

PHONETIC PIONEER.

From Life Illustrated PHONOGRAPHY.

Phonography was invented in the year 1837, by Isaac Pitman, of Bath, England. Prior to that time many systems of shorthand had been invented, some quite ingenious, but all more or less defective and impracticable. Their signs were all arbitrary and cumbersome, and not one stonographer in a thousand could take a *verbatim* report of even a moderate speaker. Occasionally, one who possessed a remarkably tenacious memory and wondrous facility in wielding the pen, could obtain a tolerably accurate report of a speech; but it was very seldom indeed. It was only when the system of Mr. Pitman was introduced that there was anything like accuracy and reliability attained. His system of shorthand was based upon a phonetic representation of the sounds of the language, the characters being light and heavy dots and ticks for the vowel, and the simplest geometrical lines, straight and curved, and of convenient length, for the consonantal sounds.— These formed the basis of the now system, which was published under the title of "Stenographic Sound-Hand," the same year of its invention, in a small 18mo volume of 12 pages. Phonography, like all innovations, was for a long time received with doubt and hesitation, and its few adherents met with but little success in its promulgation. Stenographers still clung to their uncouth and illegible hieroglyphics, and ignored the simplicity and legibility of the now art. Luckily, for the benefit of the human race, Mr. Pitman, and his brothers (who were early initiated into its details) were made of the right kind of material, and the first comparatively imperfect attempts were soon improved, and great industry and patience manifested in the dissemination of its principles. One edition followed another, each an improvement upon the preceding, and converts were here and there made.— Its entire practicability, its simplicity, and its philosophical principles, which were urged by its inventor and his assistants, after a while began to gain for it that place in the public estimation which it deserved. For the first time in the world's history, by its aid, full and complete *verbatim* reports were published of the proceedings and debates of Parliaments, and of orations, sermons, etc. From 1837 up to 1852, Isaac Pitman had published nine editions of the art, and is still working as hard as ever to improve it, but at present under some disadvantages.

Phonography was not long in making its appearance in this country, though its friends were extremely few, and it has been only within the last eight years that its importance has been in any way extensively known. In 1847, Andrews & Boyle published a small work called "The Complete Phonographic Class-Book," and Prof. Booth of Philadelphia, issued the "Phonographic Instructor," in 1851; "The American Manual of Phonography," by Elias Longley, appeared in 1851 also, and the following year "The Phonographic

Teacher," by E. Webster. In 1852 Andrew J. Graham, author of the work now before us, published "The Reporter's Companion," and Bonn Pitman, the same year, issued the "Manual of Phonography." Each of these possessed some merit, and at the time of their publication elicited some attention. The most successful work was Mr. Pitman's. This gentleman, a brother of Isaac Pitman, has been a resident of this country for several years, and has published various phonographic works, among which we may mention "The Reporter's Companion," "History of Shorthand," "The Manners Book," "The Teacher," "Book of Psalms," etc. Most of these have been published as Books of instruction or text-books for students, while others have been compiled for the perusal of those acquainted with the phonographic characters. All the works of Mr. Pitman have been executed in superior style, and have been received with favor. He himself has devoted all his time to the dissemination of the art in which he is such a proficient, and has done much toward establishing the present position of Phonography in the United States.

The work now before us, (The Hand-Book of Standard Phonography) by Mr. Graham, of this city, is the largest and most extensive single work on Phonography yet published. We notice many changes from the heretofore established system, and some additions, all of which the author claims as improvements. In order to make it a *standard* work, the author claims: 1. That it is capable of representing with accuracy the English language, and of the principal languages quoted by English writers and speakers. 2. That it secures speed of writing, with ample legibility, so as to answer all the purposes for which long-hand is employed. 3. That it secures for reporting purposes, ample speed of writing, without illegibility. 4. That order and simplicity are observed in every department. And he claims further, that every other system of shorthand falls considerably short of these requisites to a standard work, and still further, that the professional reporter can write 30 to 50 per cent. faster by using his system than any other. He has also endeavored to present the Phonographic art in a "scientific form and manner, with a fullness yet conciseness of explanation, and a completeness of illustration," that will insure its introduction into schools, and place it upon an equal footing with other arts and sciences, which are now branches of education."

The work, as stated in the title, is divided into five parts. The first of these is an introduction to the study of Phonography, is a "description of the principal sounds of the language, accompanied by exercises designed to educate the vocal organs to the accurate and facile, and therefore elegant, formation of the components of speech." The second division, devoted to an exposition of the principles of phonography, is arranged in a series of progressive sections, with questions at the bottom of each page, and embraces the whole art, from the simple dots, ticks, and

geometrical signs representing a phonetic alphabet, up to the abbreviations, contractions, etc., which are used in the briefest and most rapid reporting style.

The author has given us, also, quite an extended list of reporting signwords and contractions, many of which are new, while others are the same as used heretofore.

FONOGRAFERZ, RFT.—Iqz iz no sort ov mater kan be given in a fonetik paper hwig iz mor interestip tu de redorz, dqrof jonerali dan intelijens from diforont parts ov de kuntri az tu lz de koz ov fonetik reform prosper. Dr redorz, skatord brost de land az du ar, hav abundant menz ov furnisij sug informafun. Fonograferz, RFT!

"Graham's Hand-Book OF STANDARD PHONOGRAPHY."

This book, a complete Encyclopedia of Phonography, but recently published, has been highly recommended by the following-mentioned journals:

- The New York Evening Post.
- The Knickerbocker Magazine.
- The New York Daily News.
- The Canadian Phonetic Pioneer.
- The St. Louis Republican.
- The New York Dispatch.
- The Boston Atlas and Daily Bee.
- The Scientific American.
- The New York Spiritual Telegraph.
- The New York Christian Intelligencer.
- The Methodist Quarterly Review, edited by Prof. D. D. Whedon, D. D.
- The Democratic Age.
- The New York Atlas.
- The Freeman's Journal.
- The New York Century.
- The Boston Zion's Herald.
- The New York Tablet.
- The New York Day-Book.
- The Poughkeepsie Gazette.
- The Home Journal.
- The New York Sunday Courier.
- The New York Leader.
- The Brother Jonathan.
- The Christian Advocate and Journal.
- The New York Constellation.
- The United States Journal.
- The National Standard, New Jersey.
- Hall's Journal of Health.
- Moore's Literary Locomotive.

And by the following-mentioned and many other phonographers, whose competency to judge is beyond all question.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Chas. H. Collar. | Mr. N. Ethell. |
| Mr. A. J. Marsh. | Mr. Wilbur F. Whitney. |
| Mr. Felix G. Fontaine. | Rev. Chas. M. Powell. |
| Mr. Wm. Anderson. | Chas. M. Plumb, Esq. |
| Mr. T. J. Ellinwood. | Wm. T. Harris, Esq., St. Louis, Mo. |
| Mr. Finlay Anderson. | Louis, Mo. |
| Mr. Henry B. Brown. | James A. Kirkpatrick, Esq. |
| Mr. M. W. Yerrington. | Prof. G. F. Comfort. |
| Mr. Chas. Segar. | Rev. Aaron Rittenhouse. |

It is meeting with a sale unprecedented in the history of Phonographic works. The first edition is already sold, and a new one is now published.

For sale at the Office of the "Phonetic Pioneer." Price, in fine muslin binding, post-paid \$1.50. With gilt side-title and marbled edges, \$1.75.

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER is published monthly, at the "Vindicator" office, Oshawa, Ontario Co., O. W.

TERMS:—For a single copy, 25 cents per annum. Three copies, 50 cents per annum. Seven copies, \$1.00 per annum.—Sixteen copies, \$2.00.

All communications to be addressed, (post paid,) to

WILLIAM H. ORR,
OSHAWA, C. W.