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# BENGOUGH'S <br> COSMOPOLITAN SHOFTHAND WRITER. 

Conducted by Thomas Bengougr, Omicial Roporter, York County Courts.

> Vol. III.

$$
\text { Toronto, August, } 1882 .
$$

No. 4.

## "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

Although much of the disposition to refard with disfavor the increase in the numbers of shorthand writers has been removed from the minds of professionals by current events, there are still two or three who are regarding it with dismay. Shorthand, they argue, is like every other commodity, "it becomes cheap in the exact ratio in which it becomes abundant," and theretire thev consider it incumbent upon them in duiy to themselves and loyalty to their fellows "to do all they can to restrict the supply:"

Theoretically, and according tc the laws of political economy, the argument is a sound one; but we would ask whether, in their alarmed contemplation of the increased supply and the propagation of this supply, these objectors have turned their gaze to the increased demand ? Canada is no small strip of country whose commercial .r literary market can be easily flooded. Generations will have to come and go before the sea of civilization shall wash the outermost edses of her domain. In the past she has been engaged in an arduous struggle for existence, in which her labor has been chiefly manual. Now, when her prosperity is assured, she can seek her arms chair, so to speak, and indulge those tastes and enjoy those luxuries to which she is entitled by her past career of honest toil. Canada, and particularly Ontario, is destined to be, in the by no means shadowy future, the centre of art, literature, and science. All the appliances that genius can invent, all the aids to physical labor and intellectual development that the future can bring forth, will find a market in Canada. The village of to-day will be the town of tomorrow, and the howling wilderness of this year will next year be the abode of human energies, human interests, and human talents. Muscle unaided will call to its assistance the defter fingers of Intellect
The growing intensity and rush of business, which must be rapid to approximate to that on the other side of the lines,-the
saving of time and money which the employment of.stenographic "duplicates" affords,-the development of literature, and the introduction of shorthand into newspaper offices and County Courts, Police Courts and coroner's inquests-will utterly preclude the possibility of a glut for many years to come. Until Canada, like Great Britain and the continent, begins to discharge her superfluous millions into the lap of some yet to be discovered country, unti! that faint and lonely voice which lately reached us from British Columbia saying,

> "I'in a Shorthander blooming alone,"
> Like the last of the roses of summer,"
has swelled into a chorus of wailing and positionless stenos singing
" Too proud to beg, too honest to steal,"
the professional need have no fear of being jostled, or of receiving a dig in the ribs from his fellow passengers in the paths of prosperity.
In our own experience within the past year this has been fully proven. Men who two years ago, one year ago, would not have dreamed of employing shorthand labor, regarding it as too great and unnecessary an innovation in a country business, with the influx of population and the added press of business have been compelled to try the experiment, and having once tasted of its sweets are only too anxious to repeat it.

Tothe latter part of this protest we would say,-and the argument is, we think, incontrovertible,-who is to shut the public highway of the profession and declare it a footpath open only to a prileged few? The young men and young women of Canada know that the demand for shorthand help is growing, and no organization, no protest from professionals, can prevent their taking advantage of it. And we could name many cas-s in which, not withstanding the chilling miluences of a professional "sensitive plant" the plodding, persevering amateur has budded into a shrub beauti.
ful enough and sufficiently hardy to stand a test before which the former would succumb.

Are the ranks of the professionals to be filled by a sort of apostolic succession? As each member of the cabal dies off is his place to be filled by some favored relative (who has of coursi in the meantime been compelled to carn his living in some more obscure manner, " in order to restrict the supply," and not to crowd his fellow mortals) who will then, jack-in-the-box-like, emerge from his temporary obscurity, and be, "Dei gratia," a professional ?

The lest advice we can give to these professional objectors is this,-since these obnoxious and intrusive joung persons cannot ive ousted, "possession being nine points of the law," would it not be well to make a virtue of necessity, and by union constitute that lever which will move the commerciai world to a larger pecuniary recognition of the services of shorthandwriters, and which will, by its regulations and the costrit de corps born of it, exemplify the old adage that "two heads are better than one"?

## PIOGLADi of THE CANADIAN SHORI' HAND CONVIENTION.

The program will be varied and interesting, comprising original and unique features, among them being the following:-

PAPERS ANI, EDPOSITIONS.
Subjects connected with Shorthand Writing, Type-Writing, Manifolding, (c., will be discussed and iltustrated.

Mr. Wm. Honston, M.A., late of the Editorial Staff of the clobe, has promised a paper on "Phonetic Shorthand as an Universal Medinm in Writing and Printing."

Mr. John Bruee, Barrister and Stenographic Special Examiner, of Toronto, will provide a paper summarising The Legal Status of the Stenographic Profession in Canada. This paper will deal with the profession as represented in tho various Canadian Provinces.

Miss A. M. Ashley, of Belleville, will read a paper on Shorthand Writing, and Efficient Women to Write it.

Mr. Alex. H. Crawford, Chief of Staff of Onicial Reporters of the Bigh Court of Justice for Ontario, will outhine the Oflicial leporting System in vogue in this Province.

Mr. Wm. H. Huston, M.A., Teacher of Phunngraphy in Pickering College, will discuss Phonography as a Branch of Education in Common Schocle.

Mr. Frank Yeigh, Private Seoretary to the Hon. A. S. Hardy, will furnish a Phonographic Pot.pourri

Mr. Thos. Bengough will read a "Shorthand

Symposium," summarizing opinions of business men, educators and others as to the value of Shorthand.

Mr. Thos. Pinkney, of Toronto, will detail the Duties of a Shorthand Amanuensis.

It is expected also that Phonctics, Visible Speech, and other subjects related to Phonography will be introduced.

The subjects treated in these papers will be open for discussion by members of the Convention. Volunteer papers by visitors and Phonographers who cannot be present, will be welcomed.

## open evening session.

The City Council Chamber has been engaged for the Evening Session. Representative citizeus and their ladies have been invited.
The proceedings of this Session will include an address of Welcome by His Worship Mayor McMLurrich; Responses by Canadian and American representatives; an address by the President elect; Reading of Mr. Houston's paper; and a brief discussion, in which opportunity will be given to citizens present to express their opinions on the topios touched upon. Mr. Yeigh's paper and a summary of the "Shorthend Symposium" will also be read, and will excite discussion among the representatives of Commerce, Government and the Learned Profession who will be preseat.

The bu-iness of the ev-ning will be despatched at an early hour so as to give opportunity for socia? conversation.
expibition.
An unique feature of the Convention will be the Exhibition of appliances conneoted with the work of Shorthand Reporting, with explanations of methods of operation.
Various styles of Type-Writers and Caligraphs will be displayed, also Mr. Horton's newly invented Typograph, whiok has been completed to such an extent as will exhibit its pecaliarities. This machine is remarkable for simplicity, and possesses features of great value which every experienced operator will appreciate. The line of writing as constantly under the eye of the operator, thus enabling the diotator to follow and check the operator in punctuation, spelling, \&c.
Mr. Charles T. Brown's $F$ itent Folio Register for Type-Writing Macl nes will alsn be exhibited in working order.

The ingenious device inveated by Mr. Thos. Pinkney, of Toronto, as a substitute for the ordinary note book, will be displayed. This device, called the "Papprus," from its similarity to the ancient Papyrus Roll of the Egyptians, furnishes to the Reporter an endless roll of paper whose motion across the writing surface can be regulated at the will of the Reporter, according to the speed of the speaker. The time and labor of turring over the leaves of the note book are thus saved.

It is expected that other Type-Writing Machines and Appliances will be forthooming.

Specimen copies of the arious Shorthand.

Magazines of the world will be available for examination.

Life-size Cray.m Portraits of Phonographic Authors, and cabinets and carte-de-visites of noted nographers, will be displayed.

## MR. WATTERS' REPORTING NOTES.

[In sending the original pencil notes which are transterred in far-simile on page 4I, Mr. Watters writes! :-
"On several occasions I have noticed the wonderfully precise reproting notes of some contributors to your journal, and, while admiring the unusual commind of pencil which produced them, I cannot hel, thmking that for the satisfaction of those "' 0 look to you for practical hints it would bi well if extracts could more frequently be givin from ordinary note books, taken at the wi.er's best rate of speed, and therefore showing how nearly ilLLEGBLE average notes must be when a rapid speaker is faithfully followed. I fear the only claim to attention in the enclosed pages will be the badly formed characters they contain, yet I have chosen them from about the centre of a half hour "take," the average speed per minute heing one hundred and seventy words. I must add that they were written from dictation, and to me, when reading my notes, were easily deciphered, though to some who may read them, should you think them of use, they will appear sadly mutilated. I might call your attemtion to the few ghrases used in these notes. I have insenibly drifted into the habit of writing single claracters even when hotly pressed. The practice may seem objectionable to some, lat to others who are now worrying over their phrase-hooks it may bring some comfort."

## original. deni of mr. watters' notes.

On the con'rary, Paniel O'('onnell stood up in his place in parliament, denied in the strongest possible way the charges made against him from begimning io end, and courted the strictent investigation cither hefore Parliament or by a Committee of Parliament. A select committec was appointed, and the strictest investigation
t took place before the committee; the committee
1 reported that Daniel O'Connell had committed no offence contrary to the law of the land or the strictest rules of Parliamentary honor, and Daniel O'Comnell escaped without a stain on his high character. The hon. gentlemen will find in the journals and delates of Parliamert another
' case in which a petilion was presented against another eminent Irishman, Mr. Butt. In that case the petitioner complained that Isaac Butt had agreed with the Rajahpook of Scinife, an Indian Prince, to prosecute a claim that he had against the English Government, in the House of Commons; that in that respect his conduct was unbecoming a member of Parliament, a man of honor and a gentleman. What did Isaac Butt do under the circumstances; resist the in vestigation and deny the competency of Parlia-
ment to deal with him? Nothing of the kind. Mr. Butt got up in his place and denied with all the emphasis he possibly: could that he was guilty of the charges laid against him.

## EXAMINATIONS IN SHORTHAND.

In the July Writer wo gave an outline of the test examinntions which it is proposed to institute in England for the purpose of furnishing students with a certificate of phonographic ability.
Mr. Nankivell tells of some test examinations for certificates for commercial knowledge at Liverpool, under the auspices of the union of Lancashire and Cheshire institutes, in which 27 candidates entered for the examination in phonography. These examinations consisted of speed test, transcription test, and accuracy test. ! A passage of 262 words was dictated in five minutes, or at the rate of about 52 words a minute. The passage was transcribed by one writer in twelve minutes, and by the others in fifteen, seventeen, twenty and twenty-six minutes respectively. The cditor adds that the phonographer who could not pass this simple examination must be a very new hand at his work, or else a perfectly useless duffer. And as the examination is for commercial purposes it seems to him that the test is far too easy. To grant a certificate on such terms must be, he thinks, misleading for commercial purposes, to a very great extent; indeed, he cannot conceive what would be the use of a short-hand-clerk who could not write iaster than 50 words a minute. Then follow some statements of importance:--
"Speed in the home test is most deceptive. The man who can do his hundred words a minute casily at home, finds himself entireiy at sea when trying a speaker of about 80 words a minute. We have scen a whole batch of phonographers completely put out of time with dictation at a hundred words a minute, when every one of them thought to do the work easily, and , rot one of them could furmsh $\Omega$ fairly respectable transcript, and many of them old phonographers. But it is a vers different thing to test for one hundred words a minute and to test for 50 . The man who cau do only 50 is of little use to commercial offices, in our opinion; for the man who can cover only io words a minute has not got under way for speed; he has to do the heaviest work of all in getting up to the 100 . Although much of the work of an oflice may be dictated at even as low a speed as 50, though we have never heard any such ! thing, the dictator would soon tre of having ! to pin himself down to that pace. Many men I can cover that amount of ground with ordinary longhand. Most first-class telegraph clerks will take press matter and write it at that rate. Thecefore, to test for certificate in ahorthand at such a slow speed, does seem putting the certificates at a very low and valueless tigure."

In a later number of the Magazine the editor
save:-We recently drew attention to the low sjeed test ( 52 words per minute) in the case of a saminations for certificates under the auspices of the Union of Lanca-hire and Chesbire Institute. Mr. George Withers, of Liverpool, the well-known lecturer and teacher of phonography, following up the matter in a communication to the Phonetic Journal, writes: "It has been objected that this very low rate of dictation is far too easy a test, and that to grant a certificste on such easy terms must be misleading for commercial purposes, inasmuch as a shorthand clerk who could not write much faster than 50 words per minute, or there. abouts, would be of little use in commercial positions. This is quite true, and it is to be regretted that a higher rate of speed was not adopted at the examination. By the passage being given at a speed of 80,90 , or 100 words per minute, the test would have been more satisfactory. Many candidates present at the Liverpool examination could have written at even a higher rate of speed than this. The Society of arts examination which requires candidates to cover from 120 to 150 words per minute in order to pass, is a more thorough test of shorthand capabilities. Under this test a certificate can only come into the possession of those who are really capable of using shorthand without disappointing expectation when employed in professional or business spheres. It may be well here to remark that examinations are not intended to be merely passports for proficiency, they are also barriers to incompetency. Too low a standard of 1 inoficiency is certainly, not desirable in examinations ij the certijicate to be earned is to be of real zalue to its possessor."

## ECCE STENO:

BY H. C. DEMMING, HARRISBURG, $:$
[Revised copy of the 'poem'read on the occasion of the banquet in New York city on the 2nd Aug As the incpiration did not seize the poet until he was eating soup at the banquet aforesaid, it was rather impromptu, but about as geod poetry as he can prepare at any time. In fact, he thinks that soup was a stimulus, and ought to have due credit. Serionsly, if there is any banqueting at all next year at Watkins, he hopes "there will be fewer courses, and enough ladies present to keep the rougher mature tightly chained." To which we would reply, that the N. घ. S. S. A. should see how we Canadians do such things. 3

## Ecce Steno! there he sits

Struggling with his pen and wits:
Swiftly doun his short notes taking.
By his crooks and pot-hoohs mahi s .
Ecce Stenol how he works !
Quick and ready, strokes and jerks;
Surely no cross-questions lacking,
Till his brain is nearly cracking.

Ecce Steno! how he sweat-] Face aglow,-perspiring jets. Called upon, his crude notes read Rising up, and-then receding.
Ecce Steno! now he takes To his short script-long hand makes. IIurrying, pushing, no surmising, And his copy pile uprising.
Ecce Steno! now at last
Work revised and midnight past,What comes next but the expecting Ample fee and sure collecting.
Ecce Steno ! full of work
Both with him and shorthand clerk;

> Blissfal season, when vacating,
> *Martinelli suppers taking.

Ecce Steno! sober man!
Honor to the shorthand clan.
Temptations great he's e'er resisting, .Though 'tis genial + Fish insisting.
Ecce Steno ! what comes next,(Haply sticking to my text)-$\ddagger$ Bishop in the rich jokes taking, SThornton truly his sides shaking.
Ecce Steno: hold ! enough :
'Tis now time to take a luff!
For soon now will come the parting,
Back to duty we all starting.

Ecce Steno : honored man!
Ralse his standard, where we can,
hto Heaven's azure gleaming,
While we have it in our keeping.
"The place in New York city where the Stenogra-
sraphers bancuet was held.
twhe gentleman, leading representatwe present of the
New York city Stenographers, hy w.om the banquet was
given.
!The newly-elected President of the $\lambda$ ew York State
Stenographers Association.
SThe honured retiring President.

## MIS-HEARINGS.

## by thomas a. REED.

Hearing is as essential to reporting as sight : and it goes without saying. a deaf reporter is an impossibility. I mean, of course, totally deaf. : Partially deaf reporters one docs occasionally, meet with, but the wonder is how they manage to get their work. They have been receiving as-: sistance from their more fortunate brethren, whol are, in most cases, willing to supply their need. I admit that sometimes, when, for instance, you are pressed for time, it is a little trying to have to turn to half a dozen places in your note book, and find out and dictate the passages which your deaf friend has heard imperfectly ; but to refuse
would be churlish, and that, I think, is not the character of our profession. It is not unreasonable that such help should be sought by those who need it; but let me say, as emphatically as I can, that it should be sought at the right time, and not when the reporter is actually engaged in note-taking. Nothing is more annoying or irritating than to be interrupted, when you are following perhaps a difficult speaker, by a reporter at your elbow who has not caught a word or phrase, and who perpetually turns round and asks you what it is, just as you are straining your ear and your pen to catch the last words of a long and complicated sentence. This is not only a breach of good manners, it is a positive injury, and should not be permitted at the reporters' table. It is sometimes committed by those who have no deafness to plead as an excuse, and then it is simply intolerable. If there is a pause during which a question can be asked, as for instance during cheers, or quite at the end of a speech, there can be no objection to the enquiry, but any interruption during the act of writing is unpardonable. I have no doubt it rrises from a want of consideration, the reporter, it may be, forgetting that although he does not want a verbatim report himself, the friend whom he is interrupting does. Some reporters are so well-known to be addicted to this objectionable habit, that those who have suffered from it make a point of not sitting near them if they can avoid it. I have more than once sat between two offenders of the class I have mentioned, aud have regarded it as a kind of purgatorial discipline for one's sins, which ought, in justice, to secure one a good deal of future exemption. I have very rarely been troubled with deafness, but once or twice my hearing has been slightly affected after taking cold. The discomfort of such a state is always great, but the annoyance it produces when notetaking is extreme. There is a constant strain to catch what ordinarily falls on the ear, and a dread of losing an important word or phrase which camnot well be supplied. Sometimes one ear alone is affected, and in such case the reporter naturally selects a seat where the other ear will be chiefly employed, and will take care to be as near the speaker as possible. I was once seriously recommended, when going to a very draughty cathedral to take notes of a sermon, to put some wool in my ears as a protection. I did not try the experiment, concluding that the wool would be an obstacle to the sound. I have heard it stated that those who use wool in this way hear all the better for it, but I confess a little incredulity on that point.
No one who suffers habitually from deafness should think of following reporting as a profession. But it often happens that the deafness comes in after the choice has been made, and when it is not easy to make a change of occupation. In such case one can hardly recommend the reporter to abandon a profession in which he has perhaps been successtul and is earning a good income, and begin the world afresh. But, of course, where the deafness is serious and
obstinate, reporting is absolutely out of the question. For verbatim work especially the hearing should be perfect. It is often difficult to hear a fairly good speaker, but where the tone is low and the recollection imperfect, the effort to catch the words is painful even to a quick ear, and to one only slightly deaf is an impossibility.
The mistakes made by deaf persons in ordinary conversations are sometimes very serious, and often absurd. A tailor who was rather fond of pushing himself into good society, once went up familiarly to an officer, one of his customers, who was o little deaf, and claimed acquaintance. The officer, who had been talking to sume friends, did not recognize him, and asked his name. "I made your breeches," whispered the tailor. "Gentlemen," said the officer, turning to his friends, "let me introduce you to a fellow soldier, Major Breeches!" I have known as ridiculous mistakes made by reporters, owing to their defective hearing, to the imperfect utterances of the speaker, or to the extreme similarity in sound of certain words and phrases which have very different meanings. These last can hardly be called cases of mis-hearing, because the acutest ear might not be able to distinguish the exact sound intended unless the speaker were unusually precise. I have in my own practice, been doubtful whether a speaker said "alone:" or "\& loan." Indeed I remember a case of a witness who was asked to explain which of the two he meant, as either would have been inteliigible, and neither judge nor jury understood which was intended.

I once heard a speaker, as I thought, use the phrase "timber of memmel," which was utter nonsense, and I had to puzzle a long time before I could even guess what the words actually were. A sudden inspiration suggested the "Temple of Mammon," and as these words made the sentence perfectly intelligible I adopted them. On another occasion I wrote "over-tax," which nearly over-taxed my power of comprehension. I had obviously mis-heard the word, and a careful study of the context showed that "overt acts" were probably the words that were uttered. But the most curious case of mis-heanng I have ever met with in my own practice occurred to me not many years ago. A speaker who was not very accurate in his pronunciation, was reciting some lines of his own composition, in which occurred the words as I heard them:

## " Watching from the Roman Eye."

I knew, of course, that I was wrong, but adopting the plan I always follow of writing down exactly the words as they reach the ear, however absurd they may be, I wrote in my note book "Watching from the Roman Eye." These were obviously not the words of the petty orator. Instead of pouring over them and trying to solve the almost inscrutable problem which they presented, I asked the speaker to lend me the manuscript from which he had been reading; and there, to my intense amusement, I discovered that the words were
"Watching from their h....n min high !"

I was at first disposed to blame myself, but on reflection, I was, and still am , perfectly convinced that I heard correctly, and that the fault was with the speaker, who must have been "aitchless" to a degref. I have no doubt that many mis-hearings, so to call them, arise in the same uly, that is, from mis-pronunciation, or the imperfect vocalization of the speaker. In many instances the error may not be detected, there being nothing in the context to show that the words as written are not correct ones; and in such cases the blame generally falls on the reporter instead of on the speaker to whom it properly belongs. I do not, of course, deny that there are cases in which the reporter has been at fault, as, for example, with the Latin phrase "uno tlatu" which was rendered "you know flatu;" and "ad rem" was converted into " add rum," and "a goose and a goat" was transformed into "a good Sunday coat." I hope and believe, however, that these instances are exceptional, and that in the majority of cases of mis-hearing the reporter has sufficient commonsense and education to perceive that there is a mistake somewhere, and to do his best to rectify it.-From the Reporters' Magraine.

OFFICLAL SHORTHANI NOTES.

The committee of judges on legal procedure, in their repurt on the changes which it may be desirable to make in the procedure of the lligh Court of Justice in connection with or consequential on the mion of the (Gueen's Bench, Common I'leas, an. 1 Exchequer division, have made some suggestions in regard to shorthand notes, which, if adopted, will considerably' affect shorthand writers.

The report runs as follows:
"The committee comside that, in the interents of sintor, it is desirable that an official record of the proceedings at the trial shoukd le obtainable. Cudet the changes which we propose in uur repout, the judge who tries the case will never le $\mid$ ceent at any appeal, or motion for $1 e$-hearing, and the necessary transcription of his notes will involve more trouble and delay than the transcription of the notea of a shortband writer. Moreoser, the judge can take no note of his own stimming up, and where, in cases where misdirection is complained of, iccourse at present most be had either to a shorthand writer specially employed, or to the imperfect and perhap, conflicting notes upon a counsel': brief, official shothand writers, whe or more, shall he appuinted to atterd each coutt; a note of $s$ o much evidence, anil of such proceedings as the court or judge shall direct, shall be taken in every case : the expense of taking such notes shall be bome by the parties as shall he dircetad, and the court or juige shall have power to direct that such notes or any part thereof shall le transcribed, and to make such order as to payinent ly the parties as shall be deemed just."

If adopted, this will introduce into English courts what has long been a regular practice in the leading law courts of the United States. It is somewhat early to express an opinion as to the probable or possible consequence of the recommendation on the profession of shorthand writers. As a rule, shorthand notes, - under the preent system, are taken of every case of any importance, and a transcrpt is always obtainable, for shorthand writers indes and carefully preserve their note-books for years.

The suggestion of the committee, however, has caused a flutter of excitement amongst shorthand writers, who forthwith held a meeting to consider its effect. As the mec:ing was pivate we are not at liberty to divulge what took place further than to say that a committee was appointel to wateh the further prugress of the matter in the interests of the shorthand writers.

## ORDERS FOR WAR CORRESPON. DENTS.

Apropos of the presen' war in Egypt, we give the following from the Reputer's ilfagarine:
"War concepondents are now placed under military control. The war office has issued an official code of tules for newspaper correspondents with an army in the fietd, which specify that all newspaper correspondents at the seat of war must be furnished with a licemse granted under the authority of the Commander-in-chief of the army at home, stating the paper or papers to which the correspondent is agent. Correspondents in the field are under the Mititary Act during their stay with the army, and will not le allowed to go beyond the out-puoss without special permiswon. The use of epher is forbidden. All communcations sent by correspondents will be supervised by a specially appointed military staff-ofticer. On no account may the cociespondent write for other papers than those mentimed on his license, which will not be granted to those whom it is considered undesirable to have as correspondents in the field. The staff officer who supervises press messages will grant licenes and passes when necessary, and will give such information as the military cathorities ma comider desiable and consintent with their dut ${ }^{\text {: }}$. The anthorities will facilitate as far as 1" .ible the despath and convegance of messatson A form agreeing to the rules is to be signed by the cditor of the paper and the propued cortespondent. All these strict regulations may le necessary to prevent important information reaching the enemy, but when to these mules $1 t$ is added that retired officers will 1.e preferreci as persons to whom licenses will be granted, we venture to think that the newsmapers will resent the suggestion as a piece of umecessary official insolence. An editor of a nellspaper may be trusted to send the man most suitable.

## NEIVS NOTES.

england.
At $a$ recent meeting of the London (Euglan 1). Shorthand Society, the Danish, Bartholomew, and Michela transcribing machines, and their elpabilities, were minutely explained by MI. l'itrie, the Treasurer. The last named machne is in use in the Italian Senate, but Mr. Petrie showed by careful analysis of the results, that what was attributed to it was mainly due to its work being checked by a large staff of reporters and revisers, while the reports, hefore appearing in print, were evidently corrected by the speakers themselves. Though he would hail with satisfaction any mechanism which would assist the shorthand writer in his arduous duties of note taking. he did not believe that any existing machines could do better work than couk be done with the old note-book and yen or r.encil; at the same time he advocated, from actual experience, the use of the typewriter for ilse transcription of notes, as it not only got out the "copy" more expeditiously and legibly, but also afforded a salutary change from the drudgery of the pen. The paper was illustrated by machines and drawings, and expert writing, averaping 60 words a minute, was shown on the type-wniter.
Writing from Sydney, New South Wales, Mr. Proctor, the agrecable writer on science, tells a good story of how the reporters in the Legislauve Assembly latcly disposed of one of their chief enemies in an assault made upon them during a debate on the local Hansard. Mr. Hay, augry at the abridgment of his speeches, had jomed with others in demanding that full reports should be given; and accordingly the reporters have granted him his wish, printing his recent speeches verhatim. Here is a sample:-"The reporters ought not to-the reporters ought not to be the ones to judge of what is important-not to say what sloould be left but-but-the member can only judge what is important.-As I-as my speeches -as the reports-as what I say is reported sometimes, no one-nobody can tell-no one can understand from the reports-what it in-what I mean. So-it strikes me-it has struck me certain matters-things that appear of amportance-what the member thinks $0^{\circ}$ im-portance-are sometimes left out-omitted. I She reporters-the papers - points are rejorted -I mean who the papers think of interest -1s reported. I can't compliment the reporters." This example of Mr. Hay's oratory, set before the mhabitants of Sydnes, has probably ere this made the hou. member change his mind about the reportere, -Fromi "Rarr" Bits," Lundon.

Mr. Gladstone declines to adnit the accuracy of Hansard, and described a yuotation from one of his own speeches published in that work as "ponsense." It may be of interest to give the whole quotation (Hansard, vol. 243, p. 893) :-"The Indian people have had nothing to do with this war; they are wholly guiltess;
they wash their hands in innocence so far as the war is concerned. They have no representative here or elsewhere. The very powers which the law once gave to defend them, when the East India Company existed, have either been taken away by Purliament or nullifiod by the action of the dovernment and the vote of the Hous of Commons. Can I bring myself to brlieve that the expenses of this struggle, which is wholly our aet, shall be placed upon India? I say 'No.' and I will go forth into any assembly of Englishmen and tell them I say 'No,' and appeal to them whether they will say - 'No' also. Nay, I am persuaded-such is my opinion of their generosity--that when they thoroughly understand the facts of the case, they will say distinctiy that those who make the war shoneld pay for the war. Those who make war for puryose: whether they lue or be not Indian purposes, are the right persons, upon whom shoull rest finally the charges." Mr. Gladstone suys that the words wa have italicised are nonsense, and that he never uttered them. Which is true, Hansard or the speaker?London Echo.

## Fonelos.

A (xlossorraph is an instrument which, fix $\in d$ in the mouth of a speuker, puts durn his every utterance on paper in a new sort of shorthand. The speaker need not use it himself, but anyone else can softly repeat the words and so produce the writing. The invention is by Herr A. Gentilli, of Vienna.

## A DOMESTIC REVIEW.

hey to mil. gunnett's notes, from "bavid correnflens."
I labored hard at my book without allowing it to interfere with the punctual discharge of my newspaper duties; and it came out and was very successful. I was not stunned by the praise which sounded in my eare, notwithstanding that I was keenly alive to $1 t$, and thought better of my own performance, I have little doubt, than anybudy else did. It has always been in my observation of humau nature, that a man who has nay good reason to believe in nimself never flourishes himself before the faces of other people in order that iney may believe in him. Fur this reason I retained my modesty in very self-respect; and the more praise I got, the more I tried to deserve. It is not my purpose, in this record, though in all other essentials it is my written memory, to pursue the history of my own fictions. Thes express themselves, and I leave them to themselves. When I refer to them, incidentally, it is nuly as a part of my progress. Having some fomdation for believing, by this time, that nature and accident had made me an author, I pursued my vocation with confidence. Without such assurance I should certaidy have left it alone, and bestowed my energy on some other endeavor. I should have tried to find out what nature and accident really had made me,
and to bo that, and nothing else. I had been writing, in the newspaper and elsewhere, so prosperously, that when my new success was achieved, I considered myself reasonably ontitled to escape from the dreary dehates. One joyful night, therefore, I noted down the music of the parlismentary bagpipes for the last time, and I have never heard it since; though I still recognize the old drone in the newspapers, without ayy substantial variation (except, perhaps, that there is more of it) all the livelong session.
I now write of the time I had been married, I suppose, about a year and a half. After several varieties of experiments, we had given up the bouse-keeping as a bad job. The house kept itself, and we kept a page. The principal function of this retainer was to quarrel with the cook, in which respect he was a perfect Whittington, without his cat, or the remotest chance of being made Lord Mayor. He appears to me to have lived in a hail of saucepan lids. His whole existence was a scuffe. He would shriek for help on the most improper occasions, -as when we had a little dinner party, or a few friends in the evening, and would come tumbling out of the kitchen, with iron missiles flying after him. We wanted to get rid of him, but he was very much attached to us, and would not go. He was a tearful boy, and broke into such deplorable lamentations when a cessation of our connection was hinted at, that we were obliged to keep him. He had no mother-no anything in the way of a relative that I could discover, except a sister, who fled to America the moment we had taken him off her hands, and he became quartered on us like a horrible young changeling. He had a lively perception of his own unfortunate state, and was always rubbing his eyes with the sleeve of his jacket, or stooping to blow his nose on the extreme corner of a little pocket-handkerchief, which he never would take completely out of his pocket, but always economized and secreted. This unlucky page, engaged in an evil hour at six pounds ten per annum, was a source of continual trouble to me. I watched him as he grew--and he grew like scarlet beans -with painful apprehension of the time when he would begin to shave; even of the days when he vould be bald or gray. I saw no prospect of ever getting rid of him; and, projecting myself into the future, used to think what an inconvenience he would be when he was an old man. I never expected anything less than this unfortunate's manner of getting me out of my difficulty. He stole Dora's watoh, which, like everything else belonging to us, had no particular place of its own; and, converting it into money, spent the proceeds (he was always a weak-minded boy) in incessantly riding up and down, befween London and Uxbridge, outside the coach. He was taken to Bow Street, as well as I remember, on the completion of his fifteenth journoy, when four-and-sixpence and a second-hand fife, which he couldn't play, were found upon his person. The surprise and its
consequences would have been much less disagreeable to me, if he had not been penitent. But he was very penitent indeed, and in a very peonliar way-not in the lump, but by instalments. For example: the day after that on which I was obliged to appear against him, he made certain revelations touching a hamper in the cellar, which we believed to be full of wine, but which had nothing in it except bottles and corks. We supposed he had now eased his mind, and told the worst he knerv of the cook; but a day or two afterwards his conscience sustnined a new twinge, and he disclosed how she had a little girl, who early every morning took away our bread; and also, how he himself had been suborned to maintain the milkmanin coals. In two or three days more I was infurmed by the authorities of his having led to the discovery of sirloins of beef among the kitchen-stuff, and sheets in the rag-bag. A little whileafterwards, he brokeout in an entirely new direction, and confessed to a knowledge of burglarious intentions as to our premises, on the part of the pot-boy, who was immediately taken up. I got to be so ashamed of being such a victim, that I would have given him any money to hold his tongue, or would have offered a round bribe for his being permitted to run away. It was an aggravating circumstance in the case that he had no idea of this, but conceived that he was making me amends in every new discovery, not to say, heaping obligations on my head.

At last I ran away myself whenever I baw an emissary of the police approaching with some new intelligence, and lived a stealthy life until he was tried and ordered to he transported. Even then he could not be quiet, but was almays writing us letsers, and wanted so much to see Dora before he went away, that Dora went to visit him, and fainted when she found herself inside the iron bars. In short I had no peace of my life until he was expatriated, and made (as I afterwards heard) a shepherd of "up the country" somerrhere; I have no geographical idea where. All this led me into some serious reflections, and presented our mistakes in a nerw aspect, as I could not help communicating to Dora one evening, in spite of my tenderness for her.

Archibald Forbes will have to look to his laurels. His most dashing exploits are nearly rivalled by the adventurous journey made by Mr. J. C. Cameron, the correspondent of the Standard, who rode through the desert from Kassassin to Ismalia, alone and in the middle of the night, with the news of our success. He had already been in the saddle all day, and had accompanied the cavalry in their long flants march and final charge ; but he saw his duty, and did it like a man. The consequence was that the paper he so pluckily serves was the only one which had a good account of the Kassassin fight.





