

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.]

Publisher.

VOLUME III.

OSHAWA, C. W., MAY, 1861.

NUMBER III.

REPORTING PAPER.—We have on hand a very large stock of Reporting Paper of fine quality, for both pen and pencil use, which we desire to turn into cash to meet payments now due, as speedily as possible. It is in books of one, two, three, and five quires each. The one quire books are the same size as the Copy-books, the two-quire books twice the size, &c., and the paper for pen practice is the same, only ruled a little closer, giving twenty per cent more writing space. Prices will be found in our catalogue. In addition to which, in order to stimulate purchasers, we make this offer viz:—To every person purchasing \$2 worth of the paper, we will send, post-free, 150 copies of our circular, and 50 copies of back numbers of the *Pioneer*. For orders of \$1 worth, we will send the circulars alone. In writing for Reporting Paper, please state how much for pencil, and how much for pen use is wanted, as there is a difference in the surface of the paper.

We have dated this number for the month of May, because we find it will be very inconvenient for us to continue a monthly issue during the present year. We shall therefore endeavor to appear regularly about the 15th of every alternate month through the current volume. Under this arrangement, the last number ought to have been dated "March" instead of February. Our next issue will be for July.

Send along your orders for packages of our Circular. We have sent off quite a number during the past month, but have piles of them left yet. They are given away gratis to those who send enough postage stamps to pre-pay postage. Ten cents will pre-pay 150 copies. Fifty copies of back numbers of the *Pioneer* are sent for 20 cts.

The Hand-Book.

A correspondent [Mr. Walter Genge, of Hamburg, C. W.] wants to know if there is any difference between Pitman's Phonography and Standard Phonography as found in the Hand-Book. We answer, Yes. Since the appearance of the Hand-Book, however, quite a number of its improvements have been used by the publishers of Pitman's Phonography in America, and we had hoped to see them all adopted and published in the Manual issued by Messrs. Ben Pitman and E. Longley, of Cincinnati. Since it has come to be known, however, that Graham's improvements are patented, and that other publishers cannot appropriate them without paying Mr. Graham for their use, it appears very probable that there will be differences between Pitman's and Standard or American Phonography for some time to come.

The differences between American Phonography and Pitman's as published in America, are not so great as they are between the latter and Pitman's Phonography as promulgated by its inventor in England, Isaac Pitman. Perhaps it is not known to many of our readers that Isaac Pitman, of Bath, Eng., about two years ago, commenced publishing phonographic instruction books with the dot vowels reversed, viz. *agh*, *a, ee*, instead of *ee*; *a, agh*; and *ah, eh, ih*, instead of *ih, eh, ah*. It is claimed that the new vowel scale is the correct one, the sounds *agh*, and *ah* being the first used by children, and the only proper ones to commence the scale. The change of vowels necessitates a great many changes in word-signs in both corresponding and reporting styles.

The differences between American Phonography and the Pitman Phonography as found in American Manuals, are not of a radical kind. The alphabet is the same, and four-fifths of the words, in either corresponding or reporting style, are alike, in a given quantity of manuscript written according to

both systems. Standard Phonography simply adds a number of principles of abbreviation to Pitman's, which greatly facilitate speed. A person who understands Standard Phonography can read the other perhaps fully as well as he can the exercises in the Hand-Book, but one who understands Pitman's cannot get along with Standard Phonography well at first sight, because a portion, or perhaps the whole, of every fifth or sixth word will be new to him, and unless the meaning of the preceding words solves the puzzle, he must come to a stand-still until the principles of the Hand-Book come to his aid.

Graham's method of imparting a knowledge of Phonography, also, as found in the Hand-Book, is quite different from any other in existence that we have yet seen. For every different character and combination of characters he has a distinct name, which name is indicative of its qualities. For instance, instead of teaching the pupil to say "downward r" and "upward r" Graham calls these characters "Ar" and "Ra," the L's *El* and *Lay*, the Sh *Ih* [down] and *Shay* [up]; the S *Es* and *Is* [circle] etc. This is one of the most valuable features of the book as a Teacher, for it enabled the author to tell the student exactly how a word should be written, which is a better plan for the advanced student than to show him how to write it by an engraved character, because it allows him a use for his brains—just enough to keep them sharpened up to the exercise before him.

The same correspondent says: "If you think that the Manual, with the Phrase-Book and Reporter's Companion will not enable one to write as fast as the Hand-Book, it would be well to let your readers know it."

We are decidedly of opinion that the Hand-Book will enable the student to write much more rapidly than he can by the use of any other book or combination of books ever published. The author claims that it will enhance the speed of the reporter who adopts its principles, from 30 to 50 per cent. In other words, that while you may attain a speed of 170 words per minute by Pitman's system, you may just as easily write from 200 to 250 by using Standard Phonography.