

ensis who does not strive for and expect to reach the speed of these stalwarts? Will he begrudge the expenditure of an extra year or two years, if he can be assured that the question of such speed is one of time and practice, while with the Stenograph he has no certainty that he would ever be able to reach a greater speed than that of an amanuensis.

As an author of a new system of shorthand writing, we welcome Mr. Bartholomew to the field: but we are not prepared to endorse his invention as the coming mode of perpetuating rapid speech. If we have erred in our judgment of the value of his machine, or if he demonstrates by actual test that he can keep pace with our professional stenographers, there will be none so ready as ourselves to set Mr. Bartholomew right before the public.

[A sketch of the Stenograph appears in the lithographed portion of this number.—EDITOR WRITER.]

CHINESE NEWSPAPERS.

THERE are two Chinese papers in San Francisco, both weekly. In company with interpreter Howe, a visit was recently paid to both offices. The *Oriental Wah Kee*, No. 800 Washington St., was first visited. The *Wah Kee* establishment was found in charge of its proprietor, publisher, editor, pressman, compositor, bookkeeper, reporter, and office boy, Yee Jenn, who was discovered seated at a table in his sanctum, busily engaged in forming characters on a slip of paper. A small fine brush, not much larger than an ordinary pen-holder, was dipped in a peculiar black ink, and the writing, or printing, performed with great dexterity and accuracy. In answer to questions, Yee Jenn stated to the interpreter that he was fifty years old, that he had been in the country about seven years, and that he first began publishing the *Wah Kee* nearly six years ago. He had no previous experience as a journalist, and prior to beginning his newspaper had in operation a job printing office, which he yet maintained. Of the 35,000 characters in the Chinese language he could make about 8,000. As he had never been able to import type from China, all the characters in his paper were formed by hand. The *Wah Kee* had 1,000 subscribers, some circulation in China, and was issued at ten cents per copy, or \$5 a year. He got much of his matter from exchanges; what appeared in local English papers interesting to his readers was translated by an English-knowing Chinese friend. Although seven years in the country, Yee Jenn had no knowledge of the language, and he said that only about two hundred of the Chinese residing in this city were able to read and understand English. The latest number of the *Wah Kee* was presented to the writer by Yee Jenn. It was a four page sheet, and had five columns to a page, the first page, excepting the publisher's announcements, being occupied by advertisements, mainly

excellence. And where is the student or amanuensis double-columned. The publisher's announcements comprised the name of the paper, in five big characters, to be read from left to right, in a horizontal line at the head of the page, a notice in a vertical line, to be read from the top down, and at the right of the title, that the paper was published in the fourth month of the seventh year of the reign of His Imperial Majesty, Quong Si, Emperor; a notice at the left of the title, in a vertical line of the date and volume of the paper, and a large notice in vertical lines to the left of the last named, which was the prospectus of the publisher. The name of the paper, its date, and place of publication were given in English under the Chinese title. The title of each long article and of each advertisement was given in a single horizontal line at the commencement of the reading matter, which was printed in vertical lines, and to be read beginning at the top of the right hand column in each article. The news matter of the *Wah Kee*, commencing at the right hand column of the fourth page, was four columns of local news succeeded by a column of ads., then a department containing news from Peking, followed by another containing news from Canton, next an editorial against the use of opium, and then a presentation of the news from the various countries, after which came advertisements, an advertisement of a Chinese doctor occupying the place of honor.

The press-room, the composing-room, counting office, and editorial and reportorial rooms of the *Wah Kee*, and the parlor, dining-room, kitchen, pantry, and sleeping apartment of its proprietor, Yee Jenn, were formerly one small room, about 12 x 15. That room was subjected to a partitioning process by the Mongolian publisher, and made into three, two small ones of about equal size, one for sleeping, the other for editing, and the larger one for containing the press and adjuncts. As the writer was gazing about, peering into Yee Jenn's tiny bed-chamber, staring at his press, so antique and clumsy, and jumbling over some musty Chinese exchanges, he was aware the interpreter was being told something quite interesting by the good-natured and accommodating Yee Jenn. The narrative was this:—Last Tuesday a Chinaman was passing one of the markets in this city and happened to see a large fish, a sturgeon, which had just been brought in and was yet alive. The Chinaman, by inherent wisdom, or perhaps by inspiration, discovered that his mother's soul was in the fish. After some dickering he bought the fish, which weighed 300 pounds, paying \$15 therefor, and procuring a wagon, transported it to the bay, where he engaged a boat, placed the fish thereon and had it rowed far out into the bay and put it back into the water. He couldn't bear the thought of having the soul of his mother devoured by San Francisco barbarians.

The manner in which the *Wah Kee* is published can not fail to be entertaining. The press consists of a large slab or bed of yellowish-