioneer* is entitled to pass free of postage, it being devoted to the education of the people in a knowledge of the Phonetic branch of science as applied to writing and printing. In other words, our little Journal, as is well known, is devoted to Education and to Science, and is in no sense either a newspaper or a literary periodical. Our readers may, perhaps, have to pay postage on this first copy, but upon exhibiting it to the Postmaster and explaining its nature, the cent paid will be refunded, and the subsequent Nos. will be delivered free. The following is the clause in the Circular to which we refer:

"The exemption from charge accorded to periodicals, printed in this Province, other than newspapers, when specially devoted to Education, (both religious and general) to Agriculture, to Temperance, or to any branch of Science, and addressed directly from the office of publication to be transmitted to any Post-office in this Province, is continued."

Phonography in England.

Mr. Isaac Pitman devoted nearly the whole of his *Phonetic Journal* for June 18th to a consideration of our remarks under the above heading, in the January number of the *Pioneer*. Not content with devoting nine or ten tremendous columns of phonotypy in his own paper to the subject—in the course of which he alternately rambles away from and again approaches the matter in dispute—he modestly enough intimates that he would be obliged by his remarks being copied into the *Canadian Phonetic Pioneer*, and the *American Phonetic Journal*. Perhaps the publisher of the latter journal will be able to accommodate him, but we can assure Mr. Pitman that, anxious as we are that the phoneticians of Canada should thoroughly understand his position, it is totally out of our power to accommodate him with suf-

ficient space in the *Pioneer* for so lengthy an explanation. To attempt to do so would "swamp" our little craft, and thus effect double injury to the reform in Canada. Moreover, we are confidently assured by a leading Phonographer of England that Mr. Pitman's remarks above referred to, "are only calculated to mislead Phonographers as to the real bearings of the facts;" that they are a "mass of misrepresentations and exaggerations," that the subject has been so thoroughly discussed in England, and communications of a refuting character been so frequently refused an insertion in Mr. Pitman's journal, that nobody now thinks it worth while to make any formal criticism of what Mr. Pitman may write on the subject. This being the case, and taking into consideration our limited space, it would ill become us to enter into a controversy on the subject, especially as we know for a certainty, beforehand, that nothing we might advance could have the least influence, after the rejection, by Mr. Pitman, of the overwhelming vote of the Phonographers of England upon the subject.

However, as we have no desire to keep our readers in ignorance on any subject if we can readily avoid it, we are perfectly willing to devote a page of our paper to a careful and impartial exposition of the reasons which the advocates of the new style assign for the reversal of the vowel scale, and would feel obliged if Mr. Pitman, to that end, would publish an article of the kind in his journal, in the common print, so that our compositors can read it, and send us the necessary cuts to illustrate the subject, the postal expenses upon which we will pay.

As to our opinion of the Cincinnati phonotypy expressed through the *English Phonetic Journal* in 1856, we do not know that it is much different in 1859. However, it is not wise for those who live in glass houses to throw stones, and when Mr. Pitman ceases to change his opinions on phonetic matters for three months at a time, we may then, but not before, think it necessary to make an apology for a seeming change of ours in three years past. We can assure Mr. Pitman that we are no more in love with the American phonotypy, which we use in the *Pioneer*, than he is, but we use it because we think it better to maintain uniformity with the prevailing style in this country for a time, until Mr. Pitman gets done changing, than it would be to use a different style every few months, thus presenting our readers with a disheartening expose of the in-

stability of the leaders in the reform. Besides, we could not afford it. When Mr. Pitman gets through altering, reversing, and intermixing, and pledges himself in pecuniary bonds to use some one style of print for at least twenty years to come, then he may reckon upon the co-operation of the phonetic publishers of America, but not before.

Our Subscription List,

thanks to a few good friends of the movement, has increased considerably since last issue, but it is a long way below par yet. We have now 135 copies of the present volume ordered, and the sum of \$25 87½c. paid therefor—barely enough to pay the printer's bill for four numbers out of the twelve. We do not care so much, however, about the money—though we would like to receive enough to pay the cost of printing—but we want a larger circulation, so that we may be able to accomplish more, and we look to our present 135 readers, and others into whose hands this number may fall, to render us the required service. Let each procure from one to fifty more subscribers, according to his opportunities for doing so, and forward them with the proper remittance, and the object is accomplished. It is just as easy upon us to edit the *Pioneer* for 5,000 readers as for 100, and if each Phonographer would devote as much time, per month, gratis, to the interests of the *Pioneer* as we do—to say nothing of cash—we might just as well have double five thousand subscribers, and double as large a paper too, as not.

The prizes offered in our last issue appear to have called forth very little competition, probably owing to the idea being entertained that there would be 1 cent. postage to be paid on each copy, or 12 cents per annum. Only two clubs—one of twelve and the other of twenty subscribers—have yet been sent in. As we offered seven different prizes, and as no postage is collectable on such papers as ours, we have determined to hold the award open a while longer than at first announced. As our next number will be issued in a couple of weeks or so after this one, the award will be made in the Sept. No., and all clubs received up to the 15th day of September, will be allowed to compete for the prizes. Lest some who receive this No. may not have seen the issue for June, we repeat the offer:

For the largest number of copies ordered, over sixteen, a copy of the "Phonographer's Diary," containing 400 large square pages of