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Editorial and Contributed.

THE RELATION OF STENOGRAPHERS TO THE BENCH, BAR AND PRESS.

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THE art of shorthand writing is to-day a recognized profession, and its members are scattered far and wide throughout the country, standing side by side with members of other professions in the battle of life. From being the property of theorists, it has become the means of livelihood of practical business men. Though the merit of age may be claimed in its behalf, a system of shorthand writing having been in use by the ancient nations of the earth, it remained for the nineteenth century, which has seen reduced to practical working the steam engine, the telegraph, the telephone and many other equally valuable and labor-saving inventions, to perfect a method of committing to paper the language of man as it falls from the lips, adding nothing thereto and subtracting nothing therefrom. Its growth, like the growth of all arts, was at first slow. Many obstacles had to be met and overcome, many prejudices removed, many "old fogy" ideas disposed of ere its representative, now bearing the title of "Stenographer," found himself in the busy whirlpool of active business, the trusted and valued assistant of the judge, the lawyer and the editor. Older members of the profession love to detail their experience, the trials and tribulations that befell them in their efforts to obtain recognition at the hands of the very class of men who to-day extend to them and the profession they represent, a cordial and hearty welcome. Those pioneers in the cause deserve and should receive the thanks of this association for the good work they have done.

There is no profession with which the stenographer comes into such close contact as that of the law; and, next to that, journalism. The bar and the press, the lawyer and the editor stand in much the same relation to the stenographer that the consumer does to the producer. They furnish us with employment, and take the article that we produce, paying us the compensation to which we are entitled. Without those professions the stenographer's occupation would be gone, and he would be forced to turn

his attention to other branches of business for a livelihood. The lawyer has to-day no more active and valuable assistant than the stenographer; and this is true to a certain extent of the newspaper man also. Whenever it becomes necessary to preserve with accuracy, testimony which the learned and skillful opponent of the law has spent many an anxious hour in collecting and arranging, he calls to his aid the professional stenographer, relying on him to carry out his wishes. The work is not only done accurately, but it is done speedily. It also relieves the lawyer of all drudgery, as the work of hurriedly committing the matter to paper soon becomes, on his part. His mind is free to occupy itself with the merits of the question at issue. He can thus decide at once upon the best mode of presenting his case, supply points that he may have overlooked, and detect and expose any errors on the part of his opponent. While he is bending all his energies to the task before him, he knows that the nimble-fingered Knight of the Pen is quietly and silently writing the record that is being made. For the matter itself the lawyer is responsible; but the task of recording is the stenographer's, and the accuracy of the record lies with him.

Perhaps no one sustains a closer official relation to the judge than the stenographer. In the stenographer is found one who is able and willing to take upon his own shoulders the task of keeping the minutes of the court, thus lightening the labors of the judge. According to the statutes of this state, which recognize those of the court, they become the official record of the proceedings. It is necessary to the maintenance of that cordial relation that should exist between lawyers and stenographers, and more especially between lawyers and stenographers, that there should be a feeling of respect and confidence between them. No judge or lawyer would accept as correct and conclusive the report of a stenographer who did not inspire him with a feeling of confidence in his ability and integrity. It is as necessary for him to possess the confidence of the judge and lawyer as it is that the judge should possess the confidence of lawyers and litigants, or that the lawyer should possess the confidence of his client.