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BENGOUGH'S  
COSMOPOLITAN  
SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. II.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1881.

No. 7.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

(Concluded from last Number.)

Mr. H. Binmore, of Chicago, the oldest reporter in the West, made some very interesting and amusing remarks about Convention reporting. Mr. Binmore looks like a Frenchman, has an English accent, and is as full of good humor as an egg is full of meat.

Mr. C. Kenyon is a young man and hails from Omaha, and he evidently has had some very practical experience in amanuensis work, upon which topic he read a paper before the association. After impressing upon shorthand men the necessity of thorough preparation before taking positions as amanuenses, Mr. Kenyon concluded his remarks by stating that he was authorized to hire two stenographers for offices in Omaha, one at \$65 and the other at \$75 per month, to begin with. But he wanted "good" men, and after hearing his recital of the exploits of one whom he called a "good" man, who thought nothing of taking 200 letters from dictation and transcribing them in a forenoon, your humble servant, as well as several others, concluded that he was not that kind of a good man, and would generously let some other fellows take these fine situations.

Thomas I. Daniel, of Jackson, Michigan, is a born reporter. He is a printer, having learned his trade in Guelph and Hamilton, and was at one time a compositor on the *Detroit Free Press*, where he was known as a "lightning comp." He writes the most microscopic kind of Graham shorthand, and with Charles Flowers, of Detroit, has written 245 words in a minute. He is also one of the fastest type-writer operators in the country. Mr. Daniel read a lengthy paper on the state of the profession in the Wolverine State, occupying over half an hour in delivery, and the said address is written in full on the two sides of a U. S. POSTAL CARD, which I begged from him as a phonographic curiosity.

Professor Dan. Brown, with his partner, Mrs. F. A. Holland, were very attentive to the delegate, and the professor worked hard to make the Convention a success. He believes in Bartholomew's Stenograph, but doesn't think shorthand writers need be afraid that their occupa-

tion will be taken from them by the reporting machine.

I was much struck with one thing about this Convention. At no time during the proceedings did any expression in favour of any one system escape from any delegate. System was at a discount, but shorthand and shorthand work were the topics of importance. We felt we were there as stenographers alone, no matter whether we were of the Pitman, Graham, Munson, Cross, or any other stripe. Our differences as to system were buried out of sight and no one had the bad taste to attempt a resurrection. Had the attempt been made, President Bennett would have sat down upon the offender heavily, and the Convention would have sustained him in such action.

In the words of the theologically argumentative Dutchman, "I was glad I was here to-night," "I have been there and still would go," and if I am able I intend to visit Cincinnati when the Association meets there next September.

Such meetings as that at Chicago broaden your views, discover to you what others are doing in the same field as yourself, and brush away any cobwebs of conceit concerning your mastery of reporting, that may be lurking in hidden corners of your brain. Close contact with minds keener than your own sharpens your wit and brightens your understanding, and makes you to know that if you are to keep pace with your fellows in the race for business and position, you must ever be striving to perfect your system and your methods of doing work. I obtained a feast at the Convention, though I was unfortunately unable to attend the banquet.

For our reports of the Conventions at Buffalo and Chicago, respectively, we are indebted to Mr. E. E. Horton, of Toronto, and Mr. F. W. Wodell, of Hamilton. Numerous matters connected with the change in business relations prevented the personal attendance of the conductor of the *Warren*. The magazine was well represented, however.

## MR. PRAY'S REPORTING FEAT.

In our September article on "Rates of Speed" we showed that great diversity of opinion exists as to the possibility of a reporter maintaining a speed of 200 words, per minute, or any number approximating that, for several minutes at a stretch. But Mr. Thos. Pray, Jun., editor of the Boston *Journal of Commerce*, submits evidence that appears indisputable, that such a feat was accomplished by him. The discussion till now has been carried on by Mr. T. W. Bell, editor of the phonographic department of the *Printer's Miscellany*, St. John, N. B., and "Outsider," who hails from Catonsville, Md. "Outsider" sends us a reply to Mr. Bell, and in response to the latter's request for the authority of a certain statement in dispute, he asks Mr. Bell to turn to page 45 of the July number of the *Writer*, column 1, line 13, where the following words are attributed to Mr. Pray: "Mr. Reed, as we all know, is not a writer of Graham's Standard Phonography, and this in some measure may account for his inability to attain an exceedingly high rate of speed,"—and much more in the same strain. "Outsider" adds: "Mr. Bell affects to discredit my sincerity in eulogising Mr. Pray's unequalled performance. I had not the least ground to doubt Mr. Pray's words, and no one can go beyond me in genuine admiration of his remarkable achievement. Mr. Bell is the one who has thrown old water on Mr. Pray's fame by conjuring up a 'baker's dozen' who can do even better work. Let's have de col' fax, gemmen."

And now we have a letter from Mr. Pray himself, giving the "col' fax," and making the matter quite clear from his standpoint. From personal acquaintance with Mr. Pray, we believe him to be a man of honor, and his famous "feat" was a genuine thing, unless those who timed him on the occasion in question made a mistake in their reckoning. But the other statements made by Mr. Pray would go to disprove any such supposition. Mr. Pray writes:—

"I have nothing to say except to 'Outsider's' reference to me in the upper right hand column of page 56 [August]. 'Outsider' says, 'But Mr. Pray attributes Mr. Reed's supposed defeat, partly, at least, to that gentleman's inability to write the 'Standard.' Now, 'Outsider' is most decidedly misinformed, or else he intentionally attributes to me what I never have said.

"Previous to this note to you, I have never written one word to any person regarding the matter. The fact that I did write 14,300 words in 78 minutes, and probably in five or six minutes less than that, has been circulated by parties who knew the facts in the case without any intervention of my own. I have nothing whatever to say as to Mr. Reed's supposed defeat, and desire you to at least make this correction. It is entirely immaterial to me what 'Outsider' thinks. He may be able to talk about settling down to facts and stop-watches, but it will not in the least change what is already a positive fact, and where parties were

keeping an account of the time without any knowledge of the writer.

"It might amuse the same man, 'Outsider,' to learn that both myself and my Mr. F. G. Morris had the pleasure of reporting the Hon. Benjamin H. Brewster, in the court in Philadelphia, about one hundred years ago, when he ran at more than 200 words a minute for ten or twelve minutes at a stretch, and I would like to see any other system on earth except Graham's, and an expert writer at that, who could keep track of it. I have no objection to other men achieving glory, credit, profit, and emolument, but it does not follow as a matter of course that a second, third, or fifteenth rate writer need attempt to sling mud on Graham's system, which is the only system in the world, or upon men who have an experience of fifteen and twenty years, and have fathered the imitation systems to the extent of finding them valueless where accuracy and speed were required.

"Mr. F. G. Morris, who does much of my own work, as I am unable to give time or attention to it myself, has written for me nearly 200 words a minute for 20 to 40 minutes at a stretch, sitting in my office here, taking technical dictations, which, I presume, would bother the best shorthand writer, who was not experienced in it, to that extent that he could not master 125 words per minute. The notes can be seen upon our office reporter's books, on full-sized foolscap paper, written with a pen, and Mr. Morris is to-day one of the best reporters in this country in technical matter, and has no trouble in obtaining plenty to do when he can give it attention. It is not unlikely that he may become an attache of our paper, and if he does it will be because of the care which he has bestowed upon Graham's system, and the thoroughness and perfection with which he does his work. Stop-watches are not required."

## REPORTING ETIQUETTE.

Almost every profession has its rules of etiquette, written or unwritten. The reporting profession ought not to be without similar laws to regulate the conduct of its members *inter se*. Nor is it altogether without such rules; but these have as yet had no definite expression; they are a *lex non scripta*. To reduce some of them to shape, and to throw out a few hints as to professional intercourse, is what I propose to myself in this chapter. It is obviously a reporter's duty to identify himself as much as possible with the journal with which he is connected; but this need not prevent his holding out the hand of friendship and co-operation to his brethren who are associated with other newspapers. As a rule, there is a constant interchange of civilities going on among reporters, and the frequency with which they are brought into contact with each other affords them abundant opportunity of rendering mutual assistance. Now and then one sees

two rival reporters who regard one another with the same feelings as those which animated the breasts of the Eatanswill editors, and would absolutely shrink from the idea of a fraternal conference over a difficult passage of a speech which they had both reported, or an item of doubtful news to be worked into a paragraph for the next week's paper. But these are exceptional cases, and I believe that reporters fraternise as much as the members of any other profession. Were it otherwise, their calling would necessarily be distasteful to every person of good sense and right feeling. The first duty that a reporter owes, next of course to that which is demanded by his own sense of right, is to the newspaper on which he is employed, and his best energies should be devoted to the furthering of its interests, especially in his own department.

Some editors and proprietors are extremely jealous of any communication taking place between their reporters and those of rival journals. Where this is the case the reporter is placed in an awkward position. It is only in small provincial towns, where the rivalry between newspapers is excessive, that the reporters are sometimes required to hold aloof from each other. In larger towns, and in the metropolis, less narrow views prevail, and the reporter is left pretty much at liberty as to professional intercourse with his *confreres*. Among the occupants of the gallery, so far is the practice of co-operation carried, that a number of reporters, representing different papers, may often be seen transcribing their notes together, one of them reading aloud and all the others writing from his dictation, only referring to their own notes in cases of doubt or difficulty. It is not often that provincial reporters have the opportunity of meeting together and doing their work simultaneously, nor do I think that such a method would be desirable. A careless reporter would be rendered still more careless if he knew that he would be able to write out from the notes of a more skilled and careful hand, and everything like self-reliance would be discouraged. Every reporter should take notes as if everything depended upon himself, and only ask the assistance of another in cases of real difficulty. Where an important speech has been imperfectly heard, or has presented other features of difficulty, it may be desirable, if several reporters have taken notes of it, that they should read them over together, and render each other all the assistance in their power. If a reporter is in doubt as to a word or sentence, he should have no hesitation in asking the aid of others, provided always that he is willing himself to be appealed to in like manner. But these appeals should be made at seasonable times. Some reporters have a most disagreeable habit, if they miss a word or phrase, of turning to a neighbor and asking what it is, even if the writer is busily engaged in writing. This is unpardonable. If there is a pause which permits the enquiry, well and good; but a reporter should never be spoken to when he is taking

notes. It is always easy to mark a doubtful passage, and make enquiry about it when the proceedings are over, or when a convenient interval occurs.

This reminds me of another practice which is too common at the reporters' table—that of talking loudly or fussily when the others are note-taking. It may be that one reporter requires only a very brief report, but his neighbor may be eagerly and anxiously engaged in writing every word that is uttered, and it is a shameful disregard of the precept of doing as you would be done by to do or say anything that would interfere with his labors. I have seen two reporters holding a running conversation across the note-book of a third, who was busily occupied in writing. It is bad enough for strangers who are sitting near, thoughtlessly to give this kind of annoyance; but, for reporters, who have experienced the inconvenience in the course of their own practice, to exhibit such a want of consideration for their brethren, is intolerable. I do not say that reporters should sit at their table like a company of mutes; but if they have occasion to speak while the proceedings they have to report are going forward, the least they can do is to take care that they occasion no inconvenience to others. But my object is rather to suggest how reporters may assist, not how they can annoy one another. The extent to which a reporter should be willing to render assistance to others, must, of course, vary with circumstances — *Reed's Reporter's Guide*.

#### EARLY DAYS OF PHONOGRAPHY.

BY F. W. WODELL, HAMILTON, ONT.

In January, 1856, Benn Pitman, a brother of Isaac Pitman, the inventor of phonography, while resident in Cincinnati, Ohio, published a book called "The Teacher," which was described as a treatise on the best method of imparting a knowledge of phonography. The book was printed in the corresponding style of phonography, and therefore was of no interest but to the disciples of the winged art who could read phonography of Benn Pitman's peculiar style. The opening chapters contain a short history of the early dissemination of phonography in England, which will interest the readers of the WRITER, and I have therefore translated them. Mr. Pitman says in the chapter headed

#### EARLY DISSEMINATION OF PHONOGRAPHY.

"When Joseph Pitman, in 1841, first proposed to his brother Isaac to travel and sell his work on phonography, and, where needful, to explain its principles and practice, the proposal was received with no favor, and on his urging the policy of so doing, and the probability that the new system, if thus brought immediately under the notice of the intelligent, would be received with some favor, the author of phonography positively declined to sanction such a course.

"Joseph Pitman saw the matter in a different light, and obtained a supply of phonographic

manuals from Samuel Bagster & Sons, the London publishers, either unknown to his brother, or, if known, in opposition to his wishes. With these he commenced visiting the towns in the neighborhood of Bath, making calls on those he deemed most likely to be interested in his mission, selling books where possible, giving explanations freely at first to such as manifested any peculiar interest in the art, and inducing as many as possible to commence the study of this 'new and improved shorthand.'

"An unexpected degree of success attending these labors, Isaac Pitman's prejudices were gradually removed, and after a few weeks of successful propagandism by his brother, he perceived that phonographic books might be sold and phonetic shorthand thus popularized far more speedily than by availing himself only of the more 'regular' but tedious system of English book selling. Isaac Pitman was now only too happy to have so successful an agent for the sale of his works, and for the dissemination of an idea the importance of which was as yet dimly perceived even by his powerful mind.

"After a little practice in this new field of labor, Joseph Pitman acquired sufficient confidence to venture upon giving a private lecture on the theory and practice of the new art to the more intelligent of the place, whose attendance he could secure by personal calls. From these a class would be formed, to whom three or four evenings' instruction would be given. At length he boldly dared to announce his intention by hand-bills, to publicly explain the new system, and such was the interest, that on more than one occasion, a country newspaper deigned to commend the 'new blasphemy,' as it was termed, in its struggling infancy, by no less acute a critic than an English clergyman.

"From this feeble but earnest commencement sprang the lecturing and propagandism which have been the chief means of giving the phonetic reform its present stability.

"In the month of August, 1842, the writer joined Joseph Pitman to assist him in the work of teaching. As the commencement of the writer's career as a disseminator of the phonetic arts to which he has since uninterruptedly devoted himself, and in furtherance of which he will probably continue to labor during the term of his natural life, was occasioned by one of those incidents which, though apparently trifling, may change the aspect of a life—possibly of an eternity—it may not be uninteresting to narrate it."

Mr. Pitman goes on to describe the plans of himself and his brother Henry to emigrate to the then new colony of New Zealand. The young men worked for fifteen months in an architect's office and at the carpenter's bench, in order to fit themselves to take a position in their new homes.

Mr. Pitman continues: "At this juncture, Joseph Pitman, who was in Derby, having formed his classes, falling sick, wrote to Isaac Pitman, urgently requesting him to prevail upon

the writer to proceed to Derby to take charge of the classes until he recovered from his temporary illness. We immediately undertook the journey, became the instructor of others in the mysteries of phonographic writing, and ere long New Zealand, with all the fancied charms with which we had invested it, gradually receded into forgotten shades. We commenced the dissemination of phonetics in opposition to our most cherished wishes, and inexorable circumstances have held us to the work ever since."

And thus New Zealand barely escaped depriving America of one who may justly be called one of the fathers of phonography on this continent. Mr. Pitman gives what to us appears a rather amusing description of the trials and prejudices the early teachers of phonography had to contend against, though to those engaged in the work, the opposition they encountered was no laughing matter. He says "phonographers of the present day will with difficulty conceive how an art of such acknowledged utility as phonography, could ever have excited such hostility as might be instanced. But to what will misconception not lead us. 'Nothing,' says Goethe, 'is more terrible than active ignorance.' In a paper before us a clergyman affirms, with a frankness that would have been charming, had it been equally discriminating, that such are the mischievous tendencies of the phonetic arts, he cannot doubt they were concocted in the workshop of the devil."

Rev. E. Bickersteth, another eminent divine, also said, "In the most favored metropolis of the world, London, there are the most bitter execrations of the blessed Saviour, and the most diabolical, malignant, hateful misrepresentation of His holy religion. Women are even leaders in this infidelity; mesmerism, phrenology, phonography, chartism, socialism, are the stalking-horses behind which the most satanic lies, and the most absurd blasphemies are sent forth against the word of God." Mr. Bickersteth subsequently had the common sense to erase phonography from his black list. The new system of writing was discussed in the heavy London Quarterlies and *Athenaeum*, and the great English Comic paper *Punch*, then under the editorship of Douglas Jerard, had something to say on the subject, rather with a view of the helping than opposing the reform. Several gentlemen spent large sums of money in printing and circulating phonographic literature, for which they received no adequate return in kind.

For some years Benn Pitman has not devoted himself professionally to phonography, but is interested in the Cincinnati School of Design, and takes more delight in carving circles on wood than inscribing them upon paper. Yet he still takes a great interest in phonography, and his many followers who attended the recent Shorthand Writers' Convention at Chicago, were delighted to hear read an autograph phonographic letter from Mr. Pitman, avowing his sympathy with the object of the Convention, and regret at his inability to be present.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
SHORTHAND WRITERS OF THE UNITED  
STATES AND CANADA.

## OFFICERS.

President, J. L. BENNETT, Chicago.  
Vice-President for United States, THEO. C. ROSE, Ithaca, N. Y.  
Vice-President for Canada, NELSON R. BUTCHER, Toronto, Ont.  
Secretary and Treasurer, DAN BROWN, Chicago.  
Assistant Secretary, MRS. F. A. HOLLAND, Chicago.

## CONSTITUTION.

Art. I. The name of this organization shall be "The International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada."

Art. II. The object of this Association shall be the advancement of the interests of the profession in all its various branches, and to bring it more prominently before the public.

Art. III. Any shorthand writer having been for three years practically employed in any branch of the profession, or who is able to write one hundred and fifty words per minute for five consecutive minutes, shall be eligible for membership under the by-laws hereinafter provided; and any shorthand writer may be elected an honorary member of the Association.

Art. IV. The officers of this Association shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents (one from the United States and one from Canada), a Secretary and Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, and an Executive Committee.

The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and shall audit accounts. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be, *ex-officio*, members of the Executive Committee. The duties of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary will be those usually pertaining to these offices, and the Secretary shall, in addition, act as Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to approve all applications for membership. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Association, and pay all bills audited by the President.

Art. V. This constitution shall go into effect immediately after its adoption, and may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular meeting.

## BY-LAWS.

1. In case of the absence of the President and the Vice-Presidents at any meeting of the Association a member present may be elected as President *pro tem*. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. This Association shall hold an annual International Congress of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada on the first

Thursday of September, at such place as may be decided by vote at the preceding meeting, which all shorthand writers, whether members or not, are invited to attend.

3. Applications for membership may be made by any shorthand writer of good reputation who will forward to the Secretary the requisite fee and detailed account of his work, together with an approval of his application by the member of the Executive Committee residing in his re-ident State, Territory, or Province, *provided*, that in any State, Territory or Province, where there is no member of the Executive Committee, application may be approved by a member of the Executive Committee from any other State, Territory or Province; and the Secretary will forward to such applicant a certificate of membership. Honorary members shall be elected only at annual meetings of the Association.

4. The membership fee of this Association shall be two dollars, to be paid annually, on or before the 1st of July.

5. The Executive Committee shall consist of one member from each State and Territory of the United States and each Province of Canada, whose duty it shall be to furnish the Secretary of the Association with the names and addresses of all shorthand writers in his State, Territory or Province, from time to time, and approve all proper applications for membership from his State, Territory or Province. He shall be present at each annual meeting or appoint a proxy.

6. The printing of the proceedings of each annual meeting shall include the constitution and by-laws as amended at said annual meeting. Contracts for said printing shall be under the control of the President and Secretary; the work of preparing copy, etc., for said printing, and the distribution of printed matter to be under the supervision of the Secretary.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have a page of shorthand notes taken by Mr. T. J. Richardson, ex-contractor for the Canadian *Hansard*, which we shall present in fac-simile soon.

The June number of Vol. I. is out of print. We will allow three months' current subscription to the WRITER for each copy sent us of that number, or of May, 1880.

Cos-mo-pol-i-tan — a rhythmic, euphonious word, meaning, according to Webster, "One who is nowhere a stranger, or who is at home in every place; a citizen of the world." The SHORTHAND WRITER is a cos-mo-pol-i-tan,—at home everywhere,—a stranger nowhere,—a citizen of the world,—a world of warm-hearted, steady-handed, firm-footed, fraternal, genial shorthand writers and students—a world where bickerers and backbiters are shown politely down the back stairway.

Actuated by a truly fraternal motive, we have arranged with friend Browne, of New York, to club the WRITER with his *Monthly* for \$2.50. The regular price of the *Monthly* is \$2. The advertisement in this issue sets forth its many attractive features. It is "the only professional shorthand journal published," and is a far better magazine than the WRITER—in the opinion of Mr. Browne, at least. Of course we don't agree with all the statements made in the advertisement, but as we are not responsible for them, they don't trouble us; and there is enough of the give-and-take about us to render friendly rivalry enjoyable. We believe there is plenty of room for both *Monthly* and *Writer*—especially the WRITER!

The *Toronto Globe* is profuse in congratulations over a telegraphic and journalistic feat which has "never been equalled in this country." The enterprise was displayed in the transmission of Lord Lorne's speech in Winnipeg, over the wires of the Great North-Western Telegraph Co., a distance of about 1,600 miles, the route for most of the way being one of the busiest and most constantly thronged with work on the continent. The entire distance was divided into three separate circuits or sections, the first from Winnipeg to St. Paul, then from St. Paul to Chicago and from Chicago to Toronto. The report commenced at 1:40 a.m., on Tuesday, and was finished at 6:30 a.m., two wires being employed nearly all the time. The despatch contained about eight thousand words. The undertaking, the *Globe* thinks, was a great feat also for the telegraph company, and one showing the perfection to which their management has attained, that such a lengthy despatch was brought from such a comparatively out of the way place as Winnipeg to Toronto with so few errors and in so short a space of time.

#### NEWS NOTES.

##### CANADIAN.

Mr. Geo. B. Bradley, chief of *Hansard* is now editor of the *Toronto Evening News*.

Mr. Albert Horton has joined the staff of the *Toronto Mail* as chief of the reporting staff.

Mr. A. J. Henderson, official reporter, Chancery Division, High Court of Justice, is slowly recovering from an attack of typhoid fever which has incapacitated him for work for several weeks.

The death of Mr. S. J. Watson, Librarian of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the other day, removes one of the oldest Canadian scribes. In another column we furnish a brief sketch of his life.

Mr. Thomas Pinkney, stenographer in the Farmers' Loan & Savings Co., of this city, recently discovered an ancient phonographic land mark. A patent from the Crown to a man named Abram Asselstine, a farmer in the town-

ship of Otonabee, in the County of Peterboro', was, as appears by a shorthand memorandum in the margin, "written by George Augustus Johnston, in the Clerk's office at Quebec, Nov. 29th, 1837."

Nothing has yet been done by the Provincial Government of New Brunswick towards introducing shorthand reporting into the Law Courts. Litigants, however, are beginning to understand that time may be saved and business expedited by the employment of shorthand reporters, whose services are now in demand.

SIMS—At her residence, Gwynne-street, Yorkville, on November 5th, ACHSAH, widow of the late FREDERICK LLOYD SIMS, in her 58th year.

This brief announcement of a sudden and sad event will draw forth the sympathy of the many phonographic friends of Messrs. Wm. A., Fred and George Sims. Mrs. Sims was a model mother, and her talented and worthy sons and daughters rise up to call her blessed.

The shorthand profession in Montreal has long been disgraced by a number of incompetent persons who contrived to get occasional employment as stenographers in the Court House. An attempt was made, last spring, to end this state of things, by compelling all who desired to act as Court stenographers to first prove their efficiency, both as regards general education and speed in shorthand, by passing an examination before a Board of Examiners. But, unfortunately, nothing came of it. If left alone, the evil would have cured itself, in time, on the principle of the "survival of the fittest," but the "Incompetents" have lately adopted the plan of paying a commission—not directly to the lawyer engaged in the case, but to the student in his office—thus taking the business away from the really efficient men who refuse to bleed in that disgraceful manner. As there seems to be no remedy for the evil, Montreal Court reporting will probably continue to disgrace the fraternity for some time to come.

##### AMERICAN.

Mr. F.G. Bowles has left the office of Messrs. Ritchie & Ritchie, Montreal, and is now in the employ of the C., B. and Q. P. R., Chicago.

The *American Shorthand Writer* has removed to Boston, Mass., expecting to meet with better success at the Hub than it did in Vine-land, N. J.

Frank E. Rowe, of Lyons, Iowa, is in San Marcial, New Mexico, having changed his line of business for a few months, as he is now fighting the Indians. He says, however, that he expects to go back to shorthand soon.

The official report of the International Association Convention, held in Chicago in September, has not reached us. Its publication has been delayed by unfortunate circumstances in connection with the reporting of the proceedings. The Convention or Congress next year will be held in Cincinnati.



George William Curtis, in his Gen. Sedgwick oration at West Point, used the familiar Latin quotation, "*Ubi libertas ibi patria*," ("where liberty is, there is my country.") which was rendered by an enterprising shorthand reporter. In a daily paper the next morning, "You be libritas, I be patria." Every live reporter should know the dead languages.

The Pennsylvania State Stenographers' Association has resolved to admit none but court reporters as members. They also propose to have a new constitution and by-laws.

On account of conflicting courts, it was found necessary to change the date of meeting of the New York Stenographers' Association to the first Tuesday in August. As the Association meets in New York next year, it is proposed that the City Association unite with them, at least in a banquet.

The art of phonographic reporting is the best ever invented, but nevertheless sometimes leads to mistakes. A member of Congress once made a speech, quoting Latin, "*Amicus Socrates, amicus Plato est, sed major veritas*" (Socrates is my friend, Plato is my friend, but truth is much more my friend.) This appeared next day in the report as follows: "I may cuss Socrates, I may cuss Plato, said Major Veritas!" This incident is published in Reel's *Reporters' Guide*, but the phraseology seems to imply that the reporter was an American.

## ENGLISH.

A good story is going the round of the Chancery Bar in England. An eminent counsel recently spoke for two hours before one of the vice-chancellors, and the proceedings were reported *verbatim* by a shorthand writer. It appears from his notes that the judge interrupted the barrister precisely one hundred and thirteen times—nearly once every minute. What a pity that the hard-worked reporter hadn't the same privilege as his Lordship?

There are about twenty-five newspaper men in the Imperial Parliament. Northampton sends two journalists—Mr. Labouchere, editor of *Truth*, and Mr. Bradlaugh, editor of the *National Reformer*. Newcastle follows suit by sending Mr. Cowen, editor of the *Chronicle*, and Mr. Ashton Dilke, editor of the *Weekly Dispatch*. Dublin is represented by Mr. E. D. Gray, of the *Freeman's Journal*, and Lord Mayor of the city: while Plymouth returns Mr. Mac-liver, of the *Western Daily Press*. Chelsea boasts of a Minister in Sir Charles Dilke, of the *Athenæum*. In addition to these the list of proprietors or editors or reporters includes the names of Wm. Ingram, A. M. Sullivan, J. D. Hutchison, T. P. O'Connor, John Walter, Samuel Morley, J. P. Edwards, A. Arnold, L. Courtney, J. O'Kelly, J. L. Finigan, T. Sexton, F. H. O'Donnell, T. D. Sullivan and Justin McCarthy.

## SHORTHAND IN ONTARIO.

READ BEFORE CHICAGO STENOGRAPHIC CONVENTION, BY FRANK YEIGH.

As Ontario is the banner Province of the Dominion in point of population, social advancement, and popular education, so is she the banner Province on the line of Phonography. The use of shorthand to any extent among us only dates back a few years, but since that time it has undergone a rapid development and healthy growth that is truly remarkable.

The chief impetus given to the art was through the means of the Law Society some four years ago, when they obtained from the Attorney-General, the Hon. Oliver Mowat, and his cabinet the sanction to appoint law reporters for the Superior Courts, more as an experiment than otherwise. Three or four were then appointed, and the system has proved so beneficial and satisfactory that their ranks have been supplemented by a further detachment, until now every Superior Court judge is provided with his own reporter. The staff, it is needless to say, comprises some of the best reporters to be found either in Canada or the States. Their salaries, however, are comparatively low, ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year, with 10c. a folio for copying, although their time is not fully occupied in their work. In newspaper work, too, considerable progress can be noted. While the principal Canadian dailies have utilized shorthand for years past, still each year they produce fuller and more correct parliamentary and news reports—a result which can be traced to a certain degree to the "improved" phonographers—if such a term may be used—that are springing up.

Parliamentary work demands a word here, although I shall leave all reference to the Dominion *Hansard* staff to my Quebec *confreere*, and shall confine myself to its uses in the Local House. Here the Cabinet Ministers—six in number—are each supplied with a private shorthand secretary at salaries of \$1,000 a year each, while the daily newspaper staffs occupy the reporters' gallery with a view to serving up the gist of the debates and arguments for their readers.

In conclusion, I will briefly refer to the use of shorthand for general purposes. I find that as one of the results of the spreading of the winged art, "the private secretary" has sprung into existence, and now he may be found in the wholesale warehouse, the lawyer's den, the merchant's office, and even editor's sanctum. A brisk demand for a short season soon brought its accompanying evils. Scores of aspirants for what appeared to be fat offices and snug sinecures sprang up like so many mushrooms, and fifty words a minute writers, who accepted positions at any price, have somewhat damaged the high character and appreciation of shorthand that the business community hold. but in spite of these inevitable drawbacks we in Ontario can truly say that our phonographic lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and all our paths are tolerably straight.

## NOTES, QUERIES, REPLIES, HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

"What I would like would be to have a Convention of the best reporters of England and America agree upon a system of writing that will be rapid and legible. One by which a rapid speaker can be taken verbatim. Then let us have magazines published here, or in England, and plenty of reading matter. Then with good texts books, we will have a superior system. I hope your magazine may lead to the establishment of a system which English and American Phonographers can agree upon."—*W. V. S., Oregon.* [This idea may look Utopian, but the recently-organized "Shorthand Society" of London, Eng., of which Mr. Pocknell is secretary, would consider this topic a very appropriate and profitable one to discuss. The constitution of that Society clearly embodies the idea of an endeavor to reach uniformity. American phonographers in Convention do not presume to grapple with such problems as our correspondent suggests. The desire for universality in shorthand is growing, however, even in America.—Ed.]

"That system which is best supplied with reading matter will be preferred by learners, unless it is very much inferior to others." So writes a correspondent, whose sentiments we can heartily endorse from experience. It is surprising to us that Benn Pitman's system has such a scant literature.

Q.—How are reporters paid, of what does their work consist, and what wages do they generally get? Is it easy to obtain employment as a reporter?—*C. W. McL. A.*—Your questions are broad enough, in all conscience. (1). Reporters are paid by the day, job, week, month or year, according to the nature of the work, efficiency of the reporters, and liberality of employers. (2). Their work consists of writing shorthand,—unless they are lightning type-writer operators, or are the happy possessors of Bartholomew's Stenograph. (3). Some reporters get \$6 a week; others, who know a little more, make from \$1000 to \$7000 a year. (4). Yes, if you possess the necessary qualifications.

Q.—Is there any Phonetic Dictionary of Benn Pitman's system? *A.*—No.

## THE LATE SAMUEL JAMES WATSON.

The vacant office chair in the Ontario Parliamentary Library tells a sad story—that a good and true man has been stricken down by the stern hand of death, while yet in the prime of life and in the full tide of his usefulness and work. Mr Watson, as a man, was ever the same courteous, affable gentleman in all his dealings, not to say upright, conscientious and Christian to a degree. As a journalist he won for himself the uniform good-will and well-wishes of all his *confreres*; as a shorthand writer, he nobly honored his high profession for a number of years by the excellence of his

works; as an author, his constitutional productions, as well as his poems, bespeak a powerful, clear and logical mind.

On arriving in Canada from Ireland, while yet a young man, he accepted a position on the editorial staff of the Montreal *Herald*, and afterwards served on the staff of the Quebec *Chronicle* and the Toronto *Globe*. Being an excellent shorthand reporter (using a peculiar system of stenography arranged by his father) he, in company with his brother Isaac—now a member of the *Hansard* staff—reported the heavy Confederation debates—a task of great magnitude. Shortly after the consummation of the Union he joined the staff of the *Globe*, and took part in reporting the debates of the Ontario Legislature, from which position he was called to act as Librarian of the Ontario Parliamentary Library—a position which he occupied at the time of his death.

F. Y.

## SHORTHAND IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. W. A. Douglass, M.A., has an article on this subject in the September number of the *Canada Educational Monthly*, in which he says:—

Probably nothing could produce such a revolution in our educational system as the introduction of the use of shorthand. The benefits would be threefold:

- 1st. Ease in learning to read.
- 2nd. Time saved in learning to spell.
- 3rd. Time saved in writing.

How much would be saved from the time, now far too short to give a youth an adequate training, it is impossible to state with accuracy. A president of one of our universities estimates that in the time which he spent in learning to spell he could have learned a foreign language.

So great would be the benefit from its adoption that our educational authorities should commence its introduction at once, with the ultimate aim of using it universally.

## CLUBBING RATES.

We have arranged to club the WRITER (the regular price of which is \$1.00) with Phonographic and other special journals at special rates:

WITH.	Regular Price.	Price for both.
Browne's Phonographic Monthly.....	\$2.00	\$2.50
The Book-keeper.....	2.00	2.50
Penman's Art Journal.....	1.00	1.50
American Shorthand Writer.....	2.50	3.00
Printers' Miscellany.....	1.00	1.50
Reporters' Magazine (London, Eng.)..	1.00	1.50
The Phonograph, (Sheffield, Eng.).....	1.00	1.50
The Journalist (London, Eng.).....	1.25	1.75
Universal Penman.....	75	1.25

☞ In remitting please send exact amount. American and Canadian postage stamps received. Address Bengough's Shorthand Bureau, 57 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Canada.

REPORTING ETIQUETTE.

(Written in Graham's corresponding style.)



Gallery Nuisances.

Handwritten shorthand notes in the left column, corresponding to the text in the right column. The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style on a set of horizontal lines.

Handwritten shorthand notes in the right column, corresponding to the text in the left column. The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style on a set of horizontal lines.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the left side of the page, consisting of approximately 20 lines of cursive symbols.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the right side of the page, consisting of approximately 10 lines of cursive symbols.

Don't care if I am late?  
 Can't fall back on me  
 Other fellows' notes



The Reportorial Acquaintance.

REPORTING ETIQUETTE.

(Written in Benn Pitman's system).

The first of these is the  
 name of the person who  
 is speaking. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the first person.  
 The second is the name  
 of the person to whom  
 the speech is addressed.  
 This should be written  
 in full, and in the  
 second person.  
 The third is the name  
 of the person who is  
 present. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The fourth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 absent. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The fifth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 present. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The sixth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 absent. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The seventh is the name  
 of the person who is  
 present. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The eighth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 absent. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The ninth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 present. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.  
 The tenth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 absent. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.

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 be written in full, and  
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 The tenth is the name  
 of the person who is  
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 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.

The first column of the page contains approximately 25 lines of shorthand notation. The characters are highly stylized and cursive, typical of the 'Cosmopolitan' shorthand system. Each line of shorthand is written on a set of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom), which are also present on the right column.

The second column of the page contains approximately 25 lines of shorthand notation, mirroring the style and structure of the first column. It is also written on a set of three horizontal lines.



"Common" Courtesy

REPORTING ETIQUETTE.

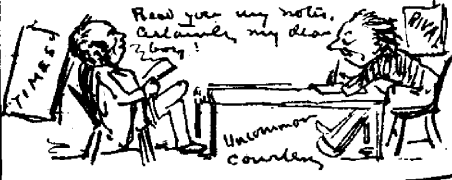
(Written in Isaac Pitman's system).

The first of these is the  
 name of the person who  
 is speaking. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the first person.  
 The second is the name  
 of the person to whom  
 the speech is made.  
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 in the third person.  
 The tenth is the name  
 of the person who is  
 absent. This should  
 be written in full, and  
 in the third person.

a r i a u e  
 r o b x c  
 h k e l l h d  
 a y h y u e  
 t b x u s  
 w s , ) o b ( b  
 h k , l e y h o i  
 t ' a ( l - ' y ' s  
 g h x h y o u  
 o r i e e , h - o d  
 u h t b , y s o r  
 o i p . t e x i b d  
 w i d e b x o n y h  
 b o s , h o i r d ,  
 h i - u h b , b h  
 r o y u - 1 . x b  
 w y x b b / w z  
 o i - , h y m i . b . i r ) . / . b .  
 b . s h a x x b z ) w  
 e y , i m e d n i s  
 h e - e , r s l w  
 h o x  
 b o - - - - - b  
 u t h y d h i t i

a r i a u e  
 h o m y y y y  
 v n , e u - n d i  
 y u - 1 . e , o ,  
 t h e t ' b l i g d  
 i , ) . w e , y o p  
 u e m y o r o s t  
 h , y h y - 1 . x  
 b i l l e y x e e ,  
 w - 6 - i m e z ,  
 e h y , e v . t e  
 u n e y r , t h o  
 ' b l e , o h x y e  
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 h y n r w y h b  
 a o v e p x







The first column contains approximately 20 lines of shorthand notes, including symbols like 'x', 'y', 'z', 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z' and various combinations of these letters and symbols.

The second column contains approximately 15 lines of shorthand notes, including symbols like 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z' and various combinations of these letters and symbols.

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**REPORTING ETIQUETTE.**

The third column contains approximately 15 lines of shorthand notes, including symbols like 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z' and various combinations of these letters and symbols.