

## PHONETIC PIONEER.

do very much in the cause, particularly in arresting the attention of learned men and scholars; and by giving those who study its pages such an insight into the philosophical beauty of the system as will not only cause them to love it more and to more ardently desire its promulgation, but will qualify them for imparting to others a full knowledge of the principles upon which this beautiful system of writing is based.

But, for the information of the reader, we must proceed to an examination of the several parts of the volume.

The first part is called "An introduction to Phonotypy and Phonography." It gives a definition of *terms*, shows the defects and evils of the common mode of spelling, and the need of a reform; and furnishes an able and detailed analysis of the elements of the English language. Specimens of Phonotypy are then given, together with weighty reasons for its immediate adoption. Phonetic Shorthand is next introduced and its elementary principles illustrated by Phonographic types. Specific directions follow, for making the elementary sounds, accompanied by a chapter on phonetic synthesis.

Part Second is styled "The Compendium of Standard Phonography." It occupies about 250 pages, much of it in fine print, and contains just about everything that an aspirant to the dignified position of a Phonographic Reporter needs to know, commencing at the commencement of the system, and going up through to the briefest brevity of the reporting style. The whole is profusely illustrated with Phonographic types and engravings, and the latter part of it consists of about thirty pages of phonographic reading exercises, beautifully printed from stone engraving, executed by that excellent phonographic artist, Chauncy B. Thorne. These exercises are printed upon fine, clean, thick paper, and are not accompanied by any of the specks and spots which so sadly mar the beauty and legibility of some of Benn Pitman's phonography. The Compendium also contains at the bottom of the pages, carefully considered questions on the text, which, while they adapt the work to the requirements of schools and colleges, make it a complete self-instructor. The portion devoted to instructions in the Reporting Style contains an alphabetic list of words and phrases, each word accompanied with the letters, in common print, by which it is represented. For learners, this method is not so plain as that contained in the Reporter's Companion—where the method of writing each word and phrase is given in engraved phonography—but the latter method would render the whole work doubly expensive.

The title-page of the third part of the work is omitted, but we presume it should have come before the writing exercises mentioned above.

Part Fourth contains a series of very extensive and well-arranged writing exercises, with the method of writing the outlines indicated by letters in the common print.

Part Fifth is entitled "The Phonographic Orthographer: an expositor of principles for the

ascertainment of the best phonographic outlines." It contains matter of some importance to those who wish to become extremely rapid writers. From the comparison tables given, it is shown that the Reporting Style is nearly or quite twice as rapid as the Corresponding Style.

The Hand-Book of Standard Phonography, it will be seen, is a compendium of the whole system. It commences sooner and goes further than any other work ever issued. It, in fact, begins at the beginning and ends at the ending. The size of the book results from its completeness—from the plain and familiar manner in which it goes into every principle of the system. What some other books leave the student to find out or guess at, this work explains in full. Its author is a Reporter and teacher of Phonography of great attainments, and of many years standing and practice. We cordially recommend the Hand-Book to our readers; not that they actually need it in order to become first-class writers; that would be absurd, for there are thousands of thorough masters of the art who have had no other instruction than is afforded by the Manual of Phonography or a similar work; and hundreds of thousands who were such long before the Hand-Book was conceived. But we recommend it because we believe it will be worth its cost, many times over, to the student. It will save him from making many bad forms, and thus save to him a great deal of time which he would otherwise spend in learning and unlearning that which it would be just as well that he had left alone. The more facilities a person has for learning, the faster he will learn.

Perhaps some one is ready to ask whether, by having the Hand-Book the student can do without the Reporter's Companion. We answer yes; and a beginner by purchasing the Hand-Book, can do without the Manual of Phonography, for it contains the whole system. Yet, its plan of giving instruction differs very materially from that of the Manual. Some persons would succeed better with the Manual and others with the Hand-Book, and it is just so with other instruction books.—Some persons think one excels and some another. When we were learning the Corresponding Style, we spent ten or twelve dollars in instruction books, magazines, reading-books etc., and every cent of it was well invested in that way. We purchased five different Manuals in succession: Andrews & Boyle's, Webster's Teacher, Longley's Am. Manual, Benn Pitman's Manual, Isaac Pitman's Manual, and several other smaller books containing instructions. We did not require to study any but the first one, but we got them all and read them, because the first and second ones were got up some ten or fifteen years ago, since which a great many inventions have taken place in every branch of science and art, and phonography has not been behind the age. For the past five years, scarcely any change or improvement has been made in the system, but previously every year noted some important improvement, and consequently the student who did not want to be

behind the age was obliged to purchase every new book, and take the magazines in order to keep posted.

But to return. The Hand-Book, although teaching precisely the same system as Pitman's works presents it in a different style. It covers the ground of both the Manual and the Companion, and gives a great deal of information not contained in either. We would advise every body who wishes to progress in the study of Phonography with the greatest rapidity, and attain to a high standard of perfection, to procure both the Hand-Book and the Companion, in addition to the Manual of Phonography.

Another admirable feature of the Hand-Book is its cheapness, compared to other phonographic works. It is about four times as large as the Manual of Phonography, contains about six times as much print, is handsomely bound in muslin, and we can afford to send it, postage paid, from this office, for just double the cost of the Manual, namely \$1.50. With embossed and gilt side title, and marbled edges, \$1.75. In morocco binding, full gilt, \$3.

We shall have a full supply of the work, of all styles of binding, in a couple of weeks, and orders may be sent for the \$1.50 style immediately. The above-mentioned prices include the postage, which is pre-paid at this post office.

**THE TEACHER.**—We have a book with this heading, printed in the Corresponding Style, devoted to giving directions to those desirous of becoming qualified to teach the art in classes.—With "The Teacher" in hand, no one who has learned to read it, can fail of being able to teach the system to classes successfully. Phonographic teachers are now wanted in every section of the Province, and by charging pupils from two to five dollars for a course of ten or twelve lessons, a good living and much good might be effected by fifty or more enterprising young men or women. The price of the "Teacher" is \$1. It is well worth its price, simply as a reading-book. Teachers are supplied with the "Manual" for classes, at \$9 per dozen, post paid—or six copies for \$5.00.

"The Teacher" is a new book, and has not heretofore been advertised in the "Pioneer"

**PHONOGRAPHY, or Phonetic Shorthand,** is the invention of Isaac Pitman, Esq., of England. It is a system of writing the English and all other languages, by means of a Philosophic Alphabet composed of the simplest geometrical signs, in which one mark is used to represent one and invariably the same sound; the result of which is that Phonographic writing is as legible as the common longhand, while it may be written six times as fast. This system although so recently discovered is now used almost exclusively for securing verbatim reports of the debates in the American Congress, and the British Houses of Parliament. It has been introduced into many of the leading colleges and schools in England and in this country, and from its utility and importance is rapidly gaining the position of a regular branch of study in educational establishments.—[B. PITMAN.]