

PHONETIC PIONEER.

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RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

* JAMES STEWART, Teacher, St. James, Fort Garry.

* We have put an asterisk before the name of every phonographer whom we know to be capable of writing or reading the Reporting Style of phonography. There may be, in the list, many others who are well read in the Reporting Style, but not having heard from many members of the society for some months past, we are unable to say how much progress they have made. We should like to hear from every phonographer in Canada every month or two, whether he has an order for books, &c., to send, or not. We are always delighted to note the progress made by our pupils—for such we consider all who have learned the art from books purchased at the Canadian Phonetic Depot—and we can do this better, and more satisfactorily, by reading over a brief phonographic letter from them, than by any amount of description in longhand. Of course, we are glad to hear from phonographers every week when they enclose bills or stamps for books advertised in our catalogue.

For the information of those who have the Hand-Book and Readers, and use Graham's improvements, we would remark that almost all the above *Star* phonographers have those works. Those who have not yet got them ought to procure them, and probably will do so in the course of this or next month.

PHONOGRAPHY IN SCHOOLS.—J. B. Holmes, Esq., Principal of the Leeds County Grammar School, located at Farmersville, C. W., says:—"Phonography is becoming a most important branch of study in this Institution. We have a class of fifteen; they are delighted with the study, and are, of course, making rapid progress. It is to be hoped that phonography will soon be more generally taught, not only in our higher institutions, but also in our common schools, in order that the thousands who are attending them may have the best facilities for acquiring this most beautiful, rapid, labor-saving system of writing, which is alike useful to the farmer, mechanic, student and professional man.

A Phonographer who has passed his forty-eighth year, and who has lately commenced the study of Phonography, says he

has passed many happy hours in its study, and finds it is "just the thing to put away care." Will our city and country friends make a note of this for the benefit of their "long-faced" neighbors.

Is Phonography What it Professes to be.

From the *Phonetic Magazine*.

Mr. T. Sloc, of Quincy, Ill., encloses us a leading article cut from the *Philadelphia Evening Post*, respecting which he writes:—"Some time ago I inserted an article on Phonography in the *Herald* of this city, for which I selected a portion of your circular, and the appeal you there make in behalf of Phonography. This I believe has called forth a response, somewhat singularly, from the *Philadelphia Evening Post*, and as you may not have seen the article in question, I take the liberty to enclose it to you."

"PHONOGRAPHY.—We see the following in one of our cotemporaries—a rather interested party, however—as to the importance of the study of Phonography:—

'Learn Phonography, if you would possess a brief, philosophic, and entirely legible short hand. Learn Phonography, if you would secure the subtle thoughts that flow into your own mind, or that you think worth preserving, while listening to the spoken thoughts of others. Learn Phonography, if you would be relieved from the drudgery of the present longhand, by which you are compelled to spend from six to ten hours in writing what can be spoken in one. Learn Phonography, if you are a Physician, and would preserve a record of all your cases, so that from your accumulated experience you may help to evolve the laws of life, health, and disease. Learn Phonography, if you are a Minister, for it will save you five-sixths of the time you at present employ in writing your notes, or elaborating your sermons in full. Learn Phonography, if you are a Lawyer, for it will enable you to secure the fleeting words on which may depend the fortune, life, or honor of your client.— Learn Phonography, if you are a Student, and would secure and thus fully profit by the instructions that is daily offered to you in lectures, and by the oral instructions of your teachers. Learn Phonography, if you have to rely upon yourself and the private study of books for the acquisition of knowledge. You will do more in one year with Phonography, than in two years without it.'

Now, we would like to know from some one who has learned Phonography, and who has no pecuniary interest in the matter, either as a publisher or a teacher, whether the science really be as useful to students, physicians, ministers and literary men in general, as the writer of the above would have us believe. Of course, every one knows

its usefulness to reporters; but is it really and truly of the general practical value above described? Will the minister who is able to write Phonography, write his sermons in shorthand, or in the common longhand—submitting to the "drudgery" of the latter for the sake of greater plainness and superior accuracy? Will the Lawyer employ his Phonographic shorthand for the recording of the testimony in courts of justice; or the student make his notes of his studies in this short and easy way? In one word, is the use of Phonography for the general purposes of men of letters, found to be as great a gain as in reporting speeches and debates?

If it is, according to the verdict of students, lawyers and ministers, who can speak from experience on the subject, then it is important that every young man destined for any of the professions, should learn Phonography; for the saving of time, to the lawyer and minister especially, would be very great. The mere physical toil of writing a sermon of an hour's length, is very great indeed: and if five-sixths of it can be saved, it would well repay the trouble and expence of mastering shorthand. But we have our doubts upon this point—doubts upon the equal availability of the shorthand copy when it is completed. Many a professional man is puzzled to read even his own common writing; and to read his own shorthand, we fear, in many cases, would prove an impossibility.—A lawyer might give a pretty good guess at what his Phonographic notes said the witness had said, but guesses, in such cases, are not very satisfactory. And the minister, we fear, would often stumble over the exact language of his sermon. But these are merely surmises on our part. We know little of the subject practically, and, therefore, would like to hear from uninterested men who do."

The Editor of the *Philadelphia Post* most likely judges of Phonography by his acquaintance with ordinary shorthand, and what it does, and what it fails to do. His disbelief in the seemingly presumptuous claims of Phonography, may therefore be entirely reasonable. That Phonography is the briefest system of writing ever devised, is shown by the fact that it has completely superseded—as far as learning is concerned—every system of shorthand based upon the *a, b, c*, alphabet, and that nineteen out of twenty of the practical shorthand writers in this country and England, under thirty years of age, use Phonography. Those who continue to use any of the old systems of shorthand for the purpose of reporting, learned their system before the advent of Phonography, and it is more advantageous to them to practice a familiar, though imperfect system, than to change to an unfamiliar one, however superior its claims. That Phonography is an entirely legible, and therefore reliable sys-