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**OFFICERS TOPEKA, KS., STATE STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION.**

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# THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1881.

No. 12.

## Editorial and Contributed.

### OURSELVES.

**W**ITH THIS number we complete our first year, and are very much gratified with the support that has been accorded us. Certainly, we have not made any money, but we have paid expenses, which was more than we expected to do when we embarked in the enterprise, and much more than Mr. D. L. Scott Browne, in the July number of his monthly thought possible. In it he said: "The editors are endeavouring to give an unsectarian periodical to the phonographic fraternity, and deserve success for their enterprise. They have dipped into shorthand engravings rather extensively, devoting eight pages to this kind of printing. Better go carefully brothers. Past experience may teach you the lesson that no shorthand publication has ever yet survived that dipped into shorthand engravings to the extent of even eight small pages per month, unless we except some English publications; but then, these would be no criterion to go by, as Munson, Benn Pitman, Graham, Waring, Lindsley, Parkhurst, Stoll, Wright, Theophilus and others know to their sorrow. Phonographers in America are not willing to pay the price necessary to publish a magazine printed largely in shorthand. This Canadian journal is a dollar-a-year publication. Now, no man can make a permanent success of a magazine containing so much shorthand for less than a subscription of \$5.00 a year; Graham tried one at that price and failed before the close of the first year. But there is a way to produce such a journal for \$5.00. However, Bengough Bros., if you have a large bank account, you may be able to divide it among the phonographic fraternity in a good publication for a short time. We wish you abundant success with your excellent and generous undertaking." Had we not counted the cost and felt the pulse of our phonographic brethren ere launching our little magazine, this emphatic warning of a veteran publisher would have paralyzed us, but we simply smiled and sailed on up the River of Uncertainty past Sticking Point, into the Ocean of Security, and now with the breeze in our quarter, we have all sail set and our craft is heading for Cape Inevitable. We are going to have a pleasant cruise and we invite all phonographers to come aboard and enjoy the refreshing breeze. A twelve

months trip will only cost you \$1, and we guarantee a full supply of fresh water and wholesome food on the voyage.

In other words, we started the "ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER" determined to make it a success, and our past year's experience has told us there is not a doubt of it. Our subscription list is increasing daily. We send with this number some opinions of the WRITER and will feel obliged if subscribers will pass them among their friends. If each subscriber will in renewing, send the name and subscription of another with an item of interest to phonographers, we will be delighted. We want to start next month with 5,000 subscribers, and with your help we can do it.

The lithographic portion of the WRITER has not been as good as we could wish, but we hope to keep on improving until we attain the perfection we look for. We shall be glad to receive articles, illustrations, or suggestions for the improvement of the Magazine.

### TOASTED SHORTHAND.

AT A CHICAGO BANQUET.

**J**OHAN RITCHIE, in responding to the toast: "Stenography; the Lightning of the Press," said:

"The thought which has been uppermost in my mind since I have been here has been that, whenever in general society I meet a man resplendent in swallow-tail coat and pallid neck-tie I shall know that I am in the august presence of a newspaper man; and whenever, in the exigencies of fortune, I am called upon to subsist on the tender end of a cold, dyspeptic lead pencil I shall revert with feelings of epicurean regret to the time when I formed a constituent part of this oriental gorgeousness.

This toast, to which I have been assigned to respond, is one of such liberal dimensions that I may not be able to properly cover it in the limited time allowed. If not, never mind me, but go right along with the rest of the proceedings, just the same as if I wasn't anywhere around.

Merely for the sake of argument, I will charitably assume that a majority of this assemblage can write longhand; therefore it will not be

necessary to describe that useful art. In regard to stenography, a few words of explanation will place you in a position to appreciate the comparison I am required to make. Shorthand consists of a foundation of lines and curves, cut off in suitable sections, upon which is erected a tower of half lengths, double lengths, abbreviations, verbal homicides, dots, dashes, contractions, subterfuges, mutilations, frauds, expedients, hooks, phonographic agonies, positions, geometrical sky-rockets, and orthographical inanities, until the untutored mind is lost in the immensity of stenographic space. With this lucid explanation, you will see at once what a beautiful simplicity there is in stenography.

To this list of characters is attached a system of nomenclature by means of which two stenographers may converse in a language utterly incomprehensible to the average long-hand writer, sometimes even to themselves.

This is theoretical shorthand. In its practical aspect it is sometimes far superior in illegibility to well written cuneiform text; in fact I have in my possession pages of notes which look as if some thoughtless person had fired at them a cannon loaded with lamp-black and sassafras roots. I may say that I have been advised to chain them to a tree to keep them from getting away.

Shorthand is not difficult of attainment if you begin it in youth and grow up with it, as you do with your father's neighbor's melon patch, though a pupil of mine once suggested that a better way is to divide the labor into two generations, having one learn the rudiments and their children put on the finishing touches.

I suppose I ought to say something now about the relative speed of the two systems. Comparatively few people can write in one hand more than forty words a minute, and it takes some lively pen-and ink gymnastics to do even that. Shorthand is sometimes written at the rate of two hundred and fifty and even three hundred words a minute. Extreme modesty retains me from mentioning names. You will see by this that matching one against the other would be about equivalent to backing a mud-turtle against a runaway comet.

Of course the longhand writer, if taking a sermon, might call the preacher's attention to the fact that his gait was too fast, by warning him with a prayer book, but I know that you wouldn't like to get up in a meeting and sling a devotional document at the clergyman every time he began to get away from you, because it might possibly make the congregation uneasy; and then, too, the stock of prayer books within reach might run out before the close of the sermon.

As a matter of fact there is no comparison as to speed between longhand stenography, or if there is, it is about that between nothing and something. What the long-hand writer loses is eternally lost, unless he has a memory like a phonograph, or can exchange what he failed to get for something drawn from the wells of a brilliant imagination. That, however, would be

akin to lying, and it is a well-authenticated fact that reporters never lie. This statement has been disputed, but never by any man with a reputation equal to that of all his neighbors in the vicinity in which he resided. I have heard it stated, though on what authority I cannot say, that there are now whole brigades of reporters lugging leather medals around the New Jerusalem for their heroic adherence to truth on earth.

There are times, however, when even the most expert stenographer wants more time. Not long ago, I saw a reporter taking a lecture on the Abenaki tribe of Indians, in which occurred the name of the powerful sachem Chob-begomgagoochpsmuggin. Just imagine that thing fired off at an unsuspecting American citizen! And conceive, if you can, the mental wreck left behind when that orthographical cyclone rumbled by.

The practice of stenography is the sawing wood of the intellect. It is the cultivation of detail, so that exact words are remembered in their consecutive order, but very often at the sacrifice of ability to grasp the thought contained in those words. There is a dangerous temptation in this direction, because of the difficult of running simultaneously two trains of thought; and if the stenographer fails to fight down this tendency he loses his individuality as a thinking, reflecting human being, and degenerating into a bald-headed, short-hand factory, ready to step into his intellectual grave.

Common sense and general information have about as much to do with accuracy in stenography as in long-hand. In rapid writing characters representing entirely different words will often look very much alike, and the reporter detects notes in little pieces of skullduggery that lead him into frightful mistakes. I have known stenographers, under whose heroic treatment the "Sermon on the Mount" would read like a chapter from "Rattle-snake Dick, the Ring-Tailed Screamer of the Rocky Mountains."

I confess that I myself once reported an eulogistic address in which were the words:

"His brow was enwreathed with celestial wisdom."

And when I came to convert it into long-hand, the notes looked up into my face with impudent rectitude and made the speaker say:

"His bread was enriched with stump-tail-hard-pan."

That was simply a case of similarity of outline.

I suppose the best evidence of the supremacy of shorthand might be found in a little incident which occurred a good many years ago when I was young and enthusiastic in regard to stenography. At that time I was in the habit of attending revival meetings, which were almost always led by a good old deacon named Epaphroditus Gibbs. The old gentleman invariably closed the services with a prayer, which I would write with my finger on the palm of my hand. With a good deal of judgment Uncle Paph had boiled down his supplication

so that it covered all the material points in the fewest possible words, and from numerous dashes at it, I had become so well acquainted with its contents that when he started in at one end, I knew precisely where he would come out at the other.

It was along in the fall, and nearly every night I was due about 9 o'clock with the rest of the boys in some neighbors' orchard or grape-arbor. You know it is more pleasant to pick some other man's fruit by moonlight, because you don't have so much trouble in making a selection as you would in daylight.

So when Deacon Gibbs settled down for the wind-up I could run up my end of the meeting with my finger, and come down the home-stretch on an easy canter about seventy-five words ahead of him, and when he got around to "amen," I was waiting for him to come under the wire.

That can not be done by any long-hand writer on the surface of the globe.

#### REPORTING IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

**M**R. STEPHENSON, from the select Committee appointed to superintend the official report of the debates of this House during the present session, presented the third report of the said Committee, which is as follows:--

The Committee would respectfully recommend that each reporter of the official staff be allowed an *amanuensis*, at a remuneration, not exceeding \$12 a week, each, the said payment to be made by the accountant of this House.

Appended to this report will be found a communication from the official reporters of the House, submitted for the information of the Committee, but which was not taken into consideration at this late period of the session.

To the Members of the Sub-Committee of the Select Committee appointed to superintend the official debates of the House during the present Session:

Gentlemen,—The members of the debates reporting staff beg respectfully to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them of laying before the Committee a detailed statement of practical working of the present system of reporting and publishing the debates, and of offering some suggestions which we trust may prove of assistance to the Committee in perfecting the scheme which was adopted last session.

#### SUCCESS OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

Notwithstanding the difficulties incident to the inauguration of a new system by a staff whose members had not previously worked together on an official report, we venture to believe that the Committee will concede the general success of the scheme. In addition to the favor with which the reports have been received by members of the House, we can confidently claim that a comparison of our work, not only with all previous official reports of the debates of this House, but with the reports

published either in the United States, Europe, or the Australian colonies, will still more clearly demonstrate the success of the experiment.

The "Debates," will, we believe, compare very favorably with the "congressional record" whose reporters are experienced and thoroughly trained, and in the publication of which no expense is spared in securing a thoroughly satisfactory report.

Mr. Edwards, of the congressional staff, for many years a well known Canadian reporter, upon receiving, from Mr. George Holland, of the Senate official staff, copies of the "debates" in its new form, wrote that the work "seems to be very creditably got through, though I like the type of our 'congressional record' better."

#### CHIEF OBSTACLES OVERCOME.

The present system which was adopted as an experiment has, we hope, so far fulfilled the intention of the House in establishing an official report, that it may now be regarded as a permanent institution.

Not only were the staff called upon this session to overcome the difficulties inseparable from an experimental system, but at the very outset they were put to a severe test in being called upon to issue promptly each day a report of the Pacific Railway debate during which the House sat nightly, to an unusually late hour, for a period of six weeks.

The failure of all systems previously tried by this House is due to the great delay which has taken place in issuing the report in that form, a delay so great as to render that issue practically valueless. Instead of the report, as in past years, drifting further behind every week until at the close of the session it was frequently six weeks in arrears, the issue each session has been promptly made each day, even after an all night's sitting. This being the case we submit that all that is necessary to the complete success of the system which the House has established, is to adopt such measures as may tend to improve the character of the report.

#### WORK OF THE STAFF.

In order that the Committee may have some idea of the difficulties under which the report has thus far been issued, and may gather the reasons why it has not been of as high a character as the staff believe to be attainable, we beg to submit some facts and comparison bearing upon the daily work of the staff.

From the opening of the session to the first of February, the total number of the pages of the "debates" is about 825—an amount of matter exceeding the average sessional issue of the official report of previous years. This gives an average length daily of about 30 pages. The daily issue has reached as many as 48 pages.

The reports after publication are carefully read for book form; members corrections received and inserted; revisions received after corrections have been made, and these again carefully examined. The preparation of an index is also part of the daily work, and there are

necessarily many other duties connected with the publication of the report.

The Committee can probably arrive at a tolerably correct opinion as to the work performed by the staff by a consideration of the following comparisons:—

The Toronto *Globe* has, for years, supplied three shorthand reporters for an average daily report of five to six columns; equal to eight pages of "debates."

The London *Times* has fifteen men in the gallery each session. They turn out on an average of about seventeen columns of that journal; equal to thirty-five pages of "debates."

These figures give the following average of daily work per man:—

<i>Globe</i> Reporters.....	2½ pages "Debates."
London <i>Times</i> Reporters (who produce the highest average of English Parliamentary Reports.).....	2¼ " "
"Debates" Reporters.....	5 " "

The following is a comparison of the number of men respectively engaged on other official and leading newspaper reports:—

The official staff of the House of Representatives, U.S., numbers 5 note-takers with 10 amanuenses.....	15 men
The London <i>Times</i> staff comprises 15 men and one superintendent.....	16 "
The London <i>Standard</i> .....	14 "
The <i>Morning Advertiser</i> .....	15 "
In the French Chamber of Deputies 10 note-takers are employed, with 10 amanuenses.....	20 "

Mr. Hansard, in his evidence before a committee of the English House of Commons, said, that for the preparation and issue of a daily official report of the Debates of that body there would be required a total staff of 30 men.

Mr. Hansard, in reply to a private inquiry, estimated that for the publication of a Canadian report, such as that now issued, there would be required a staff of from 17 to 18 men.

In regard to the difficulties attendant upon the issue of a daily official report of the English House, Mr. Hansard said in his evidence above referred to:—"I conceive that it is possible, if desirable, that a debate up to 12 o'clock might be laid upon the table at the meeting of the House the next day, but it would be a *very tremendous task*."

We submit that the above facts and figures prove that the debates staff should be strengthened.

Although the "Debates" reports have been issued promptly this session, yet the work has been accomplished under very great strain which has been undergone for the purpose of demonstrating the practicability of the scheme—a strain which the experience of this Session convinces us could not be maintained except at the risk of permanent injury to health.

The Reporters' duties begin with the opening of the House and are kept up without cessation until from one to three hours after the adjournment, and they have generally to utilize one hour out of the two hours of the six o'clock recess. Under this constant pressure it is alike impossible to secure accuracy in note taking, or literary excellence of transcript.

#### HOW MAY THE STAFF BE STRENGTHENED.

It being obvious, as we conceive, that the staff should be strengthened, the question arises as to how that object can best be attained.

Two methods present themselves:—

1. Increasing the number of Reporters.
2. Providing amanuenses. Of these two methods we believe the advantages lie altogether with the second. It is the system which has been in successful operation for many years in the United States and in France in preparing official reports of their Legislative bodies. American and English Law Reporters also largely employ amanuenses to lighten their labours and secure the rapid transcription of notes.

From our own experience, we are satisfied that the system would work well if applied to "Debates" reporting. Owing to pressure upon the staff this session, it was found necessary to adopt it in a modified form, and the results were found to be entirely satisfactory.

Mr. Edwards in the letter already referred to says:

"I am sorry to learn from your letter that the reporters are not better paid; without the amanuenses system the work at times must be very severe. Might they not suggest to the House the propriety of an additional grant to provide a couple of amanuenses for each Reporter.

(To be Continued.)

Key to Page 196.

#### PSYCHOLOGY OF PROF. YOUNG.

(Transcript of Notes of one of his Lectures, by W. F. Maclean, B. A., in Isaac Pitman's Reporting Style.)



OUR cognition or knowledge is divided into two branches: (1) cognition of the phenomenal and (2) cognition of the non-phenomenal.

##### (1) COGNITION OF THE PHENOMENAL.

Feeling and thought the elements of cognition.

(a) Feeling. Of feeling we can only give instances. We cannot explain it otherwise. We can give the sensations of the senses as an instance. I don't identify feeling with sensation; there are secondary feelings which are ideal.

(b) Thought is the apprehension of relations. It has nothing to do with the recoverability of feeling. (Bain.) It may be the apprehension of relations between feelings primary or feelings secondary. For instance when I apprehend that the angles of the base of a triangle are or are not equal, thought takes place. When you apprehend two colors as like or unlike, or that one is here and the other there, thought manifests itself.

(a) Feeling is an indispensable element of cognition. I can prove this only by referring to any case of cognition you may like to bring forward. Take the case of the ribbon red at one end and blue at the other. If the red and the blue were supposed to disappear, the cognition would become null and void for want of

material or content. If you *imagine* such a ribbon you employ the *secondary* feelings of redness and blueness. Remove these and the cognition becomes null.

(b) Thought is equally indispensable to cognition. You apprehend the red and the blue as distinguished from one another; there is an apprehension of difference. This is a qualitative relation. If the ribbon were red only, there would be an apprehension of qualitative agreement. You also apprehend the relations of space; that one is here the other day. [Difference and agreement apply properly to quality and not to quantity as Bain contends.]

WILLIAM MACLEAN.

University College, Toronto, 1880.

KEY TO THE REPORTING NOTES OF  
NELSON R. BUTCHER, IN MARCH  
NUMBER OF WRITER, P. 180.

DARWIN F. VANBLACK.—SWORN.

By Mr. McCarthy.

Q.—You are the plaintiff? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this the agreement you made with the defendants, Lett & Roe, marked exhibit "A"? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you present when it was executed? A.—Yes, when Lett signed it, but not when Roe signed it.

Q.—Is that his handwriting? A.—Yes.

Q.—Had you previously made a contract with a man by the name of Kidd? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this the contract you made with Kidd, dated 18th Nov., 1878? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that prior to making the contract with the defendants? A.—Yes, I had it made and I think it was signed.

Q.—Was it to fulfil this contract that you made the bargain? A.—Yes, (I am now referring to the first contract.)

Q.—Did you inform them of your contract with Kidd. That is, Lett & Roe? A.—Yes, and I think I read it over to them.

Q.—Did you tell them what you wanted the ties for? A.—Yes, that I wanted 20,000 tamarack for Goderich for Kidd to apply upon it, that is the contract, and the cedar to go to Chicago.

Q.—Who was the contract with? A.—With Ripley.

Q.—Did you tell them that? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you make advances on that contract from time to time? A.—Yes, I think I advanced altogether \$2,300 in cash and goods.

## Selected.



### AUTHORSHIP.

From the *Literary Ladder*.

(CONTINUED.)



MACVEY NAPIER'S first article in the *Edinboro Review* was acknowledged in the following terms:—

April 20, 1805.

Dear Sir,—I enclose our booksellers' allowance (£5) for your excellent account of Degerando, and shall be happy to receive any overtures for a successor to him.

Your obliged and obedient servant,

F. JEFFREY.

Other articles followed, and Napier became editor of the magazine when Jeffrey resigned.

Bret Harte, like Douglas Jerrold, was a printer when he first began to write. Whilst working on a San Francisco newspaper he found time to write some sketches drawn from his experiences in the mining regions, and with trembling hesitation he submitted one of them to the editor. The sketch was read, its merit seen, and its writer promoted from the composing to the editorial room.

In the *Atlantic Monthly* (January, 1880.) a chapter from the experiences of a young writer was given:

I would write a story! How easy it seemed in prospect! What fine sentiments, what brilliant bits of conversation floated about in a nebulous form in my imagination, and what a

harmonious hole was presented whenever the story took shape before my mind's eye! I began to write. My plot and my characters were taken from real life. Thus far there was no difficulty; but where were all the fine sentiments, the witty conversation, now? How very tame and pointless they all seemed on paper, and how difficult a task was what had once appeared only a pleasant recreation! Discouraged at my want of success, I became—I blush to express it—very cross. My younger sister, the *enfant terrible* of the family, "hoped sister would write another story very soon," and revenged herself for my impatience with her by saying, when asked her opinion of it, after hearing it read in the family counsel, that she "had not expected it would be so entirely devoid of backbone as it was." My mother's criticism was much more favorable. "She 'could not see but that it was as good as any of the magazine stories.'" I tried to make due allowance for my mother's partiality, but I fear that her opinion, aided by a lurking suspicion that I was, perhaps, not capable of judging of my own efforts, and might be unjust to myself, produced an undue elation of my spirits. The next thing was to find a publisher. I enclosed with my manuscript an elaborate epistle to one of the leading periodicals of the country, and launched it on its lonely voyage; one moment hoping that it would find a safe haven in the pages of the magazine, the next fearing that it would be tossed about by the breakers of un-

friendly criticism, until it should again take refuge with its author. How that editor must have smiled at my simplicity—if indeed he read my note at all—in supposing that he could be influenced by a neatly-turned compliment to his ability as a writer! I did not at all admire several of his books, but that fact I carefully concealed, merely commending those I did really approve. What misplaced delicacy of feeling this seemed, when one morning, a short time afterward, as we were at breakfast, the cry of "Post!" and the thud of a heavy package, announced that my cherished story was returned! I fancied the letter carrier had divined my secret, and had taken a malicious pleasure in treating the precious package so rudely, and I disliked him ever after. The blood rushed into my cheeks, and I could have cried with mortification, especially when I felt, rather than saw, the half-pitying, half-quizzical glances of my brothers and sisters upon me. With trembling fingers I opened the packet, and behold only those familiar pages and a printed notice, (the editor had not even taken the trouble to write me a line)—a mere printed notice such as was sent to everybody, and which could have had no special reference to my contribution, when it declared that "the return of an article did not necessarily imply a lack of literary merit." How I hated the cover of that magazine for a long time afterward, and how I felicitated myself on my mental criticism of the editor's periodical. This time I was more discreet, and merely wrote a line or two to the editor. No reply came for several months, but that did not trouble me; for had I not heard that a young man was surprised by a check for some articles three years after sending them to a magazine? Meanwhile, I occupied my spare time in writing a story for one of the juvenile periodicals, which was also returned, it is true, but accompanied with a delicate note from the editor, which I still keep as the first word of encouragement I ever received. A few weeks after this came a kind note announcing the acceptance of my first story. My mother had always been able to read in the changes of my face every motion of my heart, whether sad or joyous, but this time her quick ear detected rejoicing in my footsteps, even before I had reached her presence. I already saw in that magical slip of paper "the shady groves and pleasant pastures" stretched out before me.

Another writer in the same magazine who had resolved to become a journalist, says:—

When I looked over the advertisements in the *Athenaeum*, and saw how many clever fellows—men who could write anything at a moment's notice, from a "five-line paragraph" to a three-volume novel—verbatim reporters, brilliant leader writers, accomplished critics, university graduates with a knowledge of all the modern languages, were offering their services for next to nothing, my heart sank within me, and I had serious thoughts of turning my attention to something else. But I did not, and after giving the matter due consideration I

had decided to go abroad, study foreign languages, and otherwise prepare myself for the calling which I had chosen. This I did, and besides studying assiduously, especially the German language and literature, I read the newspapers and kept my eyes open.

The writer goes on to say that he became connected with the press by writing to an English paper an account of the brutal treatment of an Englishman, which attracted considerable attention. It led to an appointment as correspondent for an English daily newspaper.

Henry Dunckley, (Verax) the editor of the Manchester *Examiner and Times*, who has been well described as one of the most distinguished journalists in England, gained his connection with the press by means of a prize essay. Whatever may be thought of the value of prize essays generally, the winning of the Anti-Corn Law League's prize essay of £250, certainly made Mr. Dunckley's reputation as a skillful writer, and led to his appointment as editor of a very influential journal.

#### EXTRAORDINARY FEAT.



REMARKABLE achievement in stenography was that of the lady to whose kindness the *Herald* is indebted for the accurate and almost verbatim report of Carl Schurz's fine speech in German at the reception by his Boston countrymen. The speech was translated off-hand into English shorthand notes as it was taken, instead of being taken in German and afterwards put into English, as is generally the case on such occasions. Mr. Thomas Allan Reed, of London, is regarded as the greatest shorthand writer in England, and his facilities for taking both French and English equally well is considered a marvel. But when he takes a French speech his notes are in French. In the Canadian Parliament there are two sets of shorthand reporters, one to take the speeches in English, and the other those delivered in French. But the mental processes necessary to such a work as that of the Boston lady, will be seen to be remarkably complicated. First there is the following of the speech in German, which must have been with the strictest attention. Then there is the instantaneous translation of the German words into their English equivalents. And thirdly, there is the rendering of the English into shorthand characters, while the ear is alert to catch the German. The quickness of wit demanded by such a performance is wonderful, and, as far as we know, it is unprecedented in the recording of public speaking. The lady gained her skill in this way, by practice in taking notes at the lectures in German universities.—*Boston Herald*.

We regret that this lady's name is not given, but make a guess that it may have been Miss Pulsifer, as the publishers are Messrs. R. M. Pulsifer & Co., and we know that there is a famous family of stenographers of that name.

## Biographical Sketches.

OFFICERS OF THE TOPEKA, KANSAS, STENOGRAPHER'S ASSOCIATION.

**T. J. TILLEY**, President.—At present official reporter for the 3rd, 8th and 14th District Courts, Kansas. Studied shorthand at Danville, Ill. Writes Graham-Pitmanized. Is a rapid writer and a hard worker.

**G. W. LOOMIS**, Vice-President.—Grappled with the art at Providence, R. I. He subsequently became connected with one of the largest fire insurance offices at Hartford, Conn., and later on with the Kansas Loan Trust Company. He is now secretary to the Superintendent of the B. & M. R., Omaha, Nebraska.

**E. T. HALL**, Treasurer.—Cast his lot with T. J. Tilley and studied with him at Danville, Ill. He was engaged for some time in New York city. Caught the western fever and holds a lucrative position as secretary to W. F. White,

General Passenger Agent, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R. R.

**W. S. JORDAN**, Secretary.—Born at Wolverhampton, England. After some two years shorthand work on the London & North Western Railway Co., left for Canada, 1874. Was connected with the Canadian press at the outset, but railroading caught him and he accepted a position with T. S. Stevenson, General Freight Agent, Montreal; subsequently left for Toronto, where he labored several years for Mr. John Earls, Great Western Freight Agent. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road offered him a good position, which he accepted, but he was forced to leave the wilds of Wisconsin on account of health—too much raw iceberg. Has done considerable court work in his time; but somehow railroading has a fascination he cannot forego. Is now correspondent for the Land Department, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R. R.

## Editorial Notes.



Chas. A. March, Pittsburg, Pa., has removed to Chicago, where he fills a position as shorthand clerk in the law office of Willard & Diggs.

"The SHORTHAND WRITER is growing rapidly in favor here and we have no hesitancy in recommending it to Shorthand Writers."—*Brown & Holland, Shorthand Writers, Association, Chicago.*

The *Phonographic Meteor* has changed hands. Mr. C. I. Payne, retiring, through ill-health, in favor of Mr. S. C. I. Woodward, an old and clever contributor. We wish Mr. Woodward success in his undertaking.

In order to put an end to the inefficiency of some of the stenographers employed in the Superior Courts at Montreal the qualified members intend to form a society, have it incorporated, and only allow admission to it after examination of the candidates for employment.

**SUCCESSFUL CANADIAN REPORTERS.**—Mr. Thompson, the doyen of the law stenographers of Montreal, has just returned from a two months' sojourn at Washington, where he has been reporting the proceedings of the International Hygienic Conference. During his stay there Mr. Thompson frequently met Mr. Hincks, son of Sir Francis Hincks, and Mr. Edwards, formerly employed on the Montreal press. Both these gentlemen are on the official staff of reporters in the House of Representatives, and are in receipt of \$5,000 a year salary; and, as committee reporting is monopolized by the official staff, its members often make \$5,000 in addition to their salaries. Reporters like these, however, are "few and far between."

Mr. R. W. P. Kitchen, late reporter on the *Montreal Gazette*, and private secretary to D. McInnes, Esq., Hamilton, Ontario, is now filling the position of private secretary to Mr. T. Tandy, General Freight and Passenger Agent of the D. G. H. & M. R'd, Detroit.

The March No. of the *Phonographer* just to hand says:—"We beg to inform our readers that this is the last number of the *Phonographer* that will be published. \* \* \* We do not intend, however, to give up altogether the publication of phonetic works. We think there is a want of reading books published in phonography. \* \* \* Under the circumstances we have determined, while giving up the magazine, to publish, from time to time, various standard works in phonography."

**BEAUTIES OF SHORTHAND.**—On a post-card on view at an exhibition in Germany there had been written in a German system of shorthand the large number of 33,000 words. Subsequently Mr. HURT, of Sheffield in England, the publisher of the *Phonograph*, a shorthand magazine, offered prizes for miniature shorthand. The system was to be Pitman's, the writing to be legible to the naked eye, and to be on one side of an English post-card, which is considerably smaller than a German card, 25,000 words on the former being reckoned equivalent to 33,000 on the latter. The first prize in this competition was awarded to G. H. Davidson, whose post-card contained 32,363 words, including the whole of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," an essay on John Morley, and half of Holcroft's "Road to Ruin."

## Communications.

### UNIFORMITY OF NOTES.

DEAR SIR,—The "uniformity of notes" sighed after by the *Chicago Times* will undoubtedly come about in this way: A hundred years hence the Graham writers will go over in a body to Benn Pitman who will be alive in memory although long since incinerated; Munson writers will celebrate the memory of Isaac Pitman in the same delightful spirit of self-sacrifice. The two great armies will then be within a couple of dots of uniformity. These they will agree to invert and reinvert periodically (sand glass fashion) in a spirit of brotherly love for a century or so and finally compromise by putting the pesky things to the middle of the stem. Cross and Lindley writers may whistle!—no "diploma" for them.

Seriously, there are scores of persons who have adopted a good principle or device wherever they have found it, and who have applied some inventive talent of their own to the perfecting of the art. It is but reasonable to suppose, and the writer has no doubt, that the best forms of phonography are to be found with them and not in any of the published systems. To those accustomed to the cream of the art the uniformity sought for looks too much like hankering after skim milk. *Efficiency ever; Uniformity never.* J. W.

Catonsville, Md. 31 March, 1881.

### MIXING THE SYSTEMS.

To the Editor of the WRITER:

DEAR SIR,—I have read with pleasure, in your last issue, a letter signed "Ottawa Student," and headed "Mixing the Systems." I quite agree with him that, so far, Graham's system has not had a "fair show," but I believe that the fault entirely lies with the students of Graham, who are readers of the WRITER, and who have, with a few honorable exceptions, displayed a surprising reticence about the system they study. Surely, Mr. Editor, some of the Grahamites who have acquired a practical knowledge of that system, are not so selfish as to willingly keep their less fortunate brothers in the dark in regard to some points which the light of experience has elucidated, but which, to the novice, are yet a *terra incognita*. I would supplement my indorsement of the views of my unknown Ottawa fellow-traveller, by suggesting that when a Graham student contributes anything to your interesting magazine—communication or otherwise—such article ought, I think, if it appears in phonography at all, to be presented in the system which its writer studies. My reason for saying so is, that it would be more in keeping with the fitness of things, being nothing more than allowing the man to appear in his own dress, and not putting him into garments which, although they may be better than his own, are yet not peculiar to him, so to speak, nor to those who dress like him; and I think such a practice would be but giving a "fair show" to all systems. I am led to this remark by reading in a recent number

of the WRITER, an article which, in its phonographic habiliments, appeared in an altogether different fashion from that in which the contributor of the article is well known to habit himself,—a transformation which, I am pretty sure, Mr. Editor, was no fault of yours, for the most cautious critic cannot accuse you of partiality to any particular system; but I contend that it is only justice to all parties to let them come on the phonographic stage in the costume they are known to don—that is, if that costume is forthcoming; if not, let them appear in the most convenient one, and no one will be to blame for the change.

I was also highly pleased to read in the same issue that, with most commendable forethought and considerateness, you offer such encouragement to phonographers who are anxious to establish an ever-circulator. In this regard, I would earnestly ask my fellow-students of Graham's system to follow the example set us by the students of other systems, as I have not as yet seen any mention of an *exclusively Graham* circulator being prepared for either remote or immediate practise, and as I am of opinion that a general circulator, or one embracing all the phonographic systems in vogue, would fall short of the principal object in view, namely, a practical as well as a technical knowledge of the system of shorthand which each student is trying to acquire. I am sure that the trivial expense incidental to the working of a circulator and the trouble—if such we call anything which is calculated to so much assist us (at a disproportionately small amount of attention) in our phonographic studies—cannot, I say, render too difficult a circulator for each system, nor deter anyone from attaching himself to the circulator worked purely and entirely in the particular system to which he has allied himself for the time being. We don't want to coerce anybody to remaining within our circle; let him tell us when he thinks of leaving us, and we let him go without a benison, but for goodness sake let him not try to "mix" things unknown to us. By these means only can we hope, according to my way of thinking, to make a circulator useful and practical to the students of the various systems. I am also sure that, besides the benefits to be derived from the working (such as I have attempted to outline) of a circulator, the friendly feelings which will be engendered by our phonographic intercourse, will more than compensate the most reluctant to join for any little time or attention which they may have to devote to the passing along of the circulator in its rounds. By all means, then, let some competent Grahamite who has any experience in the matter in question, insert a small programme for the *modus operandi* of the project in the next number of the WRITER; a cordial and wide-spread response from the Graham men will, I am sanguine, follow.

Phonographically yours,

ANOTHER OTTAWA STUDENT.



Handwritten shorthand notes in two columns, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations. The right column ends with the text "DAILY NEWS".

REPORTING IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Written in Munson's System.

The first column of shorthand contains approximately 20 lines of text. The characters are highly stylized and compact, typical of Munson's shorthand system. Some characters include small numbers like '12' and '6' as part of their structure. The text is dense and fills the left half of the page.

The second column of shorthand contains approximately 20 lines of text, mirroring the first column. The characters are consistent with the first column, showing the same level of complexity and compactness. This column occupies the right half of the page.



TOASTED SHORTHAND

AT A CHICAGO BANQUET.

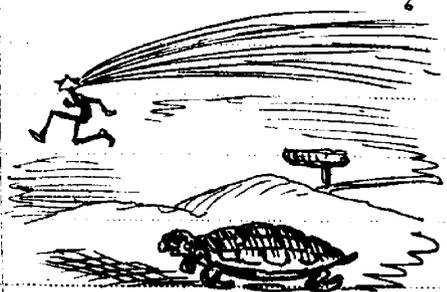
Written in Benn Pitman's System.

John Ritchie,



Handwritten shorthand notes in the left column, including the name 'John Ritchie' and various symbols.

Handwritten shorthand notes in the right column, continuing the text from the left column.







THE NEWSPAPER BORE.

From "Grip," Toronto.

Written in Graham's System.



Handwritten shorthand text in Graham's System, filling the left column of the page. The text is dense and covers most of the page's height.

Handwritten shorthand text in Graham's System, filling the right column of the page. The text is dense and covers most of the page's height. A small signature 'H. L. Stone' is visible near the bottom right of the column.

