

On the teachers of every name and grade there devolves a great responsibility in making his course of instruction practical and of some real, genuine utility to students. To do this successfully, eternal vigilance is necessary, and above all each one should see to improvement of himself in every possible manner. The trifling cost of the *Journal* and educational papers, of course will enable you to become constant readers of these valuable auxiliaries, so absolutely necessary to secure that knowledge which you are daily and hourly imparting to pupils.

We who have spent a lifetime in the good work most sincerely hope that education of the people, for the people and by the people, for which millions of dollars is being expended, may yearly continue to grow more useful, practical and sensible.

### A VALIANT "STANDARD" BEARER.

From the *Boston Journal of Commerce*



SOME Mrs. has recently given a lecture in the city of Providence, R. I. upon phonography or phonetics. One of the reporters of *The Providence Journal* pitched into her ideas of phonography in such a way as to draw from her a letter, the substance of which is immaterial here, but the lady goes on to say:

"I write my sentences in the present Isaac Pitman style with the new vowel scale, and with the improvements of our present American edition. The father of phonography is constantly engaged in noticing modifications and improvements, while his brother Benn has not made any alterations since his first edition, and uses yet the old vowel scale. His time and attention are almost exclusively given to the decorative art instead of shorthand. With all due regard to the *Benn Pitman*, *Munsonian* and *Graham* methods, I will add I am now teaching and have been for years, all these, together with Mrs. Burns' method, and several years at a time wrote one or the other of these methods, so I cannot be very far behind the times. The newest method out now is the 'Eclectic Phonography,' by Elias Longley, and which I have been teaching, and am yet, very successfully, in Boston and elsewhere. From the White Mountains to the Atlantic coast, I have been known as the pioneer of New England in phonetics and phonography, and am not selfish enough to wish all the converts made to belong to my school, but am willing to disseminate and let others, by equal rights, come in for their share."

Our first ejaculation on reading this was something similar to "Holy Moses!" here is a teacher of phonography who calls herself the pioneer in phonetics. We should a good deal rather take off our hat to her if she said she was the boss mixed drinks tutor. If there is any live man, or woman for that matter, who knows what Isaac Pitman does write now, or what his newest scale is, we would give a silver half dollar to look at that man for five minutes. He

would be a greater curiosity than a prize mermaid, and would draw a bigger crowd among well posted phonographers than the "What Is It" did.

This lady teaches Isaac Pitman. The last we knew of him he was on his seventeenth modification; his improvements have been of a retrograde nature. Come to add Benn Pitman's nonsense, the Munsonian jim-jams, Mrs. Burns' inverted vowel scale, and then, to top the whole thing off with Elias Longley's eclectic or drunken anglo-worm shorthand, *in extenso*, we don't wonder the Providence reporter went for her. It is one of the greatest pieces of bosh we have seen for some time, and over which we have had a hearty laugh. It is funny what expense and what lengths people will go, to make fools of themselves. But that is not the worst of it—some young men or women who wish to put themselves in possession of the means of earning a livelihood outside of the ordinary messenger boy or shop girl, take up phonography and are misled by just such people as these, who don't know anything themselves and only muddle anyone who applies to them for information. This is just about on a par with a publication which we have several times noticed, which emanates from New York, and it is a little curious too that all these people take particular spite against Andrew J. Graham and Standard phonography. This notable who has so much to say about Graham is not so badly mixed as the lady, but he shows his venom in the assertion, which he has ground out on his organ over and over again, that no phonographers of any eminence, or of any good standing, write Graham. In the recent report of the New York State Stenographers Association, nine of the eleven eminent reporters who were treated of are Grahamites, pure and simple. At the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, held at Cincinnati, in 1880, the proceedings of which were reported verbatim and printed every evening, the four men who were selected from different parts of the country were every one Graham Standard phonographic writers, and one of them was a converted Pitmanite, who was for five years secretary to Benn Pitman. This man made the frank acknowledgement that he never did report until he learned Graham's Standard phonography. And there are more men who could be cited, men who are not unknown. Our only object in the matter is to put those who wish to learn upon the right track. We spent thirteen years in the underbrush of phonography; undertook to learn Isaac Pitman, but he was too many for us; we could not change systems twice in sixteen months, change books, word signs, etc. We gave him up for Benn Pitman, who never knew much about phonography anyhow. We then adopted Munson's by disinterested advice, and we knew less and less with each system; finally we learned Graham, and we don't learn any more systems. Graham's is the only system that is sensible, practical or available for fast or accurate work.