

The question of phonetics is one of curious interest now, but will probably be of importance to all educators and literary men in the near future. Meantime the whole force of the conservatism of human nature is allied against the phonetic reformers. M. C. D. Stout, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, has taken his stand against the present orthography, and publishes an alphabet which, he claims, "represents all the elementary sounds that are used in the English language, and corresponds, as nearly as possible, with common established custom." The simple letters of the alphabet are used.

WILBERFORCE AND THE REPORTER.

DURING the debates upon the subject of public scarcity in 1802, Mr. Wilberforce one night made a long and able speech, in the course of which he recommended the cultivation of potatoes as a source of cheap food. A reporter who was present unluckily fell asleep and only awoke to hear the conclusion of the speech. He asked a man who sat next him to detail the leading points in the hon. member's argument. He was told that Mr. W. had been very eloquent in recommending the culture of potatoes; that he instanced their good effects in developing broad shoulders and a vigorous constitution, and withal lamented that his parents had not fed him in his early youth with those salubrious roots. The reporter amplified these points in his next day's paper to a speech of two or three columns—without a single sentence of what Mr. Wilberforce had really uttered. On the next day Mr. Wilberforce rose with the identical newspaper in his hand. The call of "privilege!" "privilege!" echoed from several voices, and Mr. Wilberforce addressed the chair by expressing his unwillingness at all times to restrain the liberty of the press, but when a gross misrepresentation was made of the speech of a member, it ought not to pass in silence. "Read it" echoed from all sides. Mr. W. put on his spectacles and proceeded to the reading, but every sentence produced shouts of laughter, until he came to that point where he was reported to have lamented that he had not early been fed upon potatoes and thereby rendered tall and athletic. Amid the roars of laughter of the members Mr. W. good-humoredly joined in, and said, "Well, I protest the thing is so ludicrous that it is hardly worth serious notice, and I shall pursue it no farther."

HISTORY OF PHONOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN 1845, Stephen Pearl Andrews and Augustus F. Boyle formed a co-partnership for the purpose of disseminating phonography, and published several works. In the work of teaching and spreading a knowledge of the art, they were much assisted by T. C. Ireland, who is widely known. In 1848 Oliver

Dyer started the *American Phonographic Journal*, which he conducted for several years. In 1848, Elias Longley, of Cincinnati, imported English shorthand works, and published the *Phonetic Magazine*, which lived until the breaking out of the war. In 1850, H. M. Parkhurst published the *Plow Share* and other phonographic periodicals. In the latter part of 1852, Mr. Benn Pitman, a brother of Isaac Pitman, left England for Philadelphia, where he taught phonography for a short time until he left for Cincinnati, where he issued the *Phonographic Magazine and Reporter*. A. J. Graham, of New York, made his public appearance in 1854, and issued his "standard system" which is quite extensively used throughout the States. In 1867, James E. Munson published his "Complete Phonographer." This book was designed solely for those who desired to become professional reporters, and has become very popular. Mrs. Eliza B. Burns gave the world her "Phonographic Hand-book" in 1871, and since that time systems and text books have multiplied to such an extent as to render it almost impossible to enumerate them all.

LAWS AND REPORTERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY S. C. ROGERS, TROY, N. Y.

CALIFORNIA.—Under the new constitution, which went into effect fully the first of January, 1880, there are no district courts, but each county has a superior court with one or more judges, as required. In San Francisco there are twelve judges, and each judge has an official stenographer, while there are some twenty-five phonographers who are employed throughout the State. Under the new law, the test of competency has been increased from 140 to 150 words per minute.

Connecticut.—An effort made last winter to secure a bill authorizing stenographers in the supreme courts failed as usual.

Illinois.—Matters remain in *statu quo*. The State reporting is much cut up.

Indiana.—This State is well supplied with reporters of one kind and another. Young men who are poor writers are willing to report for almost nothing. The pay per diem ranges from \$3.50 to \$10.

Iowa.—This State paid shorthand reporters about \$68,000 during 1878 and 1879 for compensation at the rate of \$8 per day.

Kansas.—The law is worse than none. A law was passed last winter authorizing the appointment of reporters, but the reporter gets but six dollars a day.

Louisiana.—The laws regarding reporters are in a jumble. Salaries have been fixed at \$1800 under a recent law, but the stenographers prefer to work under the old law of 35 cents per 100 words. They intend testing the validity of the new Act.

Missouri.—The regular rate at St. Louis is