

THE SHORTHAND "BOOM."

The editor of the *Citizen*, Mr. Wm. Burgess, is not a shorthand writer, but the proximity of his office to that of the Bureau forces a recognition of the great time-and-labor-saver. In quoting one of the replies read in the "Symposium" he writes:—

"The interest recently excited in Phonography is creditable to its advocates and teachers, and an evidence of the growing public appreciation of the proposed short cut to the English language.

It is not surprising that the recent Convention held in Toronto was so successful, if the immense advantages to be derived from the system be taken into consideration. Phonography has made the newspaper press of ten-fold more value than it could have ever been under the old long-hand system. Without it a full report of a lecture, sermon, or parliamentary speech was impracticable. In this busy, hurry-scurry age, too, it is impossible for leading firms to keep up with the times without the aid of an amanuensis, and a shorthand writer is now attached to almost all business houses.

The letters include one from Mr. Sweetnam, Post Office Inspector, the Great North-western Telegraph Company, the Midland Railway Company, several leading firms of solicitors, and some of the principal wholesale houses in the city. In several instances the writers testify satisfactory results from the employment of female stenographers.

It will be seen therefore that there is a uniform testimony as to the great value of phonography for every department of professional and business interest. It strikes us as a singular piece of conservatism that the police courts and other law courts do not uniformly employ shorthand clerks. The painfully slow process of taking down every word of a witness while the business of the court is practically suspended more than half its time must have been obvious to every man who has had any experience in a law court. Yet this could be removed at once by simply substituting for the cumbersome longhand writing the short-cut system of writing by sound."

CONVENTIONAL CANTOS.

COMPILED BY POLYCARP PENDENNIS, B.A.

I'm a Presidential young man,
A very influential young man;
I practice urbanity, but never profanity,
And I'm for John Bull whenever I can.

Imagine me if you can,
As a cosmopolitan young man,
An ultra-phonetical, very æsthetical,
Slightly bald-headed young man!

Remember me if you can,
As one of the Murphy clan;
A-jolly-good-fellow-without-getting-mellow
A starred and striped young man.

Look upon me if you can
As a "Spectator"-ial young man;
A-very-bashful-sandy-moustachical,
Talk-like-a-Ciçero young man.

Conceive me if you can,
As an Osgoode Hall young man;
A-very-judicial, semi-official,
200-a-minute young man.

I'll confess that I am a phonographic sham;
A phonographic sham I undoubtedly am.
If I were to drown I couldn't take down
Any sort of rhyme in any sort of time—
Or even a little dose of ordinary prose,
So, a reportorial sham I consequently am.

I am
A clam—
A tender-footed clam!
The hooks
And crooks
I heartily dislike;
The curves
And swerves
I skip at sight.
The downward "l"
And double "pl"
Rack my brain;
Each eccentric line
And arbitrary sign
Leaves me insane.
Each dash and dot
I early sought
To most completely master;
I tried each night
By the flickering light
To write a little faster—
But all in vain,
I was insane—

and, in conclusion, may state that I have forever cast aside the study of shorthand.

Mr. Chabot, the "expert" in handwriting, just deceased, owed his first leap into celebrity to a will case. The great point made by him was that in examining a large number of documents admittedly written by the testator he had in no single case found the letter "o" connected with other letters, whereas in the disputed will it was sometimes so connected and sometimes not. The will was broken. He was also largely employed in the Tichborne case.

Personally Sir Algeron Borthwick is the most popular journalist in London, as he is the handsomest, except Mr. Pearce, the handsome young man of the *Daily News*. Neither so tall nor so beautiful as the owner of the famous tawny drooping moustache, he is yet very distinguished in appearance and charming in manner. Slightly bald, he displays a fine forehead and a very becoming Henri Quatre beard just turning gray. No man in England has a better reputation for thorough loyalty and high sense of honor, and much as men laugh at the *Post*, all speak well of its genial and scrupulously well-dressed proprietor.