

# THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William H. Orr,

[Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.]—Hon. Tho's H. Denton.

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NUMBER I.

## The Phonetic Pioneer.

TO-DAY we have the pleasure of sending out to the public the first sheet in the shape of a publication exclusively on Phonetic matters, of any size, which has been issued in Canada.

Our object in commencing the issue of THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER is to aid in the efforts which are being put forth by many, in England, the United States, and, to some extent, in Canada, to awaken the attention of the public to the advantages to be derived from having our orthography based upon the *Phonetic* principle, and of employing the *Phonetic Short-Hand* system of writing instead of the old, cumbersome, tiresome, slow-coach method now so generally used. For a more definite idea of our meaning, we would refer to the article headed "Phonography—What it is," as well as to the various articles and communications which will, from time to time, appear in the pages of our PIONEER.

We do not wish to underrate the value of the present system of writing. It has been of great service in its time, having done much in the way of civilizing and enlightening the races of men. But the state of things in the intellectual, scientific, and industrial world demands a change in the character of our written language. Within the last hundred years important changes have taken place in almost every department of industry. The mechanic is no longer obliged to seek the swiftly running stream to propel his machinery, but erects his mill or factory on the ground most convenient for labor or market, and brings the elements into subjection for the performance of his drudgery; the stage-coach horse-power, for locomotion, is almost forgotten in consideration of the iron-bound steed hitched to the enormous rail-road palace; the sea voyage of weary months is now performed pleasantly in as many weeks or days, by the application of steam to navigation; and the man of business no longer waits the rapid transmission of thought even by such means, but communicates through the length and breadth of the land with lightning speed.

Thus the genius of invention and improvement has been abroad in the land, and although for a long time she confined her skill to building steamboats and making railroads, constructing machinery and teaching the lightnings how to talk, she has not altogether forgotten the world

of intellect; and Phonography, her last, most promising and beneficent boon, presents to the world an alphabet of letters so simple and facile that he who uses it may readily keep pace with the fastest speaker,—affording a system of writing as much superior to the old method as railroads are to the ancient truck-wheeled wagon, or the speed of the electric telegraph to the post-boy's plodding gait.

At present, Phonography is chiefly used in professional reporting, in making memoranda of lectures, sermons, business transactions, etc., and by phonographic amanuenses. In these departments of usefulness it is of vast importance to the human family; but its mission to the world is scarcely yet begun. From its simplicity, easiness of acquisition, brevity, beauty and economy, in time, labor, pens, ink, paper and postage, it must, sooner or later, come into general use throughout the civilized world, for almost all business purposes. Even now there are many business men, in England, in the United States and Canada, who do almost the whole of their correspondence, and keep their books and memoranda in phonetic short-hand; and we know cases in which persons who thus employ Phonography, transact as much business in a year as three men, writing the usual hand would do.—This proportion might be doubled, were the use of Phonography more general, so that a letter might be written in that brief style and sent to any part of the world, without fear of its being indecipherable. As it is, many letters must be written over into long-hand, by clerks, before being sent to the mail from the offices of those who do their writing business in Phonography.

It is with the hope of being able to do something towards hastening on the period in which Phonography will, to an almost universal extent, take the place of the present unphilosophical, tedious, dark-age method of communicating thought to paper, that we undertake the expense and labor of this publication.

Of the first number, we intend issuing some fifty or sixty thousand copies, or a sufficiency to enable us to send one to every person in Canada whose address we can obtain. This cannot be done without great expense, but we trust to the assistance of those in whom the first number of the PIONEER may awaken an interest

in Phonetic science, to enable us to meet the heavy outlay.

From our first acquaintance with Phonography and Phonetics—seeing and knowing as we did, the great importance to the human race, of its acquisition becoming general, and its being acknowledged in our educational system—we have, to some extent, acted as a missionary in its behalf. And this, we may remark, is the feeling inspired in the minds of all who become thoroughly acquainted with the art. They feel a consciousness of superior power in being able to put their thoughts on paper at the rate of one hundred and fifty words per minute, and look with a feeling akin to pity, upon those who still toil on at the old drudgery of from thirty to forty words per minute. They feel the importance of all, and especially the youth of the land, becoming acquainted with this great time and labor saving art, and they consequently exert themselves to spread a knowledge of it, that others too may experience the benefits arising from having such a railroad system of writing at their finger's ends.

To the young, who are stolling up the bill of science, Phonography is peculiarly valuable.—At school, many exercises in grammar, composition, history, geography, philosophy, etc., require to be committed to paper. In the aggregate, the time consumed in doing this by the old method, for each pupil, amounts to many days in the year. How important then, to be able to save four or five days out of every six which are at present thus employed, even if the benefit of it to the subject were to end here, and the art never more be used throughout a life-time. Saw the late Hon. THOS. H. BAYNES, late U. S. Senator from Missouri, when presented with a verbatim report of one of his masterly speeches taken by a little boy, twelve years of age, "Had this art been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years of hard labor!"

We have much more to say upon the subject, but our limited space forbids, and we must therefore postpone further remarks for our second number.

"If any thing that has been contrived is worthy of being called railroad, this system of writing may be so designated. It is a railroad system literally—a true railroad by reason of its expedition—a railroad by reason of its cost."—REV. DR. RAYNES, Chairman at Mr. Puman's Liverpool Lectures.