

A PHONOGRAPHIC TESTAMENT.—We continue to receive occasional enquiries as to whether or not Phonographic Testaments can be procured, and at what price. To save the trouble of answering fifty such letters separately, which we should otherwise be expected to do gratis, we will state, as a matter of general information, that there are no Phonographic Testaments on sale, at present, either in England or America. Two different editions of the Testament have been issued in England, but none in this country. Both those editions are out of print, (that is, all sold) and Phonographic Testaments are now only to be found in the possession of lucky Phonographers, scattered here and there throughout the world, who value them at from their "weight in gold" up to "wouldn't part with it for any price." Three years ago we sent to Isaac Pitman and obtained half a dozen, all of which, except one which we have in possession, disappeared rapidly. Six months ago we sent again, but were informed, in reply, that there were none to be had. Doubtless a new Phonographic Testament will be got up before many years pass away, but there are a few little matters before the phonetic world which must be settled first. One question to be first decided is whether or not the inverted vowel scale promulgated by Isaac Pitman, in England, is to supersede the present order of things. If so, of course it would be unwise to undertake so costly a work as the Testament with the present arrangement of the vowels; for although with a couple of hours' reading of Isaac Pitman's vowel scale, either arrangement of the vowels can be read with perfect ease, yet there are advantages in uniformity which no publisher can afford to overlook.

A. WEBBER, Esq.—A Toronto correspondent writes as follows concerning Mr. Webber, the Principal of the Toronto Phonographic Institute.—"Mr. Webber has been doing a great deal for the advancement of Phonography in this city; not only by teaching, but he has issued three Ever-circulators, in which the useful and agreeable are so blended that they make the sceptic desirous of rendering this terrestrial lightning as subservient to him as Franklin did the celestial one. The gratuitous instruction which Mr. Webber has given to many, and the large number of exercises he corrects daily, saying nothing of the time and labor he has devoted to read the circulators what they are, give him a new claim, not only to the gratitude of Phonographers, but to the liberal patronage of all who desire to acquire a knowledge of Phonography, which has hitherto been a desideratum, and without which none can keep pace with this progressive age."

Mr. George Wilson, of Paris, C. W., writes, in *every neat Phonography*, as follows, dated May 27th:

"I received the 'Reporter's Companion' from you on the 10th of March, and I have been studying it in the evenings since that time. I first wrote all the Exercises in Reporting, according to directions, until I could write them from dictation at the rate of 150 words per minute, and sometimes faster. I then wrote every word and sentence in the vocabulary portion, many times over. I next went at the speeches in the end of the book, and I now can write most of them from dictation, at the rate of 100 words per minute. I have also been trying to report sermons for the sake of practice, and I can probably write about three-fourths of what is spoken, and read it afterwards with but a little studying. I am not going to give up studying diligently until I can write verbatim. I never studied anything that I liked so well as Phonography, and I sincerely thank you as being the means of bringing it to my notice. I enclose \$2.00 for 'Graham's Hand-Book,' &c."

We know how to appreciate our correspondent when he says he never studied anything that he liked so well as Phonography. That is precisely the case with ourself, and from the time when we first mastered the phonographic alphabet, and learned the true principles of the representation of language, viz: by one sign for each sound—our interest in the study of the art increased with every new unfolding of its details, as portrayed in the different Manuals, 'Vocabularies, Companions,' etc., which it has been our privilege to obtain.

Mr. Stanislas Goutier, whose address is "Box 1,175, Toronto," is in want of a few contributors for an Ever-circulator, which he proposes to start, to be called "Perseverance," and to be written in the corresponding style. Applicants must be residents of Toronto.

Mr. Webber having accepted a permanent situation in Toronto, offers for sale a number of excellent Phonographic Charts, signs, etc., useful to teachers, at very low prices. His address is Box 233, Toronto.

Phonography.

We take great pleasure in directing the attention of our readers—and especially the younger portion of them—to the advertisement of Mr. Orr, to be found in our columns to-day. Having mastered the system in two or three months (without the aid of a teacher) we speak from experience when we say that the art can be acquired by any one of ordinary mind, in three months. Probably there is no branch of learning that is so easy of acquisition, and when acquired, of more use to the young, than a knowledge of Pitman's Phonetic Short-hand. As a proof of its simplicity, we may state that a friend taught his little boy, aged nine years, the art so perfectly that he could read the mysterious hieroglyphics quite fluently, notwithstanding he had no knowledge of the ordinary English orthography. We can assure our readers that if they once acquire the system they will be delighted with its beauty, simplicity and usefulness, and will never regret the loss of the time spent in mastering its mystic characters. —*Cornwall Freeholder.*

Written for the Phonetic Pioneer.

How may we Multiply our Numbers?..

This question has a claim upon every Phonographer's consideration. Where is there one to be found who has made phonography his study, that does not feel anxious that others should share with him its benefits? This valuable acquisition none need wish to conceal from his neighbors, like the miser who has amassed an immense fortune, and guards his treasure with a jealous eye. Nor is there anything about it he cares to secure by means of a patent, as is the case with the author of a new invention. The Phonographer knows well that his art is for all, and the more widely it is diffused, the more beneficial it will be to himself.

The cause of phonetics may be advanced, and the number of its adherents multiplied, by individual effort; but when all combine their energies, the progress of the work is immeasurably increased. First, then, as to single-handed exertions. He who desires to excite an interest in behalf of the reading, writing and spelling reform, must aim at being thoroughly conversant with the subject. In doing this, he will find it necessary to exercise patience and perseverance, for although the principles are easily learned, persevering practice alone will ensure their utility, and this is absolutely necessary to qualify him for being a proper exponent of that system. In order to acquire this, the Phonographer must not think it too much trouble to follow the excellent directions given in either the Hand-book, or Pitman's or Longley's Manual. We have examined the three, and like them all well. Each has its peculiar excellencies. Then, to perfect himself, the Phonographer should obtain all the phonographic and phonotypic reading his means will allow him to procure, but never leave any one till he can fully master it. Let him, moreover, teach the art, and, if he be able, give lectures upon the subject. He should also make practical use of it, by using it in writing as frequently as circumstances will permit. If there are others in his neighborhood to any extent acquainted with the art, let him establish an over-circulating magazine. To be always talking about phonetics is not judicious but there are opportunities often presented when this topic may be discussed with great propriety. When parents and teachers complain of the difficulties they meet with in making children fond of reading, of the long period of time they have to spend before they become good readers (and how few ever do become such), bring up the merits of phonotypy as a remedy for these evils. When your correspondents tell you that they cannot find time to write as often as they desire, show them how much precious time is saved and needless drudgery dispensed with, by the use of the phonographic style of writing. When students are under the necessity of taking notes in the lecture-room, or in the course of reading any works which they wish to understand well, then point out to them the art which renders this otherwise laborious task a pleasurable pastime. After a powerful sermon, an eloquent address, an elaborate speech, how often do we hear its admirers say, "Oh, that my memory could recall what I have heard!" Then apprise them of the fact: