

the reporters. Nor is this all, for should important civil suits arise, and more especially criminal cases occupying several weeks in trial, the financial benefit to the Province would greatly add to the above estimate. In the McCarthy murder case, for instance, a reduction of several thousand dollars could have been effected had the evidence been taken in shorthand.

It might appear at first sight that the tax of \$5 per day upon litigants in all civil suits would render the system obnoxious to them. But as an offset to this it must be considered that by the shortening of the case the clients escape the payment of about one half the costs of court and counsel. If any one is injured it is the fifth-rate shyster lawyer, whose efforts to prolong the case and fleece his "allow clients" will be rendered of more effect. Lawyers of large practice will extend a hearty welcome to the reporters, enabling them, as it will, to obtain a hearing instead of being blocked out of court by the lengthy docket and brief time at the disposal of the judge.

As for the judges, it ought to be a glimpse of the Beulah land for them, and all the desperate scrawlings, and scratchings, all the appeals for time and frantic efforts to catch the words of an excited witness; all the exhortations to subdue the badgering and blathering of an exultant lawyer; all the hopeless horror of taking down the maximum of words at the minimum of sense and legality—removed next door to the left, where the bland and genial man of dots and dashes and crooks and curves, calmly collars each wayward syllable on the fly! Of all men they should feel most favored.

Surely, Mr. Editor, life is far too short to wrestle any longer with this relic of bygone barbarism. Let the boasted centennial year witness one real step in advance—the adoption of shorthand reporting in the Province of New Brunswick.

Yours faithfully,

April 7th, 1883.

STENO.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

We are glad to be able to inform our readers that arrangements have been completed with the Rossin House for the accommodation of delegates to the Convention.

Favorable answers have been received from the various railroad lines leading to Toronto, giving reduced rates for persons attending the Congress. These rates can be obtained only on certificates officially signed. Stenographers living in Canada who desire to avail themselves of these special rates, and American delegates coming from the east per the Grand Trunk can obtain such certificates by addressing this office. Tickets will be made good for sufficient time to allow those who desire to do so, to attend the meeting of the New York stenographers at Watkins, or to make a trip up the

St. Lawrence. Reduced rates have also been quoted, by way of Cleveland, allowing a stop over at that city to attend the Ohio State Association meetings.

Invitations are cordially extended to all shorthand writers, irrespective of system, position or nationality.

REPORTING FROM MEASURED READING.

The following extract is from an article which appeared in *Good Words* several years ago:—

"Matter deliberately read off, with guarded accent and even pauses, may be torture to the stenographer who tries to take it down. He would rather have a quick but irregular pace, just as a suspension bridge will better bear the hasty rush of an undisciplined crowd than the regular tramp of a regiment of soldiers. I should think it would be possible to drive a man mad by deliberate, timed reading. It is notorious that reporters take down badly what is read; that they only lay aside the pen when a speaker reads an extract, and afterwards procure the original. What makes them cease writing on such occasions is not idleness, though rest is often welcome enough to an arm that is stiff or aching, but the same sort of feeling which would make a man who knew what it was beforehand try to avoid that famous Inquisition torture which consists in causing a drop of water to fall at regular intervals upon the crown of the head."

PENMANSHIP OF FAMOUS MEN.

The evidence of handwriting, as of style generally, is not to be relied on when men's lives and liberty are at stake. Still less can character be judged from handwriting. Brave men may perpetrate a timid scrawl, generous and high-minded men may write a mean hand, and cowards produce a bold and flowing script. Porson, the great Greek scholar, among the untidiest of students, wrote neatly and elegantly. Cromwell's writing, though large, is shaky. Shakespeare's signature is particularly clear. Napoleon Bonaparte wrote illegibly, it is said, purposely, to hide his bad spelling. The handwriting of the tortuous-minded Charles I. is as clear and striking as that of Thomas Carlyle is crabbed and indistinct. On the other hand, Queen Elizabeth's writing is magnificent. Edgar Allan Poe wrote beautifully, and with scarcely an erasure; whereas the manuscripts of Charles Dickens, to be seen in the Forster collection at South Kensington, are ragged and full of alterations and emendations. Many men write large or small, in characters boldly or weakly formed, according to their humor of the moment. Again, handwriting depends for its style on the school in which it is applied. The manuscript of Byron, of Thomas Campbell, and of Thackeray, may be called the literary hand. It is uniform in color,