

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. Benton.]

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The Convention.

A few days since we had the pleasure of paying a flying visit to Mr. Webber's Phonographic Institution, corner of King and Church streets, Toronto, and must express ourself very much gratified with the appearance of the said establishment. The pains which the proprietor has taken to render his office attractive to lovers and students of the railway system of writing, is certainly commendable; and it is not to be wondered at, that his success in teaching the art is superior to that of most teachers. We wish him every success.

By an arrangement to that effect, the proposed Phonographic Convention will be held at Mr. Webber's Institute, at six o'clock on the evening of the 24th of the present month. The hour of six o'clock has been fixed upon, because more convenient for the Phonographers of the city, and because equally convenient for those who may come from the East or West. An accommodation train on the G. T. R. R. passes Oshawa about 3 p. m., which will be the most convenient for a majority of those who come from the East.

"The Teacher."

It was announced in the January number of the PIONEER, that this valuable book was "out of print," and that consequently no more could be had. We are happy to state now, however, that it is again "in print," the author having found time to re-engage it. We have just received a large number of copies of the work, handsomely bound in cloth, and are therefore prepared to supply the demand, for a time at least. If regarded only as a reading book, it is well worth its cost, in rendering the student more familiar with Phonography. Its directions for organizing and conducting classes for imparting a knowledge of this great time and labor saving art to others, is the chief interest attached to the book. Written by Benn Pitman, it is the work of one who has had a larger, and more successful experience as a teacher of Phonography, than any other person, and consequently the directions given may be fully relied upon. The first chapter treats of the Early Dissemination of Phonography. The second, of Lecturing, previous to commencing classes in large towns and cities. The third tells "How to Teach Phonography," and gives the method to be pursued in detail.

The fourth chapter treats of the "Qualifications of a Teacher;" and the sixth goes into the Course of Lessons in full; tells what to say on commencing the first lesson, how to say it, how much to introduce to the attention of the class, and how to conclude—and similar directions regarding the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and remaining lessons of the course. The directions are given, of course, with reference to Benn Pitman's Manual of Phonography, but they may easily be adapted to the American Manual. Every student should have "The Teacher" as a reading book, even if his circumstances should prevent him from conducting classes.

AN EVER CIRCULATOR LOST.—Do any of our readers know anything of "The Correspondent," a little ever-circulator magazine which was started about two years ago by Mr. John E. Doyle. The person into whose hands it has fallen may possibly be a reader of the Pioneer, and if so, we would be obliged to him to forward it to us, or to J. E. Doyle, Toronto, without delay. Its last voyage was to have been a long one, the writer having added to the list of contributors a number of new names. In all probability some of these have forgotten to enclose the list of addresses of the contributors, and as a consequence, the next one receiving it has been unable to find out to whom to direct it.

J. E. M'N., of Aurora, says in a postscript to a letter, that he and Mr. A. have been presented with a daughter and a son, respectively, and hope we will soon announce the publication of a series of phonetic books for children!

PHONOGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE.—Phonographers should correspond one with another, and so become acquainted with each other's peculiarities of writing,—criticizing and correcting each other's style. There are now very few towns or villages, or even school sections, in Canada, where one or more students of Phonography do not reside, and consequently the facilities for corresponding in Phonography are abundant. Need we say anything in favor of the practice of phonographers corresponding with each other? The advantages to be derived must strike every mind. Suffice it for us to say that there is no means that can be employed which will do

more to aid the student of Phonography in his studies, or cause him to take a deeper interest in the system, than correspondence—especially with one more advanced. Mr. M'Nally, of Aurora, informs us that himself, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Clarke, all school teachers in that neighborhood, and others, have organized a regular system of correspondence, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with each other's style, and correcting each other's errors. This should be done everywhere. We hope soon to have a Provincial Association organized which will do much towards bringing the Phonographers of Canada into closer acquaintance with each other—on paper at least. A letter may be written so quickly in phonography that very little time need be taken up by good writers while carrying on quite an extended correspondence, and poor writers ought to write and read a good deal, as a means of progress.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. G. W. V., of Chatham, wishes to know if we have ever "seen or heard of 'the Fountain Pen,'—a pen containing a supply of ink in the handle!" We have seen such pens, several different kinds of them, but we have not yet had the good fortune to meet with anybody who ever got long service out of them. We are inclined to believe that Prince's Protean Fountain Pen is one of the best in use, but we are not prepared to certify that it will give full satisfaction, not having personally used one for any length of time. Having several of them, however, we loaned one to a friend who was traveling through the country, who, after a month's travel, expressed himself very much pleased with its operation, and purchased it. When good care is taken of them, we believe they will give good satisfaction. The price is \$3 for an ordinary sized pen and holder, and \$4 for a large size. One of them will hold ink enough for about ten hours' phonographic writing. The pen is made of the finest gold, and the holder being made of protean—a sort of gutta serena substance—is very light, even when charged with a good supply of ink. We do not know where they can be had at present, but will enquire, and give some further information respecting them in our next.