

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Graham celebrated their silver wedding at their residence, in Orange, N. J., on the 6th inst. Only those who attended the first wedding had invitations, with one exception in favor of their daughter Minola, a beautiful and accomplished young lady. A very enjoyable time was spent. We join the friends in wishing the couple many happy years.

Mr. A. B. Walker, a coloured man who has at times acted as stenographer in the Superior Court at Halifax, has just passed his examination and will be sworn in as attorney in June. He is the first coloured man admitted as attorney in any Canadian court.

At a meeting of the members of the press in attendance during the sessions of the Quebec Legislature to report the debates, E. Jos. Dugan, of the Montreal *Gazette*, was elected President for the current year and Mr. Mercier, of *Le Quotidien*, Levis, Secretary. The gentlemen of the press, upon invitation, paid a visit to the Speaker, Hon. A. Turcotte, and presented to him their newly elected officers. The Speaker received the party with cordiality and hospitality.

Our English exchanges for April are at hand, and are well up to their usual level. In the *Phonographer's Herald*, Mr. Thomas continues his notes on Isaac Pitman's dictionary. Some of his strictures upon certain of the "master's" outlines are quite in order. The *Phonographic Monthly* contains, amongst its other articles, a short sketch of Edmund Yates, the journalist and novel-writer, with his portrait. The *Phonetic Journal* is wholly given over to spelling reform, and contains little of interest on any other subject. The *Cabinet* presents its usual budget of sketches and short stories, written in shorthand.

The many friends of Mr. Charles Nicholls, who made himself very popular in this city during his connection with the literary staff of the *Globe*, will learn with regret of his demise, which occurred after a few days illness, at Ottawa, on the 11th inst. Mr. Nicholls was born in England, and graduated at Trinity College, Dublin. He came to Canada when he was quite young, and entered upon his journalistic career, in which pursuit he had acquired considerable popularity, but death had marked him for its prey, and carried him to its domains in his 37th year. His geniality, and love for social intercourse made him a welcome companion to many who now mourn his loss. Deceased, who was an excellent shorthand writer, was for some time connected with the Dominion *Herald* under the old regime.

Pennsylvanian Court reporters get \$10 a day and 25 cents per folio for transcription; in England the fee is one or two guineas a day, according as the case is tried in London, or outside of it, and eight-pence per folio of 72 words for transcription.

Gerald Hextall, in the *Phonographic Meteor* for February, speaking of the WRITER, says:—The originality of the cartoons is unquestionable, and some of the sketches are exceedingly clever. I knew Mr. Bengough's productions long before he appeared upon the phonographic stage, and have always appreciated his genius. A specimen of Mr. B's specialty is the pictorial story in six chapters, illustrative of the vowel sounds, which was reproduced in the *Phonograph* of December last, and which I would advise every one to see who has not already done so.

The *Reporter's Magazine* (London, Eng.) for March, alluding to a statement made by Mr. E. E. Horton in the November number of the WRITER, as to Mr. T. A. Reed, the noted English shorthand writer says:—"Mr. Reed has never laid claim to any particular speed. The assertion that he claims as his utmost speed 185 words per minute probably arises from the statement he once made that a sermon of an hour's duration which he reported, when counted showed an average of 185 words per minute; that sermon, he said, was the fastest he remembered to have counted."

A meeting of the Law Stenographer's Association of Montreal was held on the 21st day of April, when the committee, Messrs. Crankshaw, Miller, Thompson, Monier and Phelan, appointed at the previous meeting, reported as to the best means of promoting and protecting the interests of law stenographers. The report was adopted and the following resolutions were carried:

1. That the stenographers practising in the law courts form themselves into an association to be called the Law Stenographers' Association of the Province of Quebec.
2. That its object be to promote social intercourse, advance professional objects and perfect the taking of evidence by stenography.
3. That the employment of incompetent persons to take evidence is an abuse directly tending to shake public confidence in the art of shorthand writing and fraught with danger to pleader and litigant, the association should obtain power to admit to practise shorthand in the courts, such persons as only establish their competency under examination; and that to this end the Association apply for an Act of Incorporation and appoint a deputation to wait upon the judges of the Superior Court, setting forth the views of the Association on the subject.
4. That Messrs. Thompson, Miller, Crankshaw, Monier, McGown, Abbot and Phelan be a committee to draw up the constitution and the Act of Incorporation, and report thereon.

## Communications.

To the Editor of the WRITER:

DEAR SIR,—I am a regular subscriber to your journal, and am much pleased with its contents, especially the *fac-simile* notes. Could you not publish some such and give the rate of speed at

which they were taken? This would give one a much better idea of how notes are written by our best reporters when hard pressed. Some of the *fac-similes* you have published—Mr. Bell's and Mr. Butcher's, for instance—are so ex-