

ed by the son of its author, my friend Professor Spencer, your able instructor. [Applause.] This is an example of what a man may do by putting his whole heart in the work he undertakes.

Young gentlemen, let not poverty stand as an obstacle in your way. Poverty is uncomfortable, as I can testify; but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard, and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance, I have never known one to be drowned who was worth the saving. [Applause.] This would not be wholly true in any country but one of political equality like ours. The editor of one of the leading magazines of England told me, not many months ago, a fact startling enough of itself, but of great significance to a poor man. He told me that he had never yet known, in all his experience, a single boy of the class of farm-laborers (not those who own farms, but mere farm-laborers), who had ever risen above his class. Boys from the manufacturing and commercial classes had risen frequently, but from the farm-labor class he had never known one.

The reason is this: in the aristocracies of the Old World, wealth and society are built up like the strata of rock which compose the crust of the earth. If a boy be born in the lowest stratum of life, it is almost impossible for him to rise through this hard crust into the higher ranks; but in this country it is not so. The strata of our society resemble rather the ocean, where every drop, even the lowest, is free to mingle with all others, and may shine at last on the crest of the highest wave. This is the glory of our country, young gentlemen, and you need not fear that there are any obstacles which will prove too great for any brave heart. You will recollect what Burns, who knew all meanings of poverty and struggle, has said in homely verse:

"Though losses and crosses
Be lessons right severe,
There's wit there, you'll get there,
You'll find no other where."

One thought more and I will close. This is almost a sermon, but I cannot help it, for the occasion itself has given rise to the thoughts I am offering you. Let me suggest, that in giving you being, God locked up in your nature certain forces and capabilities. What will you do with them? Look at the mechanism of a clock. Take off the pendulum and ratchet and the wheels go rattling down, and all its force is expended in a moment; but properly balanced and regulated, it will go on, letting out its force tick by tick, measuring hours and days, and doing faithfully the service for which it was designed. I implore you to cherish and guard and use well the forces that God has given to you. You may let them run down in a year, if you will. Take off the strong curb of discipline and morality, and you will be an old man before your twenties are passed. Preserve these forces. Do not burn them out with brandy or waste them in idleness

and crime. [Applause.] Do not destroy them. Do not use them unworthily. Save and protect them that they may save for you fortune and fame. Honestly resolve to do this, and you will be an honor to yourself and to your country. [Applause.]

PHONOGRAPHY vs. THE NEW SYSTEMS.

BY THE EDITOR.

The pamphlet entitled "Legible Shorthand Vindicated," which has been issued by Mr. Pocknell, undoubtedly foreshadows a struggle not only as between that system and Phonography, but as between Phonography and all other systems. Within the past few years British shorthand writers have witnessed a development of phonographic ingenuity of which Pocknell's, Everett's, and Williams' shorthand systems are indications and illustrations.

The inventor of Phonography, who has watched its marvellous progress for half a century, and whose whole energies are bent towards its success, is not likely to encourage innovations which are not directly in the line of his invention. Indeed, Mr. Pitman will, we are sure, spend every working moment of the remainder of his life—as he has spent during a half century—in the promotion and defence of his Phonography; and this important fact suggests speculation as to the ultimate outcome of the struggle, and its effect upon phonographers in general, and those of Britain in particular.

No one who believes in the progress of his race would presume to set bounds to the capacity of the human intellect; and the facts of past history will bear out the conviction that a system of shorthand may yet be devised which will be as far in advance of any known system as present systems are superior to longhand. There is no shorthand writer, we should hope, who looks upon Phonography in its present state of development as absolutely perfect. Such a claim, by whomsoever made, would be absurd and illogical—absurd, because the facts known to every well-informed phonographer deny such a claim; and illogical, because it implies that, though the present degree of perfection has been reached by a slow process of development, the future will witness no similar growth.

It is plainly manifest from an examination of their merits, if not from observation of the opposition to them, that the new systems possess merits. Already "Legible Shorthand" has been by some of its reviewers called "the shorthand of the