

## WHAT IS SAID OF THE "WAWA" SHORTHAND

"This style of Phonography is the easiest learned of all that I have seen, and I think I have seen nearly all of them."—*From Yreka, California, May, 1895.*

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"Four days ago I began to examine the elements of shorthand you sent me, and in three hours I learned every sign it included. The next day I went to work and began to decipher the meaning of the 'Kamloops Wawa,' and went through it in one day. Now I can read it pretty readily, and write it faster than I can read it. I am proud of my success, because I thought that I was too old to have the patience and memory to master it. And I must thank you for having been the means of my learning it. I am proud of enlisting myself as one of your pupils. Though my hair is white as snow, I see one is never too old to learn."—*From Troy, N. Y., May 1st, 1892.*

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"One of the most curious and interesting of all the curious attempts which have been made to instruct and benefit the Indians by means of written characters, is that known as the 'Kamloops Wawa.' Written in an international language, 'set up' in stenographic characters, and printed on a mimeograph by its inventor, editor, reporter, printer and publisher, all in one, this little paper seems to leave nothing in the way of novelty to be desired."—*From the Smithsonian Institute, Bibliography of the Chinookan Languages by Jas. C. Pilling.*

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"The Salish Indians in British Columbia are the first nation which has adopted a truly short method of writing, which is at the same time quite philosophical, as the national means of representing spoken language. By this system the Chinook tongue is spelled exactly as it is pronounced, and thus all the great difficulties of learning to read which exist in most modern languages, and especially in English and French, are avoided, and the British Columbia Indians educated in this manner are enabled to read and write their own language in an incredibly short time. It is admitted by all scholars that the phonetic representation of any language removes the difficulties of learning to read and spell; and it is just this that the British Columbia Indians are taught to use. And not only are they able, when instructed by this method, to read and spell in a few days, but they are able in a short time to write as quickly as they think, and to keep pace with the fastest speaker."—*Catholic Record.*

Do not think because this phonography is so readily learned by the Indians, that it is only a savage shorthand. This system of shorthand has already sold over 300,000 methods in England; it is now taught in 500 schools and colleges in the United States, and it is becoming general throughout France.

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This system in Phonography has now adaptations in French, English, German, Armenian, Chinook and Salish languages in British Columbia, Danish, Flemish, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish. The German Method has already reached its fourth edition and the Jewish its second. The French Method Complete has already exhausted sixteen editions, and the Abridged Method seventeen. —*July, 1895.*

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"It was in July, 1890, that the following remark was made: 'Why not teach the Indians to read in shorthand?—It is so simple!' The first trial was a success. At the end of September, 1890, a poor Indian cripple, named Charlie Alexis Mayous, from the Lower Nicola, saw the writing for the first time, and got the intuition of the system at first sight. He set to work to decipher a few Indian prayers, and in less than two months had learned the whole method thoroughly, and he soon began to communicate his learning to his friends and relatives. From that time the Indians took up the system, and were anxious to learn on all sides. When once a few Indians know the system in one camp, their ambition is to teach it to others. During the summer the progress is slow, but when winter comes they spend whole nights at it. One young Indian, especially bright, took interest in the writing as soon as he saw it. He spent the whole night in repeating the lesson over and over again with two or three companions, and in two or three days more completed his studies. In less than a month he could read the Indian language as well as the Chinook, and soon was able to read and write English in shorthand. Not only do little children learn to read and write readily, but even old people study with success.

"After 600 or 800 Indians had learned the system, it became necessary that their interests should be kept up by placing instructive matter before them. Then came the idea of editing the 'Kamloops Wawa,' the strangest little newspaper in America."