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BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. III.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 1882.

No. 6.

A SHORTHAND LITERARY AND SOCIAL CLUB.

The idea which has been mooted of forming a club for literary and recreative purposes has been received with general favor by the fraternity. The club need have no vital connection with the Canadian Shorthand Society, but would serve a useful purpose by affording opportunities for untrammelled discussion of projects, plans and prospects. The proposed organization might be formed on a more comprehensive basis than the Society, the student of a week being permitted to enter, as well as the veteran reporter. The beneficial results of such a club cannot but be evident to every one. In the presence of the younger members, the Seniors will relax the tension which business and literary cares have strained to the utmost, and on the other hand the presence of men who have met with success in the pursuits of commerce and learning will impart light and lustre to routine duties which, without the stimulus of their immediate observation and commendation, might appear to the younger members to be no more ennobling or elevating than, and quite as monotonous and tiresome as, those of an ordinary street-car horse travelling a dull round of duty.

It is said there are even street-car horses who feel an inner consciousness of being lineal descendants of Pegasus, and who break their hearts eventually from traversing the same route every day; and we dare say many a noble ambition has met the same fate (or the more ignoble one of death from drink) because the chafing of a restless spirit, an unrecognized talent, was more than the body could endure.

Let us by all means, then, have a literary and social club such as that which President Bradley placed so temptingly before our eyes in describing the Chicago Press Club. Though our present means preclude the engagement of professionals (something which we trust the growing appreciation of Canadian shorthand writers will permit, some time in the near future), have we not sufficient talent among our own members

to supply entertainment for a considerable period? Have we not musicians, vocalists, violinists, guitarists, pianists,—have we not material for readings, recitations, essays, dissertations and anecdotes? Who does not want to hear some more of Alderman Taylor's quaintly-told stories of old times? or some of Mr. Bradley's thrilling tales of life at the capital? or the history of some modern Jack of the road, from the lips of one of the official reporters? or Scotch stories from Chief-of-Staff Crawford, with the strong Keltic accent of the wearers of the Kilts? or a speech on Woman's Wrongs from a representative of the strong-minded sisterhood? or a weird historic sketch from Rev. Dr. Wild? or a Plea for Phonetics from Philological Tyson or Dominie Lewis? or a Homely Homily from Rev. Mr. Torrance on the Sinfulness of Stenographers who read from Longhand Notes?

The mutual rubbing of such an assembly would mean mutual polish. Since the days when such company-loving souls as Steele and Addison gathered their friends together in a London coffee-house, literary and social gatherings have been recognized as a capital tilting-ground on which to try the mettle of knight and steed, man and hobby.

We would suggest that such a club should have, as its working officers and active members, those from the junior class, who have more time at hand and naturally more enthusiasm than the older and more settled members of the fraternity. The constitution might provide that each member in turn should preside over the literary exercises, introducing them with an address; and might also make provision for lectures, papers, recitations, music, discussions, exhibitions of skill in type-writing, and of new inventions. An occasional spelling, geographical, historical or literary "bee" would not be amiss, and would wonderfully brighten memories as to facts, places, dates and orthography. A mimic Parliament might

occasionally be formed, with its "Speaker," "Hansard reporters," and, possibly, "strangers in the gallery." The "Government" and "Opposition" might discuss questions of public policy as involved, e.g., in a "Bill for the Regulation of Shorthand Writers, with a Special View to the Speedy Despatch in a Quiet Way of the Unemployed Surplusage"; or a "Bill for the Instant Removal of the Shorthand Centre from Chicago to Toronto." These parliamentary debates, conducted according to the procedure of the House of Commons, would doubtless be the means of developing latent talent, and preparing embryo members for that august assembly, who, in return for such kindness, would reward their "friends" with Government appointments! Happy thought!

While discussions of "systems" are properly ignored in Conventions, a free-and-easy Club such as we have in mind might add variety and vivacity to its exercises by examinations and expositions of new shorthand systems and expedients. By such discussions the Juniors especially would profit, for in forming reporting habits they are naturally influenced by the experience of their seniors. For example, a discussion of Thornton's "light-line" phonography would bring out the varied experiences of all present as to the advantages and otherwise of light and shaded strokes. Similarly, a reference to Mrs. D. L. S. Browne's "hell-hook" would bring up for profitable discussion the whole question of hooks, curves and loops, and their value and place as contractions. In brief, we advocate a mutual study—as animated and interesting as it may be made—of the *science* of Phonography and Phonetics, as contradistinguished from the *art*. A weekly, or at least a fortnightly meeting might be held, each monthly meeting, during the winter being semi-public, members being entitled to invite as many friends as they desire. These meetings to be held in a spacious and comfortable room well fitted as to acoustics, etc., and convenient of access. We would advise a stationary head-quarters, where steps might immediately be taken towards the founding of a reference and phonographic library, for the use of members in the city, and of visitors from the country.

We would also suggest that a gymnasium should be added to the attractions of the club. An exceptional opportunity to secure apparatus and instruction is now within reach of the promoters of the movement, and we feel confident it would prove an inestimable boon as a cure or preventative for pen paralysis, and the nervousness con-

sequent on mental exertion, as well as being an aid to the development of that bone and muscle of which, as Canadians, we are so proud.

In the event of such a Club being organized, the publisher of the WRITER will undertake to furnish the reading-room with all the Canadian newspapers—city and Provincial—and copies of the various shorthand publications.

Though the foregoing suggestions have special reference to Toronto, they will also apply to our sister cities, London, Hamilton, Guelph, St. Catharines and Ottawa, in Ontario; Winnipeg, in Manitoba; Quebec and Montreal in Quebec; St. John in New Brunswick; and Halifax in Nova Scotia. The basis of membership being sufficiently broad to admit all classes and degrees, there should be in each of these cities a nucleus around which an active and useful organization could gather.

After the crushing attack by Browne's *Monthly* on Canadian phonographers, because of their alleged inability to organize, we should run a fearful risk if we presumed to present the above outline as one that might be adopted with profit by our Columbian brethren. But, while we shrink shudderingly from such presumption, we may with "whispered humbleness" suggest that it may do our American friends no harm to contemplate the picture. Let them understand, however, that in adopting any of these Canadian ideas they render themselves liable to the severest censure of the *Monthly* critic—with all that is thereby implied!

THE SHORTHAND CONVENTION.

(*Napanee Express*.)

[By a Stenographer who was Present.]

The Canadian Shorthand Convention, held in Toronto on the 29th and 30th ult., was a decided success in every particular. The object of the convention was to form an association, the object of which is to strengthen the fraternity of shorthand writers as a body and for the personal benefit of the several members of the Association. About seventy shorthand writers attended and the most perfect harmony prevailed throughout. The invitation extended to the brethren across the lines, and was well responded to. Mr. Murphy, of Washington, was present and received a hearty welcome.

The assembly met at 10 a.m. on the 29th ult. Several most interesting letters and telegrams were read from noted shorthand writers. In the United States and Canada, expressing regrets of absence and approbation of the objects aimed at by the proposed Association. In the afternoon most interesting papers were read.

Mr. Bruce gave a paper showing the legal status of the Stenographic profession in the different Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Miss A. M. Ashley, of Belleville, read a paper on "Shorthand writing and Efficient Women to Write It." This paper in an admirable way showed that ladies were not as incompetent and unable to perform the duties required of a shorthand amanuensis as is generally thought by business men and others. It is evident that a great reformation is pending in relation to the employment of lady stenographers. Several ladies are now employed in business houses in the city and are all giving good satisfaction.

During the afternoon the subject of "Shorthand in Schools" was touched upon. There was considerable diversity of opinion but the majority decided that it would be a much needed reform. It was clearly shown that with shorthand at least one-third of the time of a school course would be saved, and this itself is a great point in favor of the introduction of shorthand into the schools.

One of the most interesting parts of the programme was the evening session at the City Hall. It would be impossible to give a detailed list of the machines and appliances as well as the ancient books and other oddities on exhibition there.

A lithographic stone was exhibited and specimens of the work distributed. There were at least five different styles of type-writers exhibited. A No. 2 machine of the old class which prints capitals and small letters; two caligraphs which also print capitals and small letters, but have twice the number of keys that are used on the former. Mr. Horton's machine was also exhibited, though in an unfinished condition. It has several advantages over all other machines shown, one of which is that the work can be constantly seen by the writer without lifting the carriage, and another that the machine is far simpler than those of American make. The portraits of authors of systems and distinguished reporters were also to be seen on the tables.

Several distinguished speakers addressed the large audience assembled to take in some of the wonders of the shorthand world. The hall was filled and several left not being able to obtain seats.

Prof. Goldwin Smith read the address of "Welcome," and in the course of his remarks gave a short *resume* of the growth of shorthand from the time of Zenophon to the present. [Zenophon was a shorthand writer who ran a Bazaar in Egypt, but whose business was injured by the bombardment of Alexandria. His name does not appear in history, hence this explanatory note. Ed. C.S.W.]

Mr. Wm. Houston, M.A., [formerly] of the *Globe*, gave a very interesting paper showing some of the glaring defects of our language and strongly advising the introduction of shorthand

into the schools. He is a man of large experience and his opinion is valuable, and is no doubt sanctioned by the country in the steps already taken in this direction.

Rev. Dr. Wild said that it was shorthand that made him what he is. It was shorthand that put the first \$50 in his pocket and enabled him to complete his education. He was an efficient reporter when only eleven years of age. He closed by giving some practical advice inspired by his own experience.

But the most important subject of the evening—a subject affording a great deal of satisfaction to the hard-worked shorthand writer—was presented by Mr. Bengough. It was the reading of letters by business men stating their opinion of shorthand writers as amanuenses, and not only do they testify to the great amount of time saved but one of them stated that the manner in which their business was done was so greatly improved by the employment of shorthand skill as to increase their business at least fifty per cent., and it is certainly a fact to be considered by business men that three-fourths of the time of corresponding is saved and the work much more efficiently done. A most enjoyable evening was spent and everyone went away highly satisfied that shorthand was indeed an "institutooshun" not to be undervalued.

The members met on the morning of the 30th ult., at the Rossin House, where cabs were provided, and the majority of the Association took part in a most interesting drive through the city, calling at the "Zoo" before taking the northern part of the city. The new Rosedale bridge was visited, after which the cabs crossed over to Yonge-st., driving through the Queen's Park on the way to the depot, whence the delegates departed to take a part in the International Congress of Shorthand Writers to be held at Cincinnati. This brings to a close the first meeting of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association, one of the most remarkable features of which, and a feature which should greatly encourage our amateurs, was that the seniors and professionals took such an interest in the second-rate shorthand writers. We are glad to note such a friendly and fraternal spirit prevailing and predict for ourselves as successful a future as their first convention has proved to be.

BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER for September has its pages mainly devoted to the meetings of the Canadian and United States Shorthand Writers' Congresses. The accounts of the proceedings, and the racy comments thereon, will doubtless be read with much interest by every stenographer. Learners can also study the constitution of the newly-formed Association with advantage, for at last a movement which promises to be successful has been started to give a status to all really worthy members of the profession.—*Hamilton Times*.

NEWS NOTES.

CANADIAN.

Miss A. M. Ashley, of Belleville, has been added to our Bureau staff, in the tuition department.

Mr. W. T. Lancefield, Hamilton, reported the Phripps extradition case in that city, and transcribed the evidence on the type-writer.

Mr. H. M. Mathewson has the contract for reporting the Provincial Sunday School Convention which meets at Brampton this month.

Mr. Alexander McIntosh, who was placed through our Bureau with Messrs. Scarth, Cochran & Co., stock brokers, has gone to the North-west with his family.

Mr. Fred. Fryers has taken a position as stenographer for the Phenix Ins. Co. of Boston, with headquarters at St. Catharines. He likes the position well and is succeeding admirably. He is learning the type-writer.

On account of the destruction by fire of the *Tribune* building, Hamilton, Mr. George H. Taylor, who had been selected as managing editor, accepted a temporary engagement with Prof. O. S. Fowler. The building is being erected rapidly, and on its completion the new paper will be started.

Mr. E. E. Horton has so far perfected the key-board of his new type-writing machine that the model machine will compose words. The mechanism is successful, and the machine, if it can be placed upon the market advantageously, will no doubt take high rank in this new branch of development in connection with our profession.

Our genial friend, T. Wm. Bell, of St. John, N. B., the coiner of the new and expressive word "stenhographer"—a term whose use it is hoped will be very limited—leaves about the middle of this month for an extended Continental tour, for the benefit of his health. We wish him *bon voyage*, and trust he may return full of old-time vim, vigor and vivacity.

Mr. Albert Andrews, of this city, has adapted a pedal arrangement to the perfected type-writer, by means of a wire passing through the table, connecting with the key which operates the movement for making the capitals. The idea has been adopted by several other operators, one of whom is working upon an improvement in the form of a knee-swell arrangement.

At the Industrial Exposition held in this city last month, one of the main features of attraction was an exhibition of type-writing machines, Mr. A. J. Henderson and wife representing the caligraph interests, while the type-writer was advocated and illustrated by Mr. H. J. Emerson, of our Bureau, assisted by Miss E. Horton and Messrs. A. Downey and F. L. A. Sims.

Mr. Geo. Eyvel, of the House of Commons Hansard Staff, is busy as Secretary of the Press

Colonization Company—an enterprise which promises to completely revolutionize editorial habits and methods—substituting luxury for leanness, and enabling the hitherto hampered newspaper man to enjoy the pleasures of life without having to undergo the humiliation of accepting free lunches.

The demand for type-writing operators is rapidly increasing in Canada. Within the past week we have negotiated for three special engagements for this description of work. Nearly all the principal law offices in Toronto have, within the last few months, purchased type-writers, and the ability to run a machine at the rate of 40 words per minute means, in nearly every case, an increase of salary to the operator, either in possession or in prospect.

There is a veritable shorthand "boom," and several amanuenses in the city are taking advantage of it by teaching pupils the mysteries of the art. We are seriously contemplating sending out a man-of-war to capture these piratical small craft who have been guilty of the capital crime of piracy, under and with the benefit accruing from, the beacon light of our advertising. A share of the booty might possibly cause us to wink at this high-sea robbery! *Verb. sap.*

Mr. Houll, who upon his arrival in this country from England, some three months ago, took a position as shorthand amanuensis with Eby, Blain & Co., wholesale grocers, was taken ill with typhoid fever, about the beginning of September, and after two weeks' sickness succumbed to the disease. His parents had just arrived a few days before his death. He was a young man of fine parts, and had made himself valuable to his employers, but had not formed many acquaintances among the fraternity.

The wife of Mr. G. B. Bradley, President of the Canadian Shorthand Society, can readily read his reporting notes with ease and certainty. He writes a system of stenography invented by his father. Mr. Bradley relates a peculiar fact in connection with his notes. Over twenty years ago he reported the Rev. Newman Hall's sermon on "The Loss of the London," and although at that time he had difficulty in deciphering his notes, he can now read them with perfect ease and fluency. Mr. Bradley thinks this a strong illustration of the necessity for and advisability of a thorough training while a student.

Mr. W. H. Huston, M. A., has a class numbering about thirty students of phonography at Pickering College. At the opening of the college twenty pupils offered themselves for tuition, but in a few days the class increased to thirty. No extra charge is made to phonographic pupils, and Pickering College is the only one of its kind which offers this inducement to students. Mr. Huston is to be congratulated upon the remarkable success of his work. One of his pupils, Mr. George Clarke, who learned the rudiments of Pitman's system at the college, is now taking a course with us and can write between 90 and 100 words per minute.

Mr. Robt. Tyson, of the official High Court of Justice staff, recently transcribed the evidence in a murder case upon the No. 2 type-writer, writing capitals and small letters. The working of it was so pleasant, and the transcript had such a clear appearance, that he favors the opinion that the upper and lower case machine must be introduced shortly into the courts of law, among the official stenographers. Thus far there has been no introduction of this description of machine, but it is evident that the members of the legal profession who are accustomed in their own offices to reading correspondence printed in this fashion, will not be content with all-capital writing.

It rests with shorthanders themselves, to a greater extent than they imagine, to define their *status* and maintain their stipends. A firm of manufacturers in this city who employ a thoroughly competent amanuensis, make it a detail of his duties to post all letters so as to catch the mails. The trips must be made alternately to the post office and to the railway trains. It requires a very simple and brief calculation to show that the firm is losing, by this arrangement, not only money enough each week to pay for an errand-boy, but the extra services of the errand-boy besides. Who could more effectually remedy this state of things than the shorthander himself?

Mr. George Broughall writes to us from Souris Ford, Manitoba, that owing to his successful land speculations he has been obliged to retire from the practice of the lightning *art pro tem*. Though he may have a predilection for "a lodge in some vast wilderness," he has not lost all interest in his fellow-workers, as the following quotation from his letter will show:—"Your column dealing with the movement of shorthand writers, the situations they have lately secured either through the Bureau or otherwise, is to my mind most interesting, and to that portion of your magazine I always turn first." Mr. Broughall's interest in the Bureau is heightened by the pleasant recollection that through it he started on his remarkably successful career.

To say that the recent Convention set agog the whole Canadian fraternity and put business men on the *qui vive*, is to state in a very matter-of-fact way an important matter of fact. The somewhat startling statement made by Judge Foraker in welcoming the Congress in Cincinnati—that not one person in ten thousand knew anything about shorthand—has certainly no proper application in Canada. There is a very general—though, of course, more or less vague—knowledge of the subject, especially in the cities and large towns; but inquiries are constant and keen, and the populace are ready to hear particulars. On the first Thursday in this month a lecture given by the editor was attended by nearly two hundred persons—nearly fifty of whom were representative commercial and literary men.

And now we have another "universal shorthand." Its name is Sawyerography; its inven-

ters name is Sawyer; and the proper see-saw form of application for it (free for \$1) will be: "Mr. Saw-yer, I saw yer Saw-yer-o-graphy advertised," &c. The system is pronounced (by the inventor) to be "the greatest invention of modern times," and the otherwise modest young man who boasts the see-saw name avers that "Canada should be proud of the inventor." As a humble representative of Canada, we welcome this inventor, and shall be happy to give his system a fair notice. The system is "as legible as longhand, and may be written in 24 hours after mastering the alphabet and 12 principles of condensation." Send it along, brother Sawyer, and let us see and say what Sawyerography is.

The recent discussion through the Canadian press on the Spelling Reform and Phonography in the Schools has brought to the surface several of the older advocates of these reforms who have for years been quiescent. One of them gave us a call a few weeks ago,—W. H. Finney, Foxmead, Simcoe Co. In this connection it is interesting to know that at the approaching Toronto School Teachers' Convention on the 27th inst., Mr. Richard Lewis, public school teacher, and a veteran phonologist and phonographer, is to give a paper on "Shorthand in Public Schools," while Mr. Wm. Houston, M. A., whose paper on Phonography as a Universal Medium evoked general commendation at the Shorthand Convention, is to give an address on Spelling Reform. The conductor of the WRITER has arranged to give, on the same day as the above meeting, a paper on Phonetics and a lecture on Phonography before the Middlesex County Teachers' Association at London. An original feature of the latter will be the introduction of a class of twenty children from the schools and the streets—educated and unlettered—and teaching them within half an hour to read sentences in shorthand.

AMERICAN.

Robert Watson, of Catonsville, Md., has been appointed amanuensis at the New York Agricultural Experiment station.

John W. Postgate, an old journalist, formerly of the *Inter-Ocean*, Chicago, is the official stenographer to the Tariff Commission in the United States.

Theodore C. Rose, formerly of Ithaca, who was with W. O. Wyckoff for twelve years, has removed to Norwich, N. Y. He is now assigned to Judge Follett of the Supreme Court, and hence has taken up his residence in the village where the judge resides.

Mr. H. A. Langford, Michigan Central R.R., Detroit, paid us a visit recently. He looks hale and happy, and is bigger than ever. He measures somewhere near 6 ft. 6 in. We felt odd (and awed) in his presence. The stenographers in Detroit use nearly all the systems under the sun—Duploye and Tachigraphy taking their places with the Pitmans, Munson, and Graham.

Mr. W. L. Oliphant, of the Hanover National Bank, New York, whose phenomenal success we recorded in the WRITER some months ago, gave us a call the other day, accompanied by Mrs. Oliphant, who is a native of Montreal. He looks as though he thoroughly enjoyed life in Gotham, and success sits comfortably upon his broad shoulders. In the discussion of terms to define the position of a shorthand amanuensis, he expressed objections to all current titles, and has a decided preference, in his own case at least, for "Phonographic Correspondent." Mr. Oliphant writes pure Pitman, and does not believe in giving away the distinctive principle of phonography by calling it "Shorthand"; and he objects to being called a "Stenographer." There is, no doubt, something in a name, and while it would be advantageous to have a uniform title, still, as Mr. Oliphant avers, the work of amanuenses differs so materially that one term cannot be applicable to all. But whatever the titles be, let the briefest be chosen.

BRITISH.

An English contemporary remarks:—"Some time ago the Americans endeavored to drive us crazy over their Fifteen Puzzle. But in the new Spelling Game they give us something really rational and enjoyable. The new Spelling Game is a simple and pleasing game. It is played with all the letters of the alphabet, somewhat after the style of dominoes. Only a great deal more skill is required; indeed it may be said that a pretty fair knowledge of the inside of an ordinary dictionary is necessary to the player who would score heavily. The skill of the players is called into play in the formation of words out of miscellaneous letters, and the player who succeeds in making most sense in the way of complete words out of the chaos and mixed letters before him in the pool, wins the game. Simplicity is a marked feature of the idea; the playing of a single game is sufficient to enlist the interest of all who try it."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The following correspondence was lost in removing our office to King-street, and has just been discovered. Since it was written, Mr. Thornton's book has been published. A review of his system will appear shortly in the WRITER.—ED.]

EDITOR WRITER.—I have read with a great deal of interest the first article in your December number on "How I became a Phonographic Reporter," and I would like to ask the writer a question. How is it possible that a student can master the reporting style of Phonography without first learning the corresponding style or the elementary principles?

I would naturally come to the conclusion that Mr. Skot does not value the vowels as of use to the reporter. The student who does not understand the corresponding style will know very little about shorthand.

How many reporters in United States and Canada ignore the rule of position? not very

many, I venture to say; my experience has been that when "position" has not been strictly adhered to, confusion often prevails in the transcription of notes.

Yours fraternally,
L. B. YOUNG.

Toronto, 20th Feb., 1882.

REPLY TO MR. YOUNG.

EDITOR WRITER.—In reply to Mr. Young, I wish to say that I have not intimated that the reporting style of Phonography can be mastered without a knowledge of the elementary principles, nor have I said that the vowels are of no use to the reporter. I maintain that it is a loss of time and a waste of labor to learn a corresponding style with only two positions for sign-words, when there are three positions in the reporting style. He who learns a distinctive corresponding style has to unlearn many things when he comes to the reporting style, and has to rid himself of many habits acquired in practising a corresponding style as distinct from a reporting style. Of course, the vowels and elementary principles must be mastered. No sensible person would imagine that any science or art can be learned without a thorough knowledge of elementary principles. But what occasion is there for a corresponding style as distinct from a reporting style? Why not learn the reporting style from the first? What is the reporting style? It is simply writing phonography with the vowels omitted except in some particular instances in which legibility demands the insertion of an accented vowel. If I am writing to a friend who is not thoroughly conversant with phonography, I will insert vowels in order to enable him to read my letter with ease, but I will use the reporting style, simply vocalizing it. A greater number of word-signs and contracted outlines than is used in the corresponding style, is considered by some phonographers as absolutely essential to a reporting style. This is a mistake. Let me illustrate.

In the city of Buffalo, N. Y., is the firm of Thornton, Briggs, Close & Co., law stenographers. These gentlemen read and transcribe each others' notes when necessary. They have also copyists and type-writer operators [properly called "typers"], who can transcribe the notes of each and every member of the firm. The firm use 160 word-signs and contractions. Outside of these they write their words in *full*. There is not a better phonographic verbatim reporter in the United States to-day than Mr. Thornton. He has his word-signs and contractions so arranged that he has dispensed with *shaded* or *heavy* stems, and I have seen him sit down between two fast type-writer operators and read his notes to them as readily as if they were printed matter. He is publishing a book on the subject which will soon be ready for issue. Now his system agrees essentially with what I have set forth in "How I Became a Phonographic Reporter." He recognizes no corresponding style, as such, no elaborate list

of phrases, but very few contracted outlines—which are included in the 160 word-signs and contractions—but he pays attention to position simply because his outlines are not shaded. I do not ignore position as regards word-signs. What I maintain is that where light and heavy stems are used it is not necessary, except in some exceptional instances, to place outlines consisting of three stem consonants in position. Dennis Murphy, the United States Senate Official Reporter, pays very little attention to position outside of word-signs, and I think he is good authority on the subject; and there are many practical phonographers who think as I do as regards position. A free, flowing, full-outline style of phonography is coming more and more into use among our ablest reporters.

Fraternally,
JON SKOT.

SHORTHAND WRITERS

WHO HAVE SECURED POSITIONS SINCE JULY,
THROUGH BENGOUGH'S SHORTHAND BUREAU.

E. P. NEWHALL, of Chicago, with the *Kingston News*.

Miss ALICE HEATON, of Brantford, with *Grip Printing and Publishing Co.*

F. W. PRINGLE and GEORGE H. TAYLOR, with Prof. O. S. Fowler, travelling to Manitoba, Montana, Denver, &c.

JOHN HOLLAND, with Messrs. Beatty & Co., Barristers, as stenotyper, (for interpretation of which see *Stenographic Lexicon* on other page).

F. T. D. HECTOR, formerly of Winans & Co., has taken a position as amanuensis and typewriter operator, with Messrs. Rose, McDonald, Merritt & Co., Barristers, of this city.

J. H. WHITTAKER, of London, with Beatty, Chadwick & Co., Barristers, Toronto.

JOSEPH BLACK, temporarily as Stenotyper with M. Robins, Esq., permanently with Eby, Blain & Co., wholesale grocers, as amanuensis.

ARTHUR LAUGHLIN, of Princeton, as stenotyper to L. B. Young, Stenographer to Master in Chancery, Osgoode Hall.

PHONETICS.

From the *Toronto Citizen*, Sept. 2.

The results of the Shorthand Convention that has just closed its first assembly in this city must have been extremely gratifying to its promoters. The Canadian Shorthand Society is now an accomplished fact, and if the good feeling, common sense and intelligence that have characterized its inception can be accepted as an index of its future, a successful and advantageous union of Canadian shorthand writers must be the happy event.

The audience at the evening session was particularly marked by that *simpatia*, as the Italians so gracefully express it, which not only

evinces a readiness to receive impressions but is the best guarantee that those impressions will be permanent. All at once shorthand has become an object of interest to a large number of our intelligent citizens, a result which will redound to the advantage of shorthand at least.

More than this, however, phonetics, the language of sounds, has been placed before an educated audience in a manner that must tell. Mr. Houston's excellent *resume* of the science of phonetics commended the subject to the calm attention of all who had the advantage of listening to him on Tuesday evening; and many of the objections to "sound" spelling existing heretofore in the mind of some of us, were, by Mr. Houston's remarks upon its etymological bearings, greatly modified, if not altogether removed.

Embracing in itself, as the English language does, the working elements of every European speech, and largely imbued as it is with both ancient and modern classics, it ceases to be a matter of wonder that its spelling is in a certain sense incongruous, and while every experienced person cannot fail to recognize the difficulties of teaching English spelling, the most rabid reformer must shrink from tampering unnecessarily with derivation. As, however, Mr. Houston showed, we have already tampered with derivation in a sense, we have added certain words in defiance of our own philological rules, and thus we have proved these rules by a perfect cloud of exceptions. For instance, as Mr. Houston pointed out, we have added a silent "e" to words, under the representation that such letter was necessary to give the long sound to a previous vowel. In derivations from *cedo*, "I go," we spell precede with a final "e," concede in the same manner, but the final "e" in "have," "give," "dove," has no such effect of lengthening the previous vowel, and thus we actually violate our own special rule. This is more than an incongruity; it is an error; and there is no reason why we should not immediately begin to correct such error. The English Philological Society, the highest acknowledged authority on this subject in the world, puts in practice this corrected spelling, and so do a large number of respectable philologists on both sides of the Atlantic.

At first sight we acknowledge the change has no charms, but the objection is greatly, if not indeed wholly, a matter of the eye. Use has accustomed us to a certain mode of expressing our words in letters, and with the conservatism that is the natural inheritance and protection of humanity, we shrink from change, but that is no reason why a change should not take place.

Nor need we puzzle ourselves on the antiquity of our present spelling. There are few of us who could read Chaucer or Spencer, scarcely indeed Shakespeare, in their original form, and when we want really to enjoy the text of either author we are glad to get hold of a modernized edition.

Mr. Houston proved his point of the need of

a revised alphabet very well, and indeed without such an alphabet no form of phonetics can be free from numerous and gross anachronisms. But there is no reason why we should not have such an alphabet, and we should like to see a Canadian Philological Society putting the thing in a popular form before the people. Indeed we look upon this revised alphabet as the only true ground work of phonetic spelling. Pronunciation can never be that ground work, for it is too varied. Who that listened to the different speakers at the evening session of the Shorthand Convention, but must have rather chuckled at the idea of spelling according to the sound, the words which were expressed in so many pronunciations. Good English, High English, Yankee English, Irish English, Scotch English, and Dialect English, formed a Medley English on that occasion, to which indeed we are daily accustomed, but which, as a base of phonetic spelling, would have some startling effects. Phoneticalphabetical spelling would, however, be free from most, if not all of these incongruities, and would present many important claims to our support beside. We shall look for the annual meeting now inaugurated of the Canadian Shorthand Society, with a good deal of hope and pleasure.

STENOGRAPHIC.

From the Quebec Chronicle.

The following communication, which sets forth a serious grievance, was read at the recent Shorthand Writers' Convention at Toronto. It was addressed to the Secretary, Thos. Bengough, Esq., and reads thus:—

Sir,—Would you kindly express our extreme regret to the shorthand writers of Canada, in convention assembled, at not being able to attend the meeting to be held in Toronto on the 29th inst.

No better opportunity than the coming assembly could be offered to us of laying before our confreres—though an unpleasant task—the very unjust manner in which we are treated in Quebec by those who require our services for official purposes in the Courts, and, with your permission, we will briefly state how the system is worked, or we should say mismanaged.

In 1878-79, when shorthand was first used here, the writers were paid at the rate of 30 cents per folio of 100 words, which though reasonable and fair—considering the many facilities afforded to lawyers, witnesses and all concerned in the enquetes—was not too much. There were some, however, who thought our charges exorbitant and our labors trifling. Representations to this effect were made to the Government of the day, and in January, 1879, our fees were reduced $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or brought down to 20 cents per 100 words. We had to suffer this though some of our best writers left for better fields in the West.

As we reported the evidence directly for the Prothonotary we were paid our charges regu-

larly each month by the Government, who collected the fees from the lawyers in 'neir respective cases, but in October of last year (1891) another blow was dealt at the shorthand writers here by the Prothonotary notifying them that the Government would no longer be responsible for their fees, and that they would only pay us whenever it suited the parties to an action to pay for the evidence adduced.

You will see, sir, the injustice of this rule. Stenographers in many cases during the term work five or six hours a day, they are then obliged to transcribe their notes without delay, working whole nights in succession, and have in most instances to wait for months at a time before they are paid.

Again, there is no barrier here to prevent any persons having pretensions to the mere rudiments of stenography from taking the reporter's chair—no examination is required, nor any qualifications asked for, much to the detriment of lawyers, and last, though not least, the clients themselves, who are liable to suffer from the errors of incompetent men.

As the same system exists in Montreal it is to be hoped that the delegates from that city will set forth more in detail the complicated and unjust working of the system of stenographic reporting in the Province of Quebec, the outlines of which we have merely given.

The remedy is simple. Let the Government appoint competent officials at a yearly salary, something like England and Ontario and elsewhere. Stenographers will then have security for their hard-earned fees, which in most cases they now find it difficult to collect, though there are professional men here who seem to have gone into and thoroughly understand our position, and stand by us in all the difficulties we labor under.

Again expressing our regrets at not being able to be amongst you, and trusting that this exposition of views at the Convention may be productive of many advantages and much good to the Knights of the Pencil and Pen,

We are, dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,
LAWRENCE LYNCH and
R. A. O'REGAN,

Stenographers.

BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER.—This old established Canadian shorthand magazine for September has reached this office. It is late in coming, but the excellence of its contents compensates for the delay. In its literary matter it is the best of all the shorthand periodicals on this continent.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

STENO-LEXICON.

(Newly-coined words patented without charge.)

STENO-TYPER.—A steno-grapher who is also a type-writer operator.

STENOGRAPHER.—A hoggish steno. (*Rare*.)



PAUL'S DEFENCE (*Acts 22, 23*)—IN MUNSON'S PHONOGRAPHY.

(Written by John Bruce, Stenographic Examiner, Solicitor for the Canadian Shorthand Society.)

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a religious or philosophical treatise, written on lined paper. The text is dense and covers most of the page.

[illegible]

PAUL'S DEFENCE (1877, p. 25) IN BURN PITMAN'S PHONOGRAPHY

(Written by R. L. H. and published by the American Life Association, 1900.)

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REPORTING AS A MENTAL EXERCISE.

Exercise Introductory to Thornton's Light-Line Phonography. From "The Modern Stenographer."

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