

tem of writing, is proved by thousands who use it for every purpose for which writing is required. Not a day passes in which we do not receive letters from all parts of the country, and from all classes and conditions confirmatory of this. These letters we do not publish because they have ceased to be novelties. Occasionally we deviate from this rule. The extract from the letter of Judge Jilson in this month's Magazine, and the extract from the *Laporte Crisis* in the last number are cases in point.

The words we are now writing, and which in five minutes will probably be in type, are being written at the rate of at least eighty words per minute, yet they will be set up by a compositor who six weeks ago scarcely knew a letter in the Phonographic alphabet, but who now seems to set from Phonographic copy as readily, and with as few errors, as if he were supplied with fair and legible long-hand.

JUDGE J. JILSON, Kososha, Wis., writes:—"I cannot well do without your *Phonographic Magazine*, it has become a sort of necessity to me, indeed, I am a great lover of the art, and practice it considerably in my legal business, especially in taking testimony, where I find it of the greatest importance. Though not a rapid reporter, I can nevertheless take down verbatim any speaker who does not exceed 75 or 100 words per minute, and I can generally manage to take down all the essential parts of the most rapid speeches. I have never yet used double ruled paper in my practice. Do you consider it an important aid to the reporter? If it would have the tendency to increase my speed in writing, I would certainly adopt it. So far as the reading of my own notes are concerned, I never had any trouble upon that score, I was able to read anything I had written, no matter how carelessly done. The suggestive resources of Phonography seem to be infinite. Almost every day I find some shorter way of expressing a word that is so suggestive, that I wonder that I had never discovered it before. The resources of the *f* and *r* hook are truly astounding. I have used these hooks from the time they were first suggested, and when your August Magazine came out I was surprised to see how many varieties of its use your practice had suggested that had already occurred to my own mind. Shall we ever find the bottom of this wonderful art, when we can say no further improvements can be made in its adaptation to the English language."

Double line paper is to the practical Phonographer what the *right* tool is to the workman. A good workman can do fair work with almost any tool, and so the practiced Phonographer, who knows exactly what he has to write, can make his marks in nearly the right position, and of the proper size,

with little to guide the eye and hand. With a guide he does his work with somewhat greater accuracy, and with much greater ease.

Phonography in Schools.

The following is from Dr. Charles Woodward, Professor of mathematics and the natural sciences, at Euphemia Hall, Marengo, Ill.

"I know of no study in which students take more interest than in Phonography. Most of my best scholars are engaged in the study. Phonography and Mental Arithmetic are more particularly adapted for expanding and quickening the powers of the mind than any others of the whole routine of study used in our schools. It seems strange that so much theoretical philosophy is taught with so little benefit arising therefrom of a practical nature. We understand the anatomy and physiology of the vocal organs, and the physical laws of the atmosphere to mathematical accuracy, yet custom has such influence over the mass of mankind that they adhere to error in spite of the plainest facts. We believe Phonography to be physiologically, physically, and mathematically correct in both theory and practice. I have no difficulty in convincing most persons of this truth, but I experience much difficulty in inducing them to begin the practice of the art. I find, however, that those who do practise it wonder how any man ever can be so stupid as to drag after himself such a budget of error as he finds in the romanic style. I discover too, that it is only those who search eagerly after philosophical truth who examine and cultivate the art of Phonography. To me, as rudely as I write it, Phonography is of immense advantage in many respects, and one in particular. In analyzing sentences in grammar, I require my scholars who can write Phonography, to place the sentences on a black-board. The advantage consists in this: It brings the sentences into a small compass. A black-board twelve feet long will barely accommodate sentences written in long-hand, while one three or four feet in length, will answer for the same written in shorthand."

OCCUPIED LIFE.—As far as our experience goes, no one who has ever seriously engaged in the furtherance of the Phonetic reform has been permitted to spend an idle life. In the *English Phonographer* for September, Isaac Pitman says, in a foot note: "This No. of the *Phonographer*, the writing of which is finished 26th Oct., is nearly two months behind its time. [A most unusual circumstance that side of the water.] The delay has been caused by the increasing labors which the progress of the Phonetic reform brings upon the editor, and principally by his having during these two months, to

bestow a considerable amount of time on the proof sheets of a second edition of the *Phonetic Bible*, of which five sheets are printed. In reply to numerous inquiries for a *Phonetic Shorthand Bible*, we can only say that we do not expect to see one under ten years."

Rapid Writing.

Isaac Pitman's *Phonetic Journal* contains the following fact. "Mr. Andrews, a young Phonographer of Glasgow has written 271 per minute. He gained this speed, over 100 words per minute, in about ten months by three hours daily practice, and by writing through the *Phrase Book* twenty times. Mr. Andrews writes respecting his attainment, "I tried this feat on four occasions only, and the number of words written on each occasion were, at the third reading, 266, 266, 270, 271. In reading over the notes, the mistakes discovered never exceeded five. The subjects chosen were lectures and sermons."

CATALOGUE.

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