

STENOGRAPHY.—Any person desirous of learning short-hand in an incredibly short space of time can do so by procuring *Carry's Stenographic Chart*. His system is an abbreviation of less than one-eighth of that of common writing, and is practised by more reporters than any other system now in use. After acquiring it, all that is necessary in order to report a sermon is practice. Price of chart, with full instructions only \$1; 10 copies for \$5; 100 copies \$25. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed, or money returned. Address James Quinlan agent, Monticello, Sullivan County, N. Y.

(Any newspaper giving the above [with this paragraph] one insertion among reading matter, will be entitled to a copy).

— We give the above, which we find going the rounds of the press, for what it is worth, but must say that the statement that *Carry's Stenography* "is practiced by more reporters than any other system now in use" is pure moonshine. We shall refer to the subject more at length in a subsequent number.

NEXT PHONETIC CONVENTION.—Since our last issue, we have addressed an Official Circular to the members of the Phonetic Council, and although it did not get all the way around the circle, owing to uncertainty as to the address of several members, yet we have the concurrence of all whom it did reach, in deferring the calling of the next British American Phonetic Convention until after the adjournment of the Legislature, with a view of fixing upon a time as near as possible to that of the next meeting of the "Canadian Press Association" which takes place in Toronto sometime in June or July.

SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION.—A correspondent says he is satisfied of the utter impossibility of children learning a correct pronunciation from books in the common spelling. "I have to-day noted a few words as they were spelled and pronounced by pupils in this school. For example: Substantive—the last syllable as in *river* gratify gray tify; pacify—psek ify; mercury—mer-su-ry; illicit—il liek it; gin—gin. This last word was pronounced by a boy reading in McGuffey's Fourth Reader."—[With Phonetic Readers no pupil would mispronounce a word after having well learned the alphabet.—*Ed. Journal of Progress.*]

A SPELLING MATCH.—There was a spelling match in Trumbull county, Ohio, a few evenings since. The best speller from each district in the county was engaged. The prize for the one up longest was a Webster's Dictionary. There were thirty three champion spellers. McGuffey's Spelling Book was used. All were spelled down in three hours.

The last one got the Dictionary. A correspondent says.— It appears that the short and common words generally conquered the classes, and not the polysyllable words. The word 'razor' shaved one member cleanly off, 'sew' sewed up another, 'travel' traveled out another, 'quiescence' quieted another, 'satire' satirized another, 'varillate' reeled over another, 'scene', 'perennial', 'chirurgery', 'christmas', and 'spoon', were also missed on."

Mr. A. H. Brown, of Tilsonburgh C. W., writes that he is teaching Phonography to a class of about one dozen pupils. It is only six months since Mr. B. commenced to study himself.

A Schoolmaster after having given one of his pupils a sound drubbing for speaking bad grammar, sent him to the other end of the room to inform another boy that he wished to speak to him, promising to repeat the dose if he spoke to him ungrammatically. The youngster being satisfied with what he had got, determined to be exact and thus addressed his fellow pupil:

"A common substantive of the masculine gender, singular number, nominative case, and in an angry mood, that sits perched upon an eminence at the other end of the room, wishes to articulate a few sentences to you in the present tense."

Orthography and Etymology.

In the Introduction to his Dictionary, Mr. Webster says: "That some scheme for expressing the distinct sounds of our letters by visible marks, ought to be adopted, is a point about which there ought to be, and I trust there can be, but one opinion. *That such a scheme is practicable as well as expedient, I should presume to be equally evident.*"

* The mode of ascertaining the proper pronunciation of words by marks, points, and trifling alterations of the present characters, seems to be the only one which can be reduced to practice. This mode I have pursued, to a certain extent, in this work. *The scheme I have invented is not considered as perfect, but it will accomplish some important purposes,* being "intended to exhibit to my fellow citizens the outline of a scheme for removing the difficulties of our irregular orthography, without the use of new characters."

Probably acting upon Mr. Webster's suggestion, Mr. Pittman and others have extended and improved Mr. Webster's own scheme, by making such "alterations" of the Roman

characters as Mr. Webster considered practicable as well as expedient." They have, by making such alterations of the Roman characters as were necessary, carried their improvements so far that we may now represent each elementary sound of the English language by a distinct letter. Each of the elementary sounds of the English language being thus always represented by a distinct character, the orthography, as a matter of course, is materially changed, but, judging from Mr. Webster's language, one would suppose that even he, jealous as he was of innovation, would not have considered such a change as wholly inexpedient or impracticable.

In treating of the irregularities in our orthography, Mr. Webster remarks: "Such is the state of our written language, that our own citizens never become masters of orthography, without great difficulty and labor; and a great part of them never learn to spell words with correctness. * * * In regard to the acquisition of our language by foreigners, the evil of our irregular orthography is extensive, beyond what is generally known or conceived. While the French and the Italians have the wisdom and the policy to refine and improve their respective languages, and render them almost common languages of all well-bred people in Europe, the English language, clothed in a barbarous orthography, is never learned by a foreigner but from necessity; and the most copious language in Europe, embodying an uncommon mass of science and erudition, is thus very limited in its usefulness. And to complete the mischief, the progress of arts, science and Christianity among the heathen, and other rude or unevangelical nations, is most sensibly retarded by the difficulties of mastering an irregular orthography. * * * The unqualified rule of following the common orthography cannot have place, for it would sanction mistakes and tend to perpetuate them; such a rule would have been as just in the ago of Chancery (A. D. 1350) as it is now, and had it been observed, what would have been the present state of English orthography?"

Where will phoneticians find stronger arguments in favor of the adoption of the phonetic system of spelling than in the language of Mr. Webster just quoted?

The most formidable objection urged against the adoption of the phonetic system of spelling—a system in which each sound is represented by a distinct character, and in which each letter invariably represents but one sound—is, that by doing so, "all our etymologies would be lost, consequently we could not ascertain the meaning of many words;" but with regard to this objection Dr. Franklin very justly observes. "Etymologies are at present very uncertain, but such as they are, the old books would still preserve them, and etymologists would there