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THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William W. Orr,

[Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.—Hon. Tho's H. Benton.]

Publisher.

VOLUME I.

OSHAWA, C. W., APRIL, 1859.

NUMBER X.

The Convention.

Below will be found the Minutes of the Convention held in Toronto on the 24th ult., at which, besides the appointment of other officers, a Council of twenty-four was appointed to draft the Constitution and Rules for the "British American Phonetic Society," as it has been termed. There were only about twenty persons, in all, present at the convention, most of them from Toronto. We were sorry to see so few phonographers from the country present, but when the next general meeting is called, we hope to be able to report better things of them. A meeting of the Phonetic Council will be held, we presume, some time this month, in Toronto, at which everything will be arranged so that we shall be able, we hope, to announce the Society in working order, and ready for the receipt of proposals for membership, in our next.

As to the offices, we believe they could not well have been better filled, with the exception of that of President, which certainly ought to be occupied by some one of greater dignity than our humble self. However, as the friends present seemed to think it best, we have consented to hold the honors in trust for a limited period, ready to be delivered over to some person who will wear them more to the Society's credit than we are able to.

Convention of Phonographers.

A Convention, composed of phonographic writers, of various professions, was held pursuant to public notice, at the Phonographic Institution, King Street, Toronto, on Thursday evening, 24th of March, at 6 p. m.

It was moved by Mr. J. E. McNally, of Aurora, and seconded by Mr. A. Webber, of Toronto, that Mr. W. H. Orr of Oshawa take the chair. Carried.

The chairman then briefly explained the object of the Convention, viz: to form an

association for the union and co-operation of the friends of the Phonetic Reform in the spread of phonetic writing and printing.

After some discussion, it was moved and seconded, and carried unanimously, that the association to be formed be termed "THE BRITISH AMERICAN PHONETIC ASSOCIATION."

It was then moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. J. E. McNally, and carried unanimously, that Mr. W. H. Orr be elected President of the Association for the first year.

Moved by Mr. A. Webber, seconded by Mr. Lewis, of George St. School, Toronto, and carried unanimously, that J. K. Edwards, Esq., M. A., of the Montreal Transcript, be elected Vice President for the first year.

Moved by Mr. S. Goutier, of Toronto, seconded by Mr. W. Kennedy, and carried unanimously, that Mr. Augustus Webber, of Toronto, be Secretary of the Association for the first year.

Mr. W. stated that he could only accept the position *pro tem.*, and would give the use of his office, free, for the good of the Association.

Moved by Mr. J. E. McNally, seconded by Mr. W. Kennedy, and carried, that Mr. Albert Andrews, of Aurora, be elected Treasurer for the first year.

Moved by Mr. A. Webber, seconded by J. E. Doyle, of Hamilton, and carried, that an Executive Council, consisting of twenty-four members, including the officers, be elected.

The Convention then proceeded to nominate the members of the Council. The following persons were chosen:—Rev. G. Douglass, Rev. W. R. Parker, Mr. David M. Phelps, Mr. Wm. Buckingham, Mr. Warring Kennedy, Mr. Stanislas Goutier, Mr. Wm. Henry Phillips, Mr. J. Boxall, Mrs. J. W. Elliot, Mr. Wm. Hall, Mr. R. Lewis, of Toronto, Rev. Joseph Wild, Mr. John E. Doyle, and Mr. Samuel Clare, Hamilton, Mr. C. S. Powers, Newcastle; Mr. Wm. Halstead, Cobourg; Mr. J. E. McNally, Aurora; Miss Mary E. Ward, Chatham; Miss Anna Orr, Bowmanville, and Mr. Wm. H. Oldright, of Halifax, N. S.

Moved by Mr. A. Webber, seconded by Mr. R. Lewis, and carried, that the Phonetic Council be empowered to draft the rules of the Society, at a meeting to be called for that purpose, and that Phonographers and well wishers of the cause, throughout the country, be invited to forward their names and contributions to the Secretary, without delay.

Moved by Mr. Goutier, seconded by Mr. Webber, and carried, that Mr. Orr vacate the chair, and that Mr. Kennedy take the same.

Moved by Mr. McNally, seconded by W. H. Phillips, and carried unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting are due to Mr. Orr for the interest he has taken in the spread of the Writing and Printing Reform, and also for his able occupancy of the chair during the evening.

Moved by Mr. S. Goutier, seconded by Mr. W. H. Orr, and carried unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting are due to Mr. A. Webber, for the action he has taken in promoting the formation of the present Association, and also for the use of his rooms for the business of the same.

After some remarks from Mr. Orr, Mr. McNally and others, as to the progress of the Reform, the Convention adjourned, subject to the call of the Executive Council.

A. WEBBER,
Secretary.

EVER-CIRCULATORS.—Again would we urge upon students of Phonography who have acquired the ability to write, imperfectly though it may be, to seek the establishment of an ever-circulating manuscript magazine in their neighborhood, for their own and also for their fellow Phonographers' profit and entertainment. Mr. A. Andrews, of Aurora, reports that the one with which he is connected is producing valuable results to all engaged in the enterprise, and the several correspondents take an increasing delight in their Ever-Circulator. The method of establishing and conducting Ever-Circulators was given in detail in No. 1. of the Pioneer.

☞ We have learned nothing, since last issue, respecting the Fountain Pen.

PHONETIC PIONEER.

From Life Illustrated PHONOGRAPHY.

Phonography was invented in the year 1837, by Isaac Pitman, of Bath, England. Prior to that time many systems of shorthand had been invented, some quite ingenious, but all more or less defective and impracticable. Their signs were all arbitrary and cumbersome, and not one stonographer in a thousand could take a *verbatim* report of even a moderate speaker. Occasionally, one who possessed a remarkably tenacious memory and wondrous facility in wielding the pen, could obtain a tolerably accurate report of a speech; but it was very seldom indeed. It was only when the system of Mr. Pitman was introduced that there was anything like accuracy and reliability attained. His system of short-hand was based upon a phonetic representation of the sounds of the language, the characters being light and heavy dots and ticks for the vowel, and the simplest geometrical lines, straight and curved, and of convenient length, for the consonantal sounds.— These formed the basis of the now system, which was published under the title of "Stenographic Sound-Hand," the same year of its invention, in a small 18mo volume of 12 pages. Phonography, like all innovations, was for a long time received with doubt and hesitation, and its few adherents met with but little success in its promulgation. Stenographers still clung to their uncouth and illegible hieroglyphics, and ignored the simplicity and legibility of the now art. Luckily, for the benefit of the human race, Mr. Pitman, and his brothers (who were early initiated into its details) were made of the right kind of material, and the first comparatively imperfect attempts were soon improved, and great industry and patience manifested in the dissemination of its principles. One edition followed another, each an improvement upon the preceding, and converts were here and there made.— Its entire practicability, its simplicity, and its philosophic principles, which were urged by its inventor and his assistants, after a while began to gain for it that place in the public estimation which it deserved. For the first time in the world's history, by its aid, full and complete *verbatim* reports were published of the proceedings and debates of Parliaments, and of orations, sermons, etc. From 1837 up to 1852, Isaac Pitman had published nine editions of the art, and is still working as hard as ever to improve it, but at present under some disadvantages.

Phonography was not long in making its appearance in this country, though its friends were extremely few, and it has been only within the last eight years that its importance has been in any way extensively known. In 1847, Andrews & Boyle published a small work called "The Complete Phonographic Class-Book," and Prof. Booth of Philadelphia, issued the "Phonographic Instructor," in 1851; "The American Manual of Phonography," by Elias Longley, appeared in 1851 also, and the following year "The Phonographic

Teacher," by E. Webster. In 1852 Andrew J. Graham, author of the work now before us, published "The Reporter's Companion," and Bonn Pitman, the same year, issued the "Manual of Phonography." Each of these possessed some merit, and at the time of their publication elicited some attention. The most successful work was Mr. Pitman's. This gentleman, a brother of Isaac Pitman, has been a resident of this country for several years, and has published various phonographic works, among which we may mention "The Reporter's Companion," "History of Shorthand," "The Manners Book," "The Teacher," "Book of Psalms," etc. Some of these have been published as Books of instruction or text-books for students, while others have been compiled for the perusal of those acquainted with the phonographic characters. All the works of Mr. Pitman have been executed in superior style, and have been received with favor. He himself has devoted all his time to the dissemination of the art in which he is such a proficient, and has done much toward establishing the present position of Phonography in the United States.

The work now before us, (The Hand-Book of Standard Phonography) by Mr. Graham, of this city, is the largest and most extensive single work on Phonography yet published. We notice many changes from the heretofore established system, and some additions, all of which the author claims as improvements. In order to make it a *standard* work, the author claims: 1. That it is capable of representing with accuracy the English language, and of the principal languages quoted by English writers and speakers. 2. That it secures speed of writing, with ample legibility, so as to answer all the purposes for which long-hand is employed. 3. That it secures for reporting purposes, ample speed of writing, without illegibility. 4. That order and simplicity are observed in every department. And he claims further, that every other system of short-hand falls considerably short of these requisites to a standard work, and still further, that the professional reporter can write 30 to 50 per cent. faster by using his system than any other. He has also endeavored to present the Phonographic art in a "scientific form and manner, with a fullness yet conciseness of explanation, and a completeness of illustration," that will insure its introduction into schools, and place it upon an equal footing with other arts and sciences, which are now branches of education."

The work, as stated in the title, is divided into five parts. The first of these is an introduction to the study of Phonography, is a "description of the principal sounds of the language, accompanied by exercises designed to educate the vocal organs to the accurate and facile, and therefore elegant, formation of the components of speech." The second division, devoted to an exposition of the principles of phonography, is arranged in a series of progressive sections, with questions at the bottom of each page, and embraces the whole art, from the simple dots, ticks, and

geometrical signs representing a phonetic alphabet, up to the abbreviations, contractions, etc., which are used in the briefest and most rapid reporting style.

The author has given us, also, quite an extended list of reporting signwords and contractions, many of which are new, while others are the same as used heretofore.

FONOGRAFERZ, RFT.—Tqr iz no sort ov mater kan be given in a fonetik paper hwig iz mor interestip tu de redorz, dtrof jonerali dan intelijens from diforont parts ov de kuntri az tu lz de koz ov fonetik reform prosper. Tr redorz, skatord brost de land az du ar, hav abundant menz ov furnisij sug informafun. Fonograferz, RFT!

"Graham's Hand-Book OF STANDARD PHONOGRAPHY."

This book, a complete Encyclopedia of Phonography, but recently published, has been highly recommended by the following-mentioned journals:

- The New York Evening Post.
- The Knickerbocker Magazine.
- The New York Daily News.
- The Canadian Phonetic Pioneer.
- The St. Louis Republican.
- The New York Dispatch.
- The Boston Atlas and Daily Bee.
- The Scientific American.
- The New York Spiritual Telegraph.
- The New York Christian Intelligencer.
- The Methodist Quarterly Review, edited by Prof. D. D. Whedon, D. D.
- The Democratic Age.
- The New York Atlas.
- The Freeman's Journal.
- The New York Century.
- The Boston Zion's Herald.
- The New York Tablet.
- The New York Day-Book.
- The Poughkeepsie Gazette.
- The Home Journal.
- The New York Sunday Courier.
- The New York Leader.
- The Brother Jonathan.
- The Christian Advocate and Journal.
- The New York Constellation.
- The United States Journal.
- The National Standard, New Jersey.
- Hall's Journal of Health.
- Moore's Literary Locomotive.

And by the following-mentioned and many other phonographers, whose competency to judge is beyond all question.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Chas. H. Collar. | Mr. N. Ethell. |
| Mr. A. J. Marsh. | Mr. Wilbur F. Whitney. |
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| Mr. T. J. Ellinwood. | Wm. T. Harris, Esq., St. Louis, Mo. |
| Mr. Finlay Anderson. | |
| Mr. Henry B. Brown. | James A. Kirkpatrick, Esq. |
| Mr. M. W. Yerrington. | Prof. G. F. Comfort. |
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OSHAWA, C. W.



What it is, and who should learn it.

Phonography is a philosophical method of writing the English language, with an alphabet composed of the simplest geometrical signs, which accurately represent the sounds of spoken words. It may be written six times as fast as the ordinary long-hand, and is equally legible, and very easily learned.

The Young should learn it.

"Youths at school should be taught this art. Those intended for the learned professions would save five-sixths of the time and labor attendant on the use of the tedious longhand."—*Springfield Republican*.

"There is not an hour in the day, nor a class in the school, out of division II, in which I do not see the students using this art, and with practical advantage."—*JOHN S. HART, Principal of the High School, Philadelphia, Pa.*

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"Nine out of the ten days' verbatim report of this trial was written out by an amanuensis (a lady in this case, who did not hear a word of the trial)."—*PHONOGRAPHIC REPORTER*.

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