

expense; but we think he will find that he has a very thin excuse when the time arrives for him to seek shelter under it as a protection against what will likely cause a gloom to hang over Browne's "University."

#### MR. UNDERHILL'S DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

From this gentleman's suitable contribution to the *Monthly's* new department we extract the following language:

[*The Miscellany*] has done more to convince me of the possibility of total depravity than all the evangelical preachers who have wrestled with me for nearly a half century.

While we do not forget to thank Mr. Underhill for acknowledging so ingeniously the benefits which we have apparently bestowed upon him, yet we feel that he has been in no small measure extravagant in giving us credit for resurrecting him from the sinful and depraved state in which he has, according to his own confession, been floundering for so many years. Judging from the language that he employs to express his feelings of gratitude, one would be inclined to imagine that neither the *Miscellany* nor evangelical preachers have been remarkably successful in their attempts to make this unfortunate young man a convert. As it is not our wish to cause anything to rise to the surface, regarding Edward's conduct, that would be calculated to send a blush to his tender cheek, we propose to deal with him in as gentle a manner as possible.

Those who have read Mr. Underhill's letter in the *Globe*, which was taken from the *Monthly*, will remember that the writer held up Mr. Cochran as being one of the many who, having thrown the "Standard" overboard on account of its illegibility, had adopted Isaac Pitman's system in its stead—giving, as an example of his present style, the word *not*, using the full outline En-Tee, instead of *net*.<sup>1</sup>

As there was some newspaper discussion going on about the time we read this letter, and fearing that such trash from the pen of Mr. Underhill—as he then was in our opinion—might lead to serious results, we wrote that gentleman the letter, which his right-bower, Mr. Browne, has taken pains to publish in *fac simile*, asking him if he really thought it possible to report *verbatim* with outlines so childish as En-Tee for *not*, etc., at the same time giving it as our belief that it would be utterly impossible to get around such forms, as even the abbreviated ones would not

enable a reporter to keep pace were they not put into phraseograms—a thing which would be very dangerous to do with unabbreviated forms. As we wrote Mr. U. in great haste, a fact of which the manuscript of our letter in *fac simile* gives ample evidence, we forgot to make inquiry regarding the supposed "make-up," neither did we mention Mr. Cochran's name; but, as the example of the full form En-Tee was the same as that given in the letter referred to, it ought to have been sufficient to recall to Mr. U. the circumstance, without mention of Mr. Cochran, if he was, in reality, the author of that letter; but it would seem that he lost sight of it—for, in his reply, already spoken of, he made use of the following language: "My experience leads me to believe that you are correct in your conclusion." It was not until we received Mr. U's letter, containing the above statement, that we proceeded to unmask the unfair dealings of the "unknown."

Mr. U. now steps forward and complains, in bitter terms, that we did him an injustice by only publishing enough of his letter to suit our purpose; and he further states that if we have still any lingering doubts of the paternity of the letter which appeared in the *Globe*, he will remove them by announcing that he was the author. Before entering into an explanation we would direct the attention of our readers to the fact that Mr. U's attempt to place himself perpendicularly before the phonographic profession has been a complete failure.

Our reason for not publishing the whole of his letter was that the unpublished portion had no direct bearing upon the question at issue. After stating that we were "correct in our conclusion," he proceeded to explain that "on account of the peculiarities of movement of the muscles of the fingers, some persons find it difficult to make a distinction between hooks and circles, and that when a reporter finds himself unable to write distinctly and perfectly, when writing rapidly, it is better that he should use longer forms, because it is of little use to write fast if you cannot read it afterwards."

According to the foregoing, which is from the pen of Mr. U., Mr. Cochran is one of those gentlemen, who, "on account of peculiarities of movement of the muscles of the fingers," is unfit for the position which he now holds.

#### MR. COCHRAN'S EXPLANATION.

Mr. C. simply states that he studied Standard phonography and learned it from its *alpha* to its *omega*, and finding that he could make better use of its *alpha*, or baby style, he adopted the