

BENGOUGH'S
COSMOPOLITAN
SHORTHAND WRITER.

Conducted by THOMAS BENGOUGH, Official Reporter, York County Courts.

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TO THE PHONOGRAPHIC FRATERNITY : GREETING.

The whirligig of time has brought about important business changes, and the originator of the WRITER finds himself again in the editorial chair.

During the year which has elapsed there have been numerous and important developments in connection with our profession. Thousands of aspiring youths have taken up the study of shorthand, other thousands have been pushing their way along the road to the goal, while the already large army of practical professional reporters has been increased by many hundreds. No one can look with indifference upon this development; yet no one who philosophically considers its meaning need be fearful as to the ultimate result. Intense activity among learners means that the field is widening, and it is a remarkable fact that there has thus far been no systematic effort to educate the business community as to the advantages of shorthand in their counting-houses. We propose to use the machinery of our Bureau in working up this branch of the case, and have no doubt that we shall be able practically to remove the apprehensions of those who look upon the increase of shorthand writers as a calamity.

The cosmopolitan character of the WRITER will continue to be its distinctive feature, and amid the roar of battle and the clash of arms we shall observe strict impartiality, and strive to maintain good temper among the advocates

of the various systems. As a permanent pledge of our position we have introduced the word "Cosmopolitan" into the re-constructed title-page of the WRITER.

The recent organization of the International Association in Chicago marks a new era in the progress of our profession in America. It will prove to be a bond of fellowship between shorthand writers in Canada and the United States, as well as a powerful agent in keeping the claims of shorthand writers before the governing bodies of both countries. The newly-fledged Shorthand Society of London, England, will add strength to the vast army of shorthand writers in Britain. The resuscitation of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association is an event which will take place, we doubt not, during the coming winter, and the legislation in this prosperous and promising Dominion will be materially affected by it in future, as it was in the early days of the Association. These organizations, by their tests of admission, raise the tone of the members of the profession; by their certificates of membership they furnish to the public a guarantee of the competence of their members; and by means of their machinery they collect important statistics, arguments and information which tend to enlarge the scope of labour.

The outlook for the profession is most encouraging, and the Conductor re-enters upon his labours in strong hope that they may be of service to the whole fraternity.

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

We have much pleasure in presenting with this number a lithographed portrait of Mr. Nelson R. Butcher, a sketch of whose career was published last month. Since then Mr. B. has been elected as Vice-President for Canada of the International Shorthand Writers' Association. The portrait is a very faithful one, and our artist has given his subject full justice, without flattery. The lithographic work, done on our

own premises, is superior to anything that has been offered to the subscribers of the WRITER, and we feel sure its excellence will be fully recognized by our constituents, who, being artists themselves, are competent judges.

We are arranging to present lithographic portraits of authors of popular shorthand systems — Benn Pitman, Graham, Munson, Everett, and others. Suggestions will be thankfully received.