

students should not study Standard Phonography in its purity—a system which, when mastered, may be written at the rate of 175 to 200 words a minute.

The attention of your readers should now be directed to the comparison plate, where it is plainly demonstrated that the *reporting* style of Bennpitmanography is not even equal to the simple *corresponding* or beginner's style of the "Standard" system; in other words, Benn's inferior imitations require one-third more labor and space than does Andrew J. Graham's Standard Phonography.

T. W. B.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Oct. 23.

#### "T. L. Pica" to "American."

*To the Editor of the Miscellany:*

SIR,—The ever welcome *Miscellany* came to hand yesterday with its budget of good and useful articles. The heading "Phonography," however, first attracted my attention, and I was pleased to see that friend "T. W. B." was again to the fore with his masterly defence of Graham's "Standard." I read this carefully and then the next one came under my notice. Yes, the next! That sublime and eloquent epistle advocating any system in preference to Graham's. Well, poor fellow, we must not be too hard on him, for after studying five or six years at Graham's system without mastering it, it is no wonder that "American" is dead set against it. He states in the beginning of his letter that "he hesitated about answering him" (T. L. Pica), "as he wished to avoid controversy, etc. Well, Mr. Editor, as he has attacked me, you will please grant me a few lines—very few will be sufficient—to answer him. Now, he says that Graham's Phonography is a misnomer, that it is simply "stenography," full of curtailings, abbreviations, and doubling-ups. Of course, there are no "curtailings," etc., in Pitman's or Munson's systems. Oh, no! All a person has to do is to sit down and read off the notes, written by their system, the same as long hand. No "extraordinary abilities" needed then. No five or six years hard study necessary. Now, Mr. Editor, the first letter that I saw from "American" led me to believe that he knew something of the beautiful art; but, I must confess, that I have my misgivings now on the subject. He does not say *why* any other system is better than the Standard. No, he merely says Graham's is to be avoided, and that those who uphold it should be mis-

trusted and shunned, men who "seek to allure unsuspecting persons to study it." I may mention for "American's" information that Mr. Graham never gave a cent to me to advertise his book, and that, although I take his *Student's Journal*, and have bought copies of nearly all of his phonographic works, I never got them a cent cheaper than another would have done. All I want is—and if my two letters have done any good whatever in that direction I feel amply repaid for my trouble—that the apprentices at the printing business would take a greater interest in the matter, and as some of them—I may safely say many of them—who would study it, cannot afford to take lessons from a regular teacher, I would advise, as I did in my last letter, that they commence the study of Graham's Standard Phonography at once. Almost any one—reporter or more advanced student—would start them on the right track, and once started, they could easily master it in seven or eight months at the furthest, "American," to the contrary, notwithstanding.

T. L. PICA.

CHATHAM, Sept. 19.

#### Another Shorthand Wasp "Smoked Out."

*To the Editor of the Miscellany:*

SIR,—Please allow me a small space in the Phonographic Department of your valuable journal to make a reply to "Old Phonographer's" letters, which appeared in the columns of the *Daily News* a short time ago. It being possible that many of your readers, who are interested in phonography, may not have seen those letters, it would be desirable for their benefit or amusement to re-publish them in the *Miscellany*, but as they must be considered altogether unfit for publication in any high-toned journal, I shall simply ask permission to give a few extracts. However, before doing so, I will give to your readers the only apparent reason that the writer had for not furnishing the *Miscellany* with his very uncalled for attack on me and Standard Phonography. Knowing that the editor of the *Miscellany* would certainly refuse to lower the high standing of his journal by allowing such trash as his letters to appear on its pages, he resolved to make use of the columns and editor of a daily paper, and thereby saved his little manuscript from being consigned to the waste basket of the *Miscellany*.

In his first letter he claims that "there are