

one. Prof. Brown's proposition is quite reasonable, and is one that many journals in this country—our own included—would be ready to adopt, if the necessary type could be obtained. Mr. Lindsley, author of "Tackigraphy," uses no new letters, and takes a moderate middle course, which commends itself to those who may be prejudiced against the phonetic letters, which, at the best, are difficult to read.

We fear a "Professor of Phonographic Etiquette" will soon be required, to train young and aspiring shorthand writers how to behave themselves. We have been made acquainted with the details of a case in which an ambitious genius responded to the advertisement of a mercantile firm in this city in a penmanship which, while presumably his own, was written by a friend who had the faculty of handling the pen with much more skill. Not content with this deception, he professed to possess a speed of 125 words per minute, but utterly broke down at 80, unable to take down correctly, and transcribing his notes in a wretched scrawl, embodying gross mis-spelling and a complete jumble of ideas. Another case has come to our ears in which the candidate, professing a speed of 125 words, was quite unable to read his notes, and soon received instructions from the office that he was no longer required. This species of deception is unpardonable. Apart, however, from its moral aspect, it is silly in the extreme. Business men are not such fools as to observe no difference between honest work and pretence, and as soon as the deception is discovered the shorthand writer must leave, and leave with a stain upon his reputation—a stain which he cannot wipe out. Injury is done also to the profession, and business men are apt to pass severe, though unwarranted, judgment upon phonographers in general, on account of their disappointment in particular cases. There are two redeeming features of this unpleasant development: (1) the business men concerned in these cases, and their friends to whose knowledge these cases of deception may come, will be much more guarded and critical in future in the engagement of shorthand writers, and hence the liability of the repetition of similar errors will be reduced to the minimum; and (2) higher salaries than those paid to inexperienced and incompetent phonographers will be paid for good honest work.

"I have to thank your Bureau for the excellent sit. I have here, and hope it may be the means of helping many another young aspirant into lucrative employment." G. B.

The Leeds telegraphic staff are receiving high honors for having transmitted to the London papers on one night of the Gladstone ovation over half a million of words. One London paper took a special train with a parlor car, for its staff to London, the instant the banquet was over. The entire report was finished on the arrival of the train in London, and a mounted messenger flew with it to the compositors.

NEWS NOTES.

CANADIAN.

Mr. Fred W. Wodell, of the Hamilton *Spectator*, has abandoned single blessedness and gone in for a double share. We congratulate him.

Mr. Geo. L. Thomsone, who was placed, through our Bureau, with Messrs. Rose & Co., barristers, and subsequently with Messrs. Leys, Pearson & Kingsford, has taken a lucrative position in Chicago. We rejoice in his success, and trust he will have plenty of it.

Mr. W. Houston, M. A., who for a number of years has occupied a prominent position on the editorial staff of the *Toronto Globe*, has resigned it to take charge of the *Canada School Journal* and to edit the educational publications of the well-known publishing house of W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto.

Mr. Harold Brown, recently law reporter on the *Mail*, has taken a position as correspondent with Alex. Smith & Sons' Carpet Co., Yonkers, N. Y. The Company employs thirty-six hands, and the establishment is the life of the beautiful little city of Yonkers. Mr. B. is well pleased with his position and prospects.

At the recent convocation of McGill College, Montreal, Mr. James Crankshaw, Secretary of the English Phonetic Society for Canada, received the degree of B. C. L., with honors, being only six points behind the winner of the gold medal. As Mr. Crankshaw was engaged as stenographer almost up to the commencement of convocation, the result is very creditable to him.

Mr. Arbuckle Jardine, for many years stenographer with Wm. Ramsay & Co., wholesale grocers, this city, has gone to Winnipeg to fill a very lucrative berth in a liquor store. Mr. Jardine learned shorthand at the solicitation of Mr. R. K. Burgess, of the above firm, and Mr. Burgess believes that Messrs. Ramsay & Co. were the first firm in Toronto who regularly employed a shorthand writer.

The annual dinner of the Press Gallery came off at Ottawa on the 1st inst., and was, as usual, largely attended and a most enjoyable affair. The speeches showed much ability, wit, and originality. As significant of the democratic tendencies among the gallery men, it may be mentioned that nothing excited more enthusiastic applause than when a speaker expressed his conviction that "we should grow our own Governor-General."

Mr. Yeigh's article on Shorthand in Chicago hints at a development in the direction of type-writing as a substitute for unbusiness-like (though lady-like) longhand. The penmanship taught to youths in the schools and commercial colleges at present will not do for business, and if the method of instruction cannot be completely revolutionized, writing-machines—by whatever names they may be called—must supersede pens for business correspondence.