

THE CANADIAN

Vol. I.

No. 7.

ILLUSTRATED

SHORTHAND WRITER

NOVEMBER, 1880.

Pamph
1880
no. 45

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Pamph
1870
No. 45

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PRACTICAL STENOGRAPHY.

BY H. C. DEMMING, OF HARRISBURG, PA.



MAN is largely what he makes himself; a stenographer almost entirely so. Some people have success thrust upon them; stenographers have to win theirs. The road to eminence, in some professions, may be travelled by bunglers; there are no bungling stenographers who can travel it long. They either drop out of their own volition, or are thrown over the fence. If they come back into the road again, (to bungler), their final exit is only a question of time. There are resting places in most pursuits, and localities for refreshment and invigoration, and the final goal. The stenographer finds his goal in the grave.

"The evil that men do, lives after them."
The good is oft interred with their bones."

The evil that stenographers do lives with them; the good is oft-nigh well spent for their fellow-men ere their bones are interred. From the commencement to the close of the career of a practical business stenographer's life, he is either progressing or retrograding. No man requires greater qualifications to commence with, whether natural or acquired. No one needs a greater diversity of talent through life than he. This has reference particularly to the shorthand reporter who does miscellaneous work. To-day in a law court; to-morrow in the presence of theologians, the day after recording the intricacies of medical science; then following and placing in permanent form the advancements of chemistry; from that to metallurgy; then perhaps geology or botany, or drugs, or banking, or agriculture,—whatever the subject may be. Sometimes varying every day in a week; sometimes a week or a month in one channel; but every day some new forms of outline, and new perplexities for transcription. It does not require many years' experience to arrive at the knowledge that unless the stenographer is somewhat conversant with, or has an abstract knowledge of what he is called upon to report, he cannot give entire satisfaction to those who employ him. This

carries us back to the very beginning of the stenographer's life; to where he should see the necessity for a solid foundation to build upon. Quickness of perception; a clear head, and nimble fingers; physical and mental organisms that are able to endure long and severe taxation; a pertinacity of purpose and concentration above the medium of our race; an absence of brazen familiarity; courteousness, with an obliging disposition that can reach a positive tension; book knowledge that ought to extend somewhat into the classics; practical knowledge that should combine all the leading topics of the day and age; an honorable record for punctuality and business integrity; and, finally, a determination of purpose that will win and command success is needed.

There are so many works published on the subject of acquiring the stenographic art, that perhaps it will not be wise to consider the subject at length. The intention of this article is mainly for those who have entered upon practical work. Yet it may not be amiss to note several essentials beyond what have already been given. First, to avoid too contracted a system, although there are some contractions very useful, and very much more desirable than if written out at length. A very lengthened system also has its objections, as sometimes it becomes necessary to write so rapidly that the outlines are far from the printed patterns, and utterly unobviable by rigid rule. The "happy medium," like that of mortal life, is perhaps the best, generally speaking. If too contracted, with very rapid speakers, or temporary spurts of eloquence, the contractions are apt to be so hurriedly made as to be unreliable. If too lengthened, there is a waste of force, a tendency to scrawl, and sometimes a sporadic pen and ink effusion beyond all transcribable comprehension. Another fact: with the writing too lengthened, there is finally a peculiar throwing of the vowels where they ought not to be, when uncommon words requiring vocalization are suddenly encountered. But some persons who write very contracted forms have had marvelously good success in their shorthand career. So, too, with some who write astonishingly lengthened outlines.

The length of time necessary to become a good stenographer differs. Many of the most skillful in the United States and England have become such only after not less than five years' study, practice and application. Occasionally the announcement is made of a person becoming entirely proficient in less than a year. Like meteors the latter class flash across the stenographic sky; but in a short time, like meteors, too, they are nowhere to be found; while the stars of the growth of half a decade shine on as quietly, steadily and brilliantly as before. It is the conviction of the one now addressing you, that what are recognized as leading phonographic publications do themselves and the profession great injury by advertising such sudden stenographic growths, luring many into wasting their time, and leading the public to the belief that stenographers are worth much less as a class than they really are. Men are rightly admitted to practice at the bar only after they have passed proper examination; physicians of good standing in communities begin practice only after certain essential acquirements, and the following of the stenographic art ought not to be permitted, especially in our courts of justice, until after a certain proficiency has been attained, and a prescribed amount of actual court reporting done under instructions. Unless this, or some thing of a protective character is reached, for both the public and the profession, we need not be surprised to find stenography degenerating rather than finding increased favor in fields where such services are now most sought.


As the introduction of good and satisfactory work opens the way for an increased number of the profession, the question arises, What constitutes good and satisfactory work? It is not strictly verbatim reporting, though the skill to do it is undoubtedly of marked importance. The less verbatim the transcription, with some speakers, the better for the reputation of both reporter and speaker. In some work, very little changing is required. The most readily acquired branch of the profession is amanuensis work,—and that in its order runs about as follows: (1) Writing from dictation of court reporters; (2) from dictation of business men; (3) dictation of reporters on miscellaneous subjects; (4) of lawyers; (5) of theologians; (6) of scientific men. The next most readily reached branch, with a fair knowledge of the law, is court reporting; then verbatim reports of political meetings; then court reporting, (with little or no knowledge of law or law forms;) then conventions of a miscellaneous character, as on municipal government or agriculture; then legislative bodies; after them, say, medical societies, where few medical terms are used outside the papers read; then follow scientific bodies of all descriptions; then debates and deliberations where foreign languages or the classics are used frequently in terms, or by quotations; then bodies where they are used altogether,—as French, German and Latin.

As before intimated, however skilled in the verbatim employment, it is sometimes necessary, and often better work, to make changes from the original notes. There are times when the greater part can be made much more satisfactory by going over and sifting the whole, as in some extemporaneous speeches. To do this satisfactorily frequently necessitates severe mental strain, and much hard labor; yes, more, a careful study of the speaker, his true sentiments, (if he has any), and a keen regard for the avoidance of any swerving from his precise views. Some such it is almost impossible to please the first trial; with some half a dozen trials are absolutely necessary, if the chances are offered; and others never express pleasure to the one who has really made their speeches presentable.

Doubtless every practical stenographer has found that position of outline, when following a fluent speaker, is exceedingly difficult,—and perhaps here is one place where we may look for improvement in the near future. Though we may in learning, and at first in business pay due regard to position, after a while the characters will be observed to be not elevated enough, or too low, and in occasional spurts all the characters will be above the line or nearly on it. The only remedy I can suggest is to write every word unlike every other word, each word having its only one distinctive outline, and that outline readily made.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

LAWYERS AND LAW REPORTING.

E give below some extracts from an interesting communication with the above title which appeared in the *Globe* a few weeks since. It was written by Mr. E. E. Horton, one of the most accomplished and experienced reporters in Canada:—

“Will you permit me to draw attention to some of the obstacles to the making of a correct record of the evidence which many of the counsel practising in our courts are in the habit of putting in the way of stenographers.

The evidence in common law cases is required to be written out in narrative form; but to take down testimony in narrative form with full assurance of doing so correctly is a thing which I maintain no reporter can do. One who attempts to record testimony in narrative form must do so in a large measure constructively, and if a stenographer attempts to do that, besides sacrificing one of the chief advantages of a stenographic report, viz: the preservation of the exact words of witnesses, there is a risk of his misinterpreting, in the haste with which he must do it, the tenor of question and answer taken together.

Admitting, then, that in whatever form it may afterwards be written out, testimony should in the first instance be taken down question and answer, it is incumbent on counsel when examining witnesses to see that they do not violate

the conditions under which alone this can be done. Yet it is not at all an uncommon thing to hear the counsel and witness talking both at the same time for several minutes in succession.

One of the worst classes of counsel, from a stenographer's point of view, is the one who, knowing the story the witness has to tell, endeavors to hurry him through with it by telling part of it himself, while the witness at the same time is assenting to or denying, with or without modification, what his interlocutors is saying, and occasionally detailing snatches of the narrative himself, and equally confusing to the reporter is it to have two or three questions shot at the witness in rapid succession before he is permitted to answer one. Sometimes a witness commences to say something which the counsel then examining him seems to think of no account, because when the witness has uttered no more than a phrase which in itself conveys no meaning, the counsel interrupts him with a question on quite a different point, and what the witness has commenced to say is never completed. Yet, at a later stage of the case, though it may not have been noted by the stenographer, counsel on the other side will, if it suits his purpose, be found commenting upon this phrase, some other portion of the testimony having contributed to give meaning to the two or three disconnected words which, when originally spoken, conveyed no complete idea.

At present the shorthand writer is almost entirely ignored by counsel in our courts until transcripts of his notes are required, then not only all the evidence, but generally every objection also is wanted, although at the trial no attempt has been made to state the latter with any degree of clearness and conciseness, but on the contrary, the stenographer has been left to gather them as best he can from a discussion, sometimes of a very technical character, between judge and counsel.

Other difficulties which the court stenographer has to contend with might be mentioned, but let these suffice. If counsel would conduct the examinations with an eye to all the questions as well as all the answers and all the objections being taken down, the stenographer would be able to do his work satisfactorily to himself and all concerned, and the great danger which he now incurs of being led into mistakes, would be reduced to a minimum. To ensure an accurate report of the testimony, counsel should try to approximate the speed of both themselves and the witness to that of a moderately fast orator. Mr. T. A. Reed, of London, England, the fastest shorthand writer in the world, claims as his utmost speed only 185 words per minute. Yet, from timing myself, I find that I can read and "mind my stops" at the rate of 250 words per minute. With his mind distraught by such confusing elements, it is too much to expect of even the most skillful shorthand writer that he should be able to record the exact words of such witnesses. The fact that the evils complained of do not prevail to any appreciable extent in the

Courts of Chancery, seems to show that what is needed to cure them in the Common Law courts is the co-operation of counsel with the official reporter in the taking down of the evidence as actually given, *i. e.*, in the form of question and answer."

Next month we will give the views of Mr. George Eyvel, of the Hansard staff of stenographers, on reporting in the Ontario Courts, and the difficulties reporters meet with.

MISREPRESENTING A SPEAKER.

BY T. W. G.

ONE of the most aggravating of the many annoyances with which a newspaper reporter is afflicted, is that of being charged with misrepresenting the statements of a speaker. Reporters have to be intelligent; as a rule they are conscientious, and have no motive to give anything but an accurate report. Yet you will seldom find a speaker who thinks he has received full justice from the reporter. His all-important speech has been cut down to one-eighth; the reporters plead "crowded columns" and lack of time; his weightiest arguments and most telling figures do not appear in print at all; the reporter cannot see why his paper should re-print that which it has already published two or three times, but worst of all, statements have been put into his mouth which he did not make use of at all. Now experiences have shown that a speaker's recollection of what he has said in an *extempore* speech is frequently anything but reliable. He knows what he intended to say, but in the excitement of delivery, he is apt to be thrown off the track by interpretation, etc., and to say things he had no intention of saying. Slips of the tongue are common and incomplete explanations and half-finished sentences are so many traps into which the reporter, in the hurry of transcription, is in no small danger of falling. Knights of the pencil are liable to err, just as other people are, but when a mistake occurs in the report of a speech, the chances are that the fault is not the reporters, but the speakers.

THE SPELLING REFORM.

WHAT shall we do with our English language? The majority of people are content to allow the "arbitrary spelling" to remain. A considerable number would strictly oppose any interference with the much-loved forms of words, however unphonetic and misleading they may be; while a determined majority are bent upon the destruction of the present forms. Every month brings us a new "phonetic alphabet." Some are elaborate compilations that can never become popular; others differ from ordinary spelling mainly in the inversion of the ordinary letters, insertion of small capitals, and similar expedients; while the American Philological Society asks only for the omission of superfluities.

The question of phonetics is one of curious interest now, but will probably be of importance to all educators and literary men in the near future. Meantime the whole force of the conservatism of human nature is allied against the phonetic reformers. M. C. D. Stout, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, has taken his stand against the present orthography, and publishes an alphabet which, he claims, "represents all the elementary sounds that are used in the English language, and corresponds, as nearly as possible, with common established custom." The simple letters of the alphabet are used.

WILBERFORCE AND THE REPORTER.

DURING the debates upon the subject of public scarcity in 1802, Mr. Wilberforce one night made a long and able speech, in the course of which he recommended the cultivation of potatoes as a source of cheap food. A reporter who was present unluckily fell asleep and only awoke to hear the conclusion of the speech. He asked a man who sat next him to detail the leading points in the hon. member's argument. He was told that Mr. W. had been very eloquent in recommending the culture of potatoes; that he instanced their good effects in developing broad shoulders and a vigorous constitution, and withal lamented that his parents had not fed him in his early youth with those salubrious roots. The reporter amplified these points in his next day's paper to a speech of two or three columns—without a single sentence of what Mr. Wilberforce had really uttered. On the next day Mr. Wilberforce rose with the identical newspaper in his hand. The call of "privilege!" "privilege!" echoed from several voices, and Mr. Wilberforce addressed the chair by expressing his unwillingness at all times to restrain the liberty of the press, but when a gross misrepresentation was made of the speech of a member, it ought not to pass in silence. "Read it" echoed from all sides. Mr. W. put on his spectacles and proceeded to the reading, but every sentence produced shouts of laughter, until he came to that point where he was reported to have lamented that he had not early been fed upon potatoes and thereby rendered tall and athletic. Amid the roars of laughter of the members Mr. W. good-humoredly joined in, and said, "Well, I protest the thing is so ludicrous that it is hardly worth serious notice, and I shall pursue it no farther."

HISTORY OF PHONOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN 1845, Stephen Pearl Andrews and Augustus F. Boyle formed a co-partnership for the purpose of disseminating phonography, and published several works. In the work of teaching and spreading a knowledge of the art, they were much assisted by T. C. Leland, who is widely known. In 1848 Oliver

Dyer started the *American Phonographic Journal*, which he conducted for several years. In 1848, Elias Longley, of Cincinnati, imported English shorthand works, and published the *Phonetic Magazine*, which lived until the breaking out of the war. In 1850, H. M. Parkhurst published the *Plow Share* and other phonographic periodicals. In the latter part of 1852, Mr. Benn Pitman, a brother of Isaac Pitman, left England for Philadelphia, where he taught phonography for a short time until he left for Cincinnati, where he issued the *Phonographic Magazine and Reporter*. A. J. Graham, of New York, made his public appearance in 1854, and issued his "standard system" which is quite extensively used throughout the States. In 1867, James E. Munson published his "Complete Phonographer." This book was designed solely for those who desired to become professional reporters, and has become very popular. Mrs. Eliza B. Burns gave the world her "Phonographic Hand-book" in 1871, and since that time systems and text books have multiplied to such an extent as to render it almost impossible to enumerate them all.

LAWS AND REPORTERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY S. C. ROGERS, TROY, N. Y.

CALIFORNIA.—Under the new constitution, which went into effect fully the first of January, 1880, there are no district courts, but each county has a superior court with one or more judges, as required. In San Francisco there are twelve judges, and each judge has an official stenographer, while there are some twenty-five phonographers who are employed throughout the State. Under the new law, the test of competency has been increased from 140 to 150 words per minute.

Connecticut.—An effort made last winter to secure a bill authorizing stenographers in the supreme courts failed as usual.

Illinois.—Matters remain in *statu quo*. The State reporting is much cut up.

Indiana.—This State is well supplied with reporters of one kind and another. Young men who are poor writers are willing to report for almost nothing. The pay per diem ranges from \$3.50 to \$10.

Iowa.—This State paid shorthand reporters about \$68,000 during 1878 and 1879 for compensation at the rate of \$8 per day.

Kansas.—The law is worse than none. A law was passed last winter authorizing the appointment of reporters, but the reporter gets but six dollars a day.

Louisiana.—The laws regarding reporters are in a jumble. Salaries have been fixed at \$1800 under a recent law, but the stenographers prefer to work under the old law of 35 cents per 100 words. They intend testing the validity of the new Act.

Missouri.—The regular rate at St. Louis is

\$10 per day and twenty cents a folio; or \$2 an hour and twenty cents a folio.

Nebraska.--A State Stenographer's Society has been formed. Rate of admission, 140 words per minute.

New Hampshire.--All reportorial work is done through and for the lawyers. There are no "officials."

Pennsylvania.--Additional courts are employing reporters.

Tennessee.--An attempt to pass a stenographer's law at the last session failed, but it will be tried again this year.

Texas.--There is one "official," although the law does not provide for the regular appointment of stenographers.

Wisconsin.--Judges of county courts can now employ reporters.

Utah has no stenographic law.

A REPORTER'S DEATH.

A young man while gunning in the woods a few days ago near Foxboro, Mass., discovered the skeleton of a man lying in a clump of scrub oak. A medical examiner was notified, and on searching the clothes, still well preserved on the skeleton, and which were of fine material and well made, found among other things a reporter's note-book, several pages of which were covered with phonographic characters, a medical book published in St. John, N. B., a pocket case of pins, a pearl-handled penknife, and a bunch of keys with a check attached, stamped J. V. B. Wilton. The body was that of a man connected with the *Montreal Herald*, and had probably lain where it was found for two years. The man was probably thirty years old, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and the first right lower incisor tooth, which is missing, had been taken out a considerable time before his death.

Mr. Wilton was for several years in the employ of the *Montreal Herald*, and as a shorthand reporter had few equals. He was well-known to the members of the city press, and his ability was highly valued by the journal he served. He left Montreal for Boston, and though many enquiries were made about him no word came to his Montreal friends as to his whereabouts, and it was at one time rumored that he sailed from Boston for England. He belonged to Bristol, Eng.; had been on the English press, and leaves many friends in the Mother Country, who, in common with the acquaintances he made while in Montreal, will be horrified to learn of the unfortunate young journalist's sad fate. The information at hand thus far as to the cause of death is very meagre.

A new use for the type-writer has been developed. A style is now made which weighs but 15 pounds and is as easily carried as a piece of hand baggage. A gentleman on the Toledo train the other day improved the three hours spent on the train by answering a large batch of letters, the jolting of the car in no way affecting the operation of the machine.

"COSMOPOLITAN."

BY MISS LOUISE HOUSTON, CHICAGO, ILL.

The shades of night had barely cleared
When in a northern town appeared
A stranger, who, in accents strong,
Shouted as he went along—
"Cosmopolitan."

A Grip-sack in one hand he bore
With manuscript of ancient lore,
And those he passed on either flank
Whispered, "he's from some U. S. Bank—
"Cosmopolitan."

His brow was moist—not so his throat,
"A carpet-bagger going to vote,"
They said, and still he wildly swung
His shorthand, and likewise his tongue.
"Cosmopolitan."

"Take the old road," the grandsires hail,
"Ike changed the sign-boards head and tail,"
"The new road's the best, *Benny* graded well,"
But fainter now they hear the yell—
"Cosmopolitan."

"Take *Munson's* path around the hill"
"No, *Graham's* route is shorter still."
Yet straight ahead the stranger goes
And snickers loudly through his nose—
"Cosmopolitan."

"O wait for me," the maidens cry,
"My heart it *Burns* for an ally."
"Have you a *Cross*? I'll share it too,"—
He whispered softly as he flew,
"Cosmopolitan."

A hunter found at close of day
A stranger prone on Death's highway,
Who whispered with his latest breath,
(The ruling passion strong in death.)
"Cosmopolitan."

LITERARY FACTS AND FIGURES.

Charles Lamb used to get sixpence apiece for paragraphs in the *Morning Post*. Ordinary writers now get sixpence a line for notes in the *Pall Mall*, and Tennyson receives a guinea a line for his verses in any magazine he may choose to honor with his contributions. Mr. Oldcastle says George Eliot received \$40,000 for "Romola," and the publishers have not yet seen half their money back. Mr. James Payne receives \$12 and more for a magazine page of fiction, but only \$5 for the *Nineteenth Century*. The highest general pay on the regular monthly magazines is \$5 a page. When the late Shirley Brooks and Tom Taylor wrote, in *The Gentleman* they were never paid less than \$10 a page. *Punch's* miniature pocket-book, with a page about the size of the hand, is paid for at the rate of \$25 a page. Eight or ten years ago one writer was paid at that rate for some burlesque verses on "The Bell." Poetry, like fiction, has an exceptional experience. Until last year Tennyson received \$20,000 a year for his copyrights; but Mr. Oldcastle says, "there is only room for one Tennyson at a time." Walter Scott received over \$10,000 for "The Lady of the Lake," but Scott had to abandon poetry when Lord Byron appeared; and while Lord Byron was calculating one morning that he had made \$120,000 by poetry, Shelley was complaining of the printer's bill, which he had to defra

out of his own pocket. Browning's receipts are not equal in a year to those of the veriest newspaper hack who scribbles bad prose. Arnold's "Light of Asia" will hardly bring him in as much as a dozen political leaders "thrown off" for the *Daily Telegraph*. Journalism is handsomely paid in London, witness the writers of the *Times*, the correspondents of the *News* and the *Telegraph*.

LONGHAND WRITING.

The following statistics about writing furnish a forcible argument in favor of shorthand:—A rapid penman can write thirty words a minute. To do this he must draw his pen through the space of a rod sixteen and a half feet. In forty minutes his pen travels a furlong. We make, on an average, sixteen curves or turns of the pen in writing each word. Writing thirty words in a minute, we make 480 curves to each minute; in an hour, 28,800; in a day of only five hours, 144,000; in a year of 300 days, 43,200,000. The man who made 1,000,000 strokes with his pen in a month was not at all remarkable. Many men, newspaper writers, for instance, make 4,000,000. Here we have, in the

aggregate, a mark of 300 miles long to be traced on paper by such a writer in a year. In making each letter of the ordinary alphabet we must make from three to seven turns of the pen, or an average of three and a-half to four.

DYING SPEECH OF BENNETT.

Below we give the key to the fac-simile notes of Mr. A. C. Campbell, of the *Globe*, that appear on page 116. It is the speech made by Bennett, the murderer of the Hon. George Brown, on the scaffold.

"I am going to die, and I am innocent of this crime. I don't think there is anything more I can say at the present time. I could not control the act by which the Hon. George Brown came to his death. It was done in the excitement of the moment. He was under the impression I was going to use the revolver. Perhaps he thought so for he readily grasped it. I am going to meet my God, and it would be very foolish for me to die with a lie upon my lips. I quite understand the position in which I am placed. I am talking to you as one in the presence of his God; what I say to you are facts. It makes no difference to me what people may say of me. If I had done this thing I would have acknowledged it like a man. The blood does not trickle in my veins that would deny a thing like that if I had really done it. It would have been a wrong thing for me to have gone there to take a man's life in the manner they say I did. I will die like a man."

Phonographic Gossip.

CANADIAN.

WILLIAM WILTON reports Talmage's sermons for the *St. John's Telegraph*.

Mr. J. A. MAGURN, recently of Kingston, has obtained a position on the reportorial staff of the *Globe*.

ANDREW HOLLAND, Esq., of Ottawa, acted as reporter for the Pacific Railway Commission recently held.

Mr. JOHN DEWAR, the city editor of the *London Free Press*, was seriously injured a few days ago by jumping from a train while it was in motion.

F. W. WODELL, formerly of Sarnia, and who has been for the past few weeks on the *London Advertiser*, has gone to Hamilton to take a place on one of the city dailies.

ANOTHER man gone west.—Mr. J. Fogarty, who for some time past has acted as shorthand writer to Wm. Edgar, General Passenger Agent G. W. R., Hamilton, has left for Chicago to fill a responsible position on one of the principal Chicago roads.

A NEW use for the telephone has been discovered. At Brantford, wires were connected with the pulpit of Zion church, of which Rev. Dr. Cochran is pastor. At one of the instruments in a distant part of the town Mr. Dan S. Sager, an accomplished phonographer, stationed himself, and easily took down the sermon in shorthand. He heard the minister's voice very distinctly, and experienced no difficulty in catching every word.

Mr. JAMES CRANKSHAW opened the shorthand classes in the Montreal Mechanic's Institute a few evenings ago. He gave an opening lecture, in which he explained the phonetic basis upon which alphabetic writing was originally founded, together with a short explanation of shorthand.

Mr. JUSTICE CAMERON told the lawyers at Goderich assizes the other day that there would be no adjournment for luncheon. This, no doubt, pushes business, but there is one man that we know from experience would be none the worse for an intermission of half an hour in a full day's court, and that is the shorthand reporter. To expect a man to take evidence at the rate of over 120 and sometimes over 140 words a minute for eight or nine hours without intermission, is asking for too much.—*Toronto World*.

AMERICAN.

LEADVILLE, Col., only boasts of two phonographers.

H. J. JEWETT has a colored stenographer for an amanuensis.

Mr. H. C. DEMMING, of Harrisburg, Pa., reports for four districts.

A LADY has been appointed the stenographer to the Terre Haute Judicial Court.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN drove a California reporter into suicide when he was there.

JOHN T. RAYMOND, the actor, earned his first money by selling the *Buffalo Courier*. He is now rich and famous.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA speaks at the rate of 200 words a minute, and uses a variety of French and Latin phrases.

EVERY time the button on the back of a man's shirt gives way, the recording angel finds it necessary to resort to his shorthand.

A MAN named Millar, at Ponca, Neb., was foolish enough to confess to a murder, when the citizens hung him before a shorthand reporter could write down the confession.

THE new officers of the N. Y. State Stenographer's Association are C. G. Tinsley, Syracuse, Pres.; W. E. Payne, Albany, Vice-Pres.; and G. H. Thornon, Buffalo, Sec. and Treas. The Association has thirty-nine honorary members.

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN.

MACAULAY used to speak at the rate of 330 words a minute.

A SHORTHAND class has been formed in Toowoomba, Australia.

THERE are only two shorthand associations in Ireland,—one in Newry, and one in Belfast.

MR. H. R. EVANS has purchased Mr. Nankivell's share in the *Journalist*, and is now its sole editor and proprietor.

GOVERNMENT reporters were present at the London Adelphi Theatre on the occasion of a recent Irish play, and took shorthand notes of the dialogue.

THE Belfast Shorthand Writer's Association has been resuscitated. There are three grades of membership—junior, intermediate and senior members.

C. P. STAFFORD, an Italian journalist, died recently at Kurrachee. He was the first professional shorthand writer sent to India, having joined the *Bombay Times* about fifteen years ago.

ISAAC PITMAN's system is taught in Spurgeon's College, London. The class meets once a week. There is also a class of fifty boys in the Stockwell Orphanage, of which Mr. Spurgeon is the President.

Editorial Notes.



THE September number of the *Phonograph* contained an excellent colored portrait of Shakespeare.

MR. Thomas is still continuing his dissection of Isaac Pitman's new Dictionary in the *Phonographer's Herald*.

MR. Butterworth's *Phonographic Monthly* is one of the best edited and lithographed of the English shorthand Magazines.

THE artist of the *Meteor* seems to have a weakness for delineating feminine forms. We are treated to one or more every month.

THE shot of the *Phonographic Monthly's* "pea-shooter" seems to take effect, if we can judge from the revengeful remarks indulged in by some of our English contemporaries.

WE have received an excellent photograph of Mr. James E. Munson, of New York. Any person desiring a copy for framing can obtain one by sending 50 cents to Mr. L. Rouse, Box 3722, New York.

WE give the first installment of an article by H. C. Demming, Esq., of Harrisburg, Pa., on "Practical Stenography." It was read at the last meeting of the N. Y. State Stenographer's Association.

A discussion is going on in some of the English shorthand publications on the subject of granting phonographic certificates. It is suggested that examinations be periodically held in connection with Shorthand Writers' Associations; that Inspectors be appointed by Mr. Isaac Pitman, and the certificates gained to be ultimately submitted to him for signature.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. W. S. Jordan, the Secretary of the Topeka Stenographer's Association, proposes to visit Toronto about Christmas. On behalf of the Toronto knights we bid you a hearty welcome.

THOSE of our friends who seem to require information on the subject are informed that this magazine is under the editorial control of Mr. George Bengough, Mr. Frank Yeigh being associate editor. Mr. Thos. Bengough occupies the position of a court reporter.

FRIEND Browne, in the last issue of his *Monthly*, charges us with "interpolating so as to gain recognition" in the matter of the report of the suicide of Mr. Harry P. Comegys, of Topeka, Kansas. In reply we will give the Secretary's official letter to us:

GENTLEMEN,—As requested by the Topeka Stenographer's Association, I forward you by mail to-day a copy of the Topeka *Capitol*, containing an account of the suicide of one of the most promising members of our fraternity, Harry P. Comegys, with a request that you will insert in your magazine the resolutions passed by the above Association, for the benefit of his numerous friends in the East.

In the last paragraph of the resolutions, you will notice only Browne's *Phonographic Monthly* mentioned. This was an oversight. Please insert after the words "New York City," and the CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITER, Toronto, Canada.' By complying with this request we shall feel deeply indebted. I remain,

Yours fraternally,

W. S. JORDAN, Sec'y.

Mr. Arthur Bristow, of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, wishes to start an ever-circulator, and would like to hear from any of our Ben Pitman subscribers who favor the formation of one. Mr. F. Craig, of Peterboro, would also like to join an ever-circulator written in Isaac Pitman's system.

The editor of the *Metro* does not think much of the Shorthand Writers' Associations, and doubts their usefulness and utility. This is what he says: "The apparent results are disappointing. There are some associations which exist principally upon paper, while the reports of many of those that do exist are the reverse of cheerful reading. We know of many who have succumbed to the inevitable affairs of circumstances, and the records of defunct societies would furnish food for useful reflection." We can agree with our contemporary. We can point to but a few successful associations on this continent. There seems to be something radically

wrong in the management of these institutions, but we imagine that one of the chief reasons why shorthand societies do not exist in greater numbers, and those that are formed are not more successful is the lack of assimilation between professional writers and those who are yet amateurs or advanced students. We are sorry to say that there is a feeling on the part of many practiced phonographers to turn the cold shoulder to the student, and discountenance his efforts to master the art. We do not mean to say that this feeling is universal among reporters, but that it does find expression in some, we are convinced. In this connection we would give vent to our opinions on another subject, the seeming selfishness of shorthand reporters to rigidly keep to themselves any useful points in the art they may have discovered by experience—contractions, word signs, and the like. The pages of the *WRITER* are always open to the reception of any notes that would benefit the plodding student in his study of phonography."

Communications.

LADY STENOGRAPHERS.

ITHACA, N.Y., Nov. 11th, 1880.

To the Editor of the *WRITER* :—

In the October number of your excellent magazine, you state that the appointment of a lady as official stenographer to the courts of Washington County, Ohio, is the first case of a lady's being appointed to such an office in the States. This I think is a mistake. Mrs. Palmer, of Utica, a member of our State Association, has held the position of official stenographer to the county courts of three counties of our state for the past four or five years. And I think Miss Pulsifer, of Maine, has held a similar position for a much longer time.

Respectfully yours,

THEO. C. ROSE.

SHORTHAND AMONG THE ROMANS.

OTTAWA, October 24, 1880.

To the Editor of the *WRITER* :—

In "Middleton's Life of Cicero" it is related that on one occasion Cicero having learned that some of the senators present could write "shorthand," caused a report of the proceedings to be taken in full. Does not this look as though something analogous to our phonography was known to the Romans?

Yours truly,

JOSEPH POPE.

KANSAS CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. W. J. Jordan, the Secretary of the Topeka Stenographer's Association, sends us the following items, for which he will accept our thanks.

Mr. L. S. Wilson has been appointed Stenographer to the Governor of Kansas, John P. St. John.

Would like to see you at our annual dinner. Come and cartoon us. We are a jolly crowd, I tell you, the facetious element being strongly represented.

The officers of the Topeka Stenographer's Association for the ensuing year are as follows: T. J. Tilley, President; G. W. Loomis, Vice-President; E. T. Hall, Treasurer; W. J. Jordan, Secretary.

15,000 WORDS ON A POSTAL CARD.

THE contractility of Phonography has another illustration, this one being from the United States. Mr. E. L. Knapp, of Dowagiac, Mich., writes: "I notice in the September number of your magazine some account of postal cards upon which have been written a great number of words, the highest number being some 14,000. I have a card written by myself when I was studying phonography which will beat that. I have a postal card the size used in the U. S., upon one side of which are written 15,000 words in legible phonography in Graham's system. It was written with the naked eye, but is difficult to read without the aid of a glass. The matter written is a charge to the jury in the case of the People vs. Owen Lindsay, a murder case tried in Syracuse, N. Y., and reported by Tinsley and Morgan, and a portion of one of the arguments to the Jury by counsel for the Defence."

Is the type writer overvaluing
to the Professor,
and does it
lead to insanity?



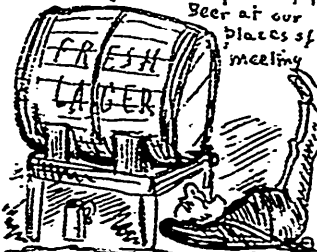
The relation of
Billiards & shorthand



Should a
Reporter
wear socks,
if so, what
size!



on the depletion in quantity of
Beer at our
places of
meeting



Simon and
Pittac. Dr. Stoll-
Erwin and
H. Graham



"That nasty
Smoke!"



Are delays
dangerous?



The benefits to be derived from
Wet Towels by the
Professor



you're in love, Sir.



The value
of an M.D.
at Assn
meetings

Talk slower
Mario. I can't
take you down!



Should sessions be Biennial



The Easiest & Speediest
way of putting
Supervisors
out of
misery.



Is marriage a good thing for Reps?



Ladies at Amusements.



Will I take down
the Professor, too?

The Uncertainty
of a
Sawing



LITERARY FACTS AND FIGURES
WRITTEN IN BENN PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

40,000
100
20,000
120,000

[Handwritten shorthand representing literary facts and figures]

COSMOPOLITAN.

[Handwritten shorthand representing the word 'COSMOPOLITAN']

[Handwritten shorthand representing a speaker's speech]

MISREPRESENTING A SPEAKER.

1847
21

[Handwritten shorthand illustrating misrepresentation of a speaker]



"FOLLOWING" A DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER.

GOLD AND STEEL PENS.

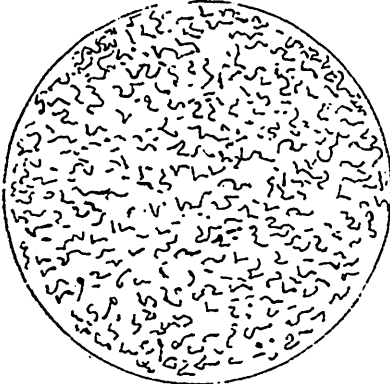
WRITTEN IN GRAHAM'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Graham's system, including the words 'P. 25, C. 8, 10' and '20, 25, 6'.

AN AMBIDEXTER.

WRITTEN IN MUNSON'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Munson's system, arranged in two columns.



SECTION OF A REPORTER'S BRAIN (*Magnified.*)

A WONDERFUL MACHINE.
WRITTEN IN MUNSON'S SYSTEM.

A column of shorthand text written in Munson's system, consisting of approximately 20 lines of symbols on a four-line grid. Some symbols include numbers like 250 and 300.

AN AMBIDEXTER. (*Continued.*)
WRITTEN IN MUNSON'S SYSTEM.

A column of shorthand text written in Munson's system, continuing from the previous section. It consists of approximately 20 lines of symbols on a four-line grid. Some symbols include numbers like 4:58.



THIS SPEAKER OUGHT TO BE "TAKEN IN FULL."

LAWS AND REPORTERS OF THE U. S.
WRITTEN IN ISAAC PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten shorthand text in Isaac Pitman's system, including numerical figures such as 1000, 1500, 140, 150, 180, 170, 68, 1578, 79, 1800, and 350. The text is densely packed and includes the phrase "statu quo".

Handwritten shorthand text in Isaac Pitman's system, including the number 140. The text is dense and fills the upper right quadrant of the page.

15,000 WORDS ON A POSTAL CARD,

Handwritten shorthand text in Isaac Pitman's system, including the number 146. The text is dense and fills the middle right quadrant of the page.

TYPEWORK OF A NEWSPAPER.

Handwritten shorthand text in Isaac Pitman's system, representing newspaper typework. The text is dense and fills the lower right quadrant of the page.

LAWYERS AND LAW REPORTERS.
WRITTEN IN GRAHAM'S SYSTEM.

The left column contains a dense block of shorthand symbols. These symbols are highly stylized, often consisting of a few sharp strokes or curves that represent letters or words. The symbols are arranged in approximately 25 horizontal rows, filling the left half of the page.

The right column contains a dense block of shorthand symbols, mirroring the style of the left column. These symbols are also highly stylized and arranged in approximately 25 horizontal rows, filling the right half of the page.



A. S. CHILDS,
SHORTHAND WRITER; NORWICH, CONN.

A REPORTER'S DEATH.
WRITTEN IN ISAAC PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

Went to the office at 10 o'clock
and found the door locked
and the key in the door
I tried to get in
but could not
I called for some time
but no one came
I was obliged to go home
and get my key
I found the door open
and the key in the door
I went in and found
the door open
and the key in the door
I went in and found
the door open
and the key in the door
I went in and found
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and the key in the door

THE SPELLING REFORM.

Went to the office at 10 o'clock
and found the door locked
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but could not
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Leaves from Reporters' Note Books.

FACSIMILE OF THE REPORTING NOTES OF J. C. CAMPBELL, OF THE GLOBE. (See key in common print.)

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" 2	100
" 4	80

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SHORTHAND REVIEW,
Wolfe & Fracker, Publishers, P. O. Box 175, Cleveland, O.

OPINIONS OF SHORTHAND WRITERS.

I have taken a great fancy to it.—*Wm. Holly, Chester-Field, Eng.*

I am delighted with it.—*Wm. Milligan, White Rock, Ill.*

I am very much pleased with it.—*Herbert Burrows, Napalet.*

It has more than met my expectations.—*T. S. Godfrey, Hamilton.*

I will do what I can for the WRITER.—*R. Finley, Montreal.*

It has an exceedingly neat appearance.—*S. C. Rodgers, Troy, N. Y.*

I trust it will meet with all the success it merits.—*Jos. Pope, Ottawa.*

Like it first rate.—*H. A. Aumont, Phonographic College, Sterling, Ill.*

It surpasses foreign material.—*S. W. M. Truro, N. S.*

The Shorthand Writer.—Opinions of the Press.

It is published every month, and is decidedly the best publication of the kind in the market. It should enjoy an enormous circulation.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER is one of the latest journalistic efforts of Toronto, and promises to be very popular.—*Norwich, Ont., Gazette*.

It is cosmopolitan to a wonderful extent, and puts our magazines a long way in the shade in that particular. One peruses magazines from across the ocean with a feeling of freshness and satisfaction after having plodded through the heavy literature of the English. We wish the new venture every success.—*English Phonographic Monthly*.

We take great pleasure in recommending to all students of shorthand writing, Mr. Bengough's interesting and invaluable serial, THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER. It is published every month, and is decidedly the best publication of the kind in the market. It should enjoy an enormous circulation. Its merits deserve this.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

THE SHORTHAND WRITER is the title of a neat little monthly published by Bengough Bros., Toronto, the third number of which has just been issued. The present number contains portraits and biographical sketches of the House of Commons Hansard staff appointed at the last session of Parliament, also interesting phonographic gossip and exercises in various systems.—*Sunnyside (P. E. I.) Journal*.

The second number of this excellent periodical, for June, is to hand. It is printed and published by Bengough Bros., Toronto, at the low price of one dollar per annum. It contains a large amount of matter valuable and interesting to shorthand students and writers, and is illustrated by the fertile cartoonist of *Grip*, Mr. J. W. Bengough. We predict for the WRITER an extensive circulation and successful career.—*London Free Press*.

The first number of THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER has just reached this country. It is published by Bengough Brothers, of Toronto, at one dollar per annum. Several editorial notes and gossip are given in common print, which are followed by several articles in shorthand. Both the ordinary type and lithographed shorthand pages are admirably printed, and the matter is professionally very interesting.—*Newcastle, Eng., Courant*.

Messrs. Bengough Bros., of *Grip*, have recently got out the first number of a publication which will be very interesting to shorthand writers, and those who are studying stenography. It is called the ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER, and is printed almost entirely in different styles of shorthand. It is admirably illustrated by the great *Grip* Cartoonist, and in its general style and get up is a credit to the publishers, which is saying a good deal. Our large staff of shorthand reporters praise it highly. We would advise all who intend becoming stenographers to subscribe.—*Exchange*.

We have received from Bengough Bros., of Toronto, the second number of THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITER. The number before us is an excellent one, and will be found valuable to students of phonography. The magazine is the advocate of no particular system, but gives equal prominence to all. Specimens of phonographic writing are given, and each number is illustrated by several comic cuts from the pencil of Mr. J. W. Bengough, *Grip's* cartoonist. The magazine deserves the hearty support of all stenographers and students of shorthand writing.—*Kingston News*.

CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITER.—The second number of this journal, under the editorial management of the Bengough Bros., has many valuable features to commend it, especially to the profession and student in Canada. It gives about all that is interesting in the way of news in shorthand circles, well written articles, with clever illustrations from the pencil of *Grip's* cartoonist, upon timely topics, and numerous specimens of shorthand written in the different standard systems, which makes the magazine more than usually interesting to those who like to know what can be done in systems with which they are not acquainted. The SHORTHAND WRITER is a first-class phonographic magazine in every respect.—*London Advertiser*.

From all appearance, this little magazine will be a welcome guest among all writers of the art, irrespective of any particular system. It is perfectly cosmopolitan in character, and contains new and interesting matter in regard to the different subjects treated. It is published, both in its typic and lithographic portions, very similar to that of the *Review*, and will undoubtedly prove a valuable acquisition to shorthand literature.—*The Shorthand Review, Cleveland, Ohio*.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER is the title of a well-edited and well-printed magazine, the second number of which has just been issued from *Grip* office. Unlike some journals devoted to shorthand, this one is perfectly neutral as between the various systems, and it numbers amongst its contributors disciples of the two Pitmans, Graham and Munson, besides one or two who acknowledge none of these men as their master. The WRITER is full of interesting matter about shorthand and shorthand writers, not the least entertaining feature of the magazine being the cartoons and cartoon portraits by the artist of *Grip*.—*The Globe, Toronto*.

We are in receipt of a monthly magazine entitled "The Canadian Illustrated Shorthand Writer," which is, as its name implies, a paper devoted to the advancement of the art of phonography, which has now become almost an essential feature in a common English education, and without which the newspaper: fraternity, the railroad companies and our courts, as well as other businesses and organizations, would proceed and move forward slowly. The "Canadian Writer" is illustrated each month with well engraved *fac similes* of the leading systems of the day, including those of Pitman, Graham, Munson, Cross and others, and the publishers, Messrs. Bengough Brothers of Toronto, Canada, certainly have filled a long-felt want among the "swift writing" fraternity.—*Daily Nonpariel, Council Bluffs, Iowa*.

The second number of THE SHORTHAND WRITER has just come to hand. On the title page is a portrait of Mr. Charles Sumner, the eminent phonographer of California. It is illustrated by some happy hits, one of which is "300 words a minute," in which an Irish woman is giving it to Pat, at the rate of 300 words a minute, we presume. The phonographic exercises are improved over the first number. The magazine certainly has the merit of candor and fairness so far, and by its illustrations of different systems will do much to answer the great question as to which phonography to practice, and as long as it abstains from the too prevalent practice of other so called phonographic magazines, to throw mud, it must receive the support of all candid and fair-dealing phonographers.—*Boston Journal of Commerce*.

We are pleased to notice that the enterprising publishers of *Grip* have issued a new magazine called THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER. The magazine is cosmopolitan in character and not the exponent of any one particular system, but all the standard systems are illustrated in its pages. Questions of interest to the fraternity are discussed, and excellent articles are supplied every month by eminent shorthand writers. This magazine supplies a want long felt, and being edited by an experienced phonographic reporter, can lay claim to superior merits. The magazine is only one dollar a year, and every shorthand writer, no matter what system he uses, should subscribe, for all are impartially discussed and illustrated.—*Cobourg Sentinel-Star*.

SHORTHAND LITERATURE.—The second number of the "Canadian Shorthand Writer," illustrated in the most humorous manner, has just reached this country from Messrs. Bengough Brothers, of Toronto. It is quite a remarkable production, combining both common print, cartoon portrait of James Crankshaw, formerly of Manchester, who has established a branch of the English Phonetic Society in Canada; pages lithographed in different systems of stenography and phonography, including shorthand articles on Shakespeare and Shorthand, Napoleon's Shorthand Secretary, Phonographic Numerals, &c. An Irishwoman is picture-quely represented in a scolding mood, speaking to her husband at the extraordinary rate of "three hundred words a minute!" The great Napoleon is represented as sitting contemplatively on the rock of St. Helena and saying, "I wish I had somebody to take me down now!" The get-up of the number is good.—*Newcastle, Eng., Courant, July 6th*.