

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William E. Orr,

[Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.—Hon. Tho's H. Estlin]

Publisher.

VOLUME II.

OSHAWA, C. W., APRIL, 1860.

NUMBER X.

Phonography Easy to Learn.

The following letter is a fair sample of many which we receive along with the sum of one dollar for a set of instruction books:

"Phonography may be very good provided a person could learn it. You are aware that a person cannot learn from books so well as from a teacher: therefore if a thing is not set forth in a good comprehensible way why the thing becomes useless," etc. etc.

A few months after if the student has any fitness for becoming a phonographer, we frequently receive such letters as the following, and here we might say that although we have sold several thousand phonographic instruction books in the course of the past five years, not a single letter, that we can now recollect, have we ever received in condemnation of the system or of our labors toward its more general dissemination among the people. This arises, we think, from the fact that although many persons have not the time or the proper faculties for pursuing the study a sufficient length of time to become expert in its use, yet no person is so dull of comprehension as not to see at a first glance over the introductory pages, that the system is founded on right principles, and that it must be of vast service to humanity to possess a thorough knowledge of it, and to make use of it in correspondence and for almost all the purposes for which long-hand is now used. The brevity, simplicity, and beauty of the alphabet itself, compared to that of the old system is sufficient to draw from even the casual observer, a ready assent to its superiority over every other system which he has ever seen. But those who have learned Phonography—and have become acquainted with its beautiful internal contractions, know that the alphabet is but a beginning of its philosophical beauty, as well as utility, and that the farther the student progresses toward a thorough 200 per minute command of the art, the more he becomes enamored with it. But, here is the letter to which we refer red, written under date of the 21st of March last:—

"DEAR SIR,—I take this opportunity of sending these few lines to you as a sample of my writing in Phonography, and as a proof

of my success in the study of the art. I suppose you remember sending me the 'Hand-Book of Standard Phonography' about the latter end of December last, so you see I am not a very old scholar at Phonography, but I suppose you can see that by my writing, and I hope you will excuse me if there are a few blunders in it. I hope the next time I write to you, I shall be able to do it in a better style. [Our correspondent need make no apologies, for not only is his writing among the very best we ever received for neatness of execution, but after reading it very carefully & critically several times, we have yet to find the first mistake in it. It is written too with all the latest improvement introduced by the *Hand-Book*.] I have not had a very good chance to study the art since I received the *Hand-Book*; on the average I have only been able to look at it about three evenings in a week, but I am as it every chance I can get. I am sure I could never get tired learning it. What little I know of it, gives me much pleasure. I never studied anything in my life that I take so much delight in learning as Phonography. As for the *Hand-Book*, I cannot say enough in its favor. It is a much better book than I expected to find it, and considering the trouble there must have been spent in getting the work up, it is a very cheap one. A person who could not learn Phonography with the aid of it, ought to give up the idea of ever learning anything. Those who want to know how to spend their leisure hours profitably should send for the *Hand-Book*. I thought when I first saw the exercises, that if I could read them in the course of six months, it would be about as much as I could do; but I can now read any of them with about as much ease as the common long-hand."

Mr. Josiah Fennell, of Toronto, the writer of the above, takes the proper steps to extend his knowledge of this beautiful art, by sending for more books, magazines, paper, etc., and connecting himself with the "B. A. Phon. Association." Phonography can be learned to good advantage with only one book, but it pays to purchase and read all the current books and magazines published

on the subject. Every phonographer should subscribe for the three leading monthly magazines printed in the phonographic characters, namely: The *Phonographic Examiner*, published in London, England, price in this country \$1.00, the *Phonographic Magazine*, price 75 cents, and the *Phonog'c Journal*, price \$1.00, both published in Cincinnati, the first by Benn Pitman and the *Journal* by Elias Longley. Orders for these magazines may be sent to this office. The back numbers from January are sent in all cases. We generally have single copies of them on hand, which we send by mail to any address at 10 cents each.

Phonography in the Colleges.

Phonography has been taught in Victoria College, Cobourg, for a number of years past, and as an instance of its present progress in other institutions of learning we might mention that we received an order, a few days since, from the Rev. George Richard Northgraves, Priest, St. Michael's College, Toronto, for two dozen sets of the *Manual and Copy-book*, for the use of students in that Institution. We hope to hear of good progress from that quarter shortly. Our pet is gaining ground in Canada, and we hope soon to be able to chronicle its admission to all the colleges and the more efficient Grammar Schools throughout the country. It must be adopted in these first, before it can be expected to make much head-way in the Common Schools, where it must finally take its place beside the common long-hand, or in advance of it.

☞ We are now getting ready a large quantity of reporting Paper, for pen and for pencil use, in covered books of 1, 2, 3 and 5 quires each. Also, Phonographic Letter Paper in quires. We shall be able to announce terms by the quantity in our next. Single quires will be 15 cents post paid.

☞ A further list of members of the B. A. Phonetic Association will be published in our next.