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WM. H. HUSTON, B.A.,

Winner of the Gilchrist Scholarship in the University of London, 1881; Master in  
Modern Languages and Teacher of Phonography in Pickering  
College, Pickering, Ont.

BENGOUGH'S  
COSMOPOLITAN  
SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. II.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1881.

No. 6.

WM. H. HUSTON, B.A.

It is with peculiar feelings of joy and pride, consequent on the phenomenal success of a former schoolmate and companion, that we present to our readers this month a portrait of Mr. Huston, whose name has been made famous throughout this Dominion as the winner of the Gilchrist Scholarship in the University of London, England, this year.

A scholarship of the value of £100 sterling per annum, and tenable for three years, is annually awarded to a candidate resident in Canada, competitive examinations being held simultaneously in Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax and Fredericton. This scholarship—worth \$1,500 in cash, and carrying with it very high honor which any ambitious young man might well covet—was contested for this year by five candidates—two at Toronto, two at Fredericton, and one at Halifax. It involves careful and continuous previous study, and hence the small number of candidates; but this only made the contest the keener. The Canadian competitors are examined from the same papers that are submitted to candidates from English universities, and of these there were 600 or 700. When we state, therefore, that friend Huston has taken rank only *eight* from the head of the Honors List, we state a fact of which all Canadians, and especially the personal friends of Mr. Huston, may justly feel proud. The standing of himself and two other Canadians—who were twenty-first and forty-ninth respectively—shows that the educational advantages of this Dominion, and the ability of Canadians, are not a whit less than those of the mother-land.

We speak of Mr. Huston as the winner of the Gilchrist Scholarship. In fact, in reason, and in justice, he is entitled to his honors, fairly won; but by a technicality he is deprived of the enjoyment of the privileges competed for. One of the conditions of the Scholarship is, that no candidate's age must exceed 22 years. The examination opened on the 20th June. Mr. Huston celebrated his twenty-second birthday on the 17th of that month. He was thus *three days* "too previous," as the humorists would say. He had taken the precaution, the year

before, of writing to the Ontario Government, stating his age, and asking whether the condition referred to the date of *application* or the date of *examination*. The reply was that "a candidate who has not completed his twenty-second year at the time of his *application* is eligible for the Scholarship." In good faith, Mr. Huston entered the contest; with honors he won the prize; and now it is discovered that the local Government was too liberal in its construction of the condition, the Trustees of the Gilchrist Educational Trust having ruled Mr. Huston out as three days too old.

Mr. Huston was born and bred in Whitby, Ontario County, where his father has been for many years Town Clerk. The boy was always studious and painstaking, and took high rank in the famous Whitby Grammar School—now a Collegiate Institute—from which so many young men have graduated who are taking prominent positions in professional and business life. The associations of the town are eminently literary, and Mr. Huston lived in an atmosphere well calculated to develop mental powers. No school in Canada, we venture to say, has had such talented teachers, or done more faithful work.

After passing through this school, Mr. Huston came to Toronto and graduated at the Provincial University, taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then received appointment as Master in Modern Languages in the Pickering College—an institution founded by the Friends, which, under the skilful management first of John E. Bryant, M.A., and now of S. Percy Davis, M.A., both formerly teachers in Whitby, is fast taking high rank in the Province as a first-class College. It is situated in Pickering village, on an eminence commanding a fine view of Lake Ontario and Pickering Township, and is distant from Whitby but six miles, and a little over an hour's ride from this Queen City.

Friend Huston is an enthusiastic phonographer, and has a class of twenty-five students who are now well through Pitman's "Teacher." Of his own free will he suggested to the College authorities that Phonography should be added to the list of studies. They adopted the sugges-

tion at once most heartily, but wished to charge an extra fee. As Mr. Huston offered his services to the class without asking extra salary, he felt he had a right to insist that the tuition should be free, and he won his point. We believe this is the first College in America where Phonography has been taught without extra charge.

The Gilchrist Scholar is an honor and a credit to the phonographic fraternity. His views are those of an intelligent, fair-minded, enthusiastic shorthand writer, quite abreast of the times, and in accord with the best and most progressive spirit of the fraternity.

### THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

A RACY DESCRIPTION—COMMENTS, CRITICISMS AND COMPLIMENTS—THE CREAM OF THE CONVENTION—THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE GATHERING, AS PHOTOGRAPHED BY A WIDE-AWAKE PHONOGRAPHER.

The International Convention of shorthand writers held on Sept. 1st and 2nd at Chicago was a notable gathering in many respects.

I attended all the sessions of the Convention, and consider the time exceedingly well spent. The proceedings, which resulted in the formation of the International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada, will be published in pamphlet form, but there are some things that were said and done, and some points about the Convention which will not appear in the official report, and I purpose to speak somewhat of them.

By the way, one of the first things that attracted my attention was the large number of ladies in attendance, and the great, and in some cases active, interest they took in the proceedings. President J. L. Bennett encouraged them all he could, and he certainly was a model chairman. Rather tall, of dark complexion, the natural covering of his head rather worn at the top by the incessant working of the powerful brain within, with a bright clear eye and a pleasant yet firm-looking face, he smoothed over, in the nicest manner possible, the little differences that would come up, and his quiet—"the gentleman from—has the floor," effectually settled the half dozen who were also on their feet claiming a hearing at the same moment.

The Committee on By-laws and International Association had as its chairman John T. Bell, of Omaha, President of the Nebraska State Stenographers' Association, a real live, level-headed Western man, with no nonsense about him. Helen J. Pierson, a tall, handsome young lady—I'm afraid to guess how young—but certainly the lady is young, and as sharp as a needle, an official court reporter, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was also a member of his Committee,

and rendered valuable aid in the preparation of the Constitution and By-laws of the new Association.

When that Committee brought in its report the fun began. Somebody jumped up immediately and objected to the name—The International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada. Phew! think of it. None but a Convention of shorthand writers would tolerate such a long-winded name as that for their association. But it does not take long to write it in shorthand, and the Committee thought that to call the organization an International Association would make it appear that it was composed of shorthand writers in all countries, whereas it was intended only to have a membership in the United States and Canada, so the report of the Committee was sustained in that particular. Fixing the conditions of membership was a very delicate operation, and the warmest discussion that was had during the sessions of the Convention arose on this point. Dr. Kent, a Chicago stenographer, arose, and with a dreadful solemnity in his voice proposed "that in order to avoid a preponderance of the juvenile element in the Association, no one under eighteen years of age shall be allowed to become a member." There was an uneasy movement in a part of the room where a number of young men were sitting, and at last a delegate from Canada arose and remarked that while he had no objections to the admission test requiring three years, actual work or a speed in writing of at least 150 words per minute for five consecutive minutes, he did protest against a limit being fixed as to age. He claimed that any one who had brains enough to acquire a *bona fide* speed of 150 words per minute, even though he were less than eighteen years of age, would not be likely to bring discredit upon himself or the Association. Further objections were made to the proposition, and finally Dr. Kent's amendment was rejected by a large majority.

H. H. Unz, of Chicago, agent for an improved type-writer, is a rather peculiar man. Judging by his name he is of German extraction, but he talks English like a native—Irishman. He regaled the Convention for about three-fourths of an hour with a disquisition on the art of writing, going back 4,000 years for some of his facts, and after disposing of every other instrument of writing, whether of wood, iron, or any other material, whether operated by hand, foot or steam-power or electricity, he asked the Convention to believe that the perfected type-writer sold by him was infinitely superior as an instrument for writing to any that has been or is now in existence. D. L. Scott-Browne, of the *Phonographic Monthly*, is agent for the Caligraph, which he claims is an immense improvement on the perfected type-writer, and his turn came the next day, when Mr. Unz, who was to have met Mr. Browne before the Convention and showed wherein his type-writer was superior to the caligraph, failed to appear, sending a note of apology instead.

D. L. S. B., therefore, had the field to himself and made good use of his time.

Which reminds me that there were several type-writers on exhibition in the room in which the Convention met, and during recess two or three "lightning" operators sat down and showed how fast they could reel off copy. Among them was a Chicago girl, who had made type-writing her profession, and could throw her fingers around on the keys with wonderful rapidity. Shorthand clerks who can also manipulate the type-writer are in demand, and command much larger salaries than their brethren who cannot operate the machine. Some wonderful stories were told in the Convention about the rate of speed attained by some operators on the type-writer, as high as 70 words per minute being vouched for.

[Mr. Alex. Downey, of Toronto, has written 700 words in eight minutes from Mr. John Bruce's dictation. This is at the rate of 87 words a minute.—Ed.]

I must confess to have had feelings of curiosity excited in me by the topic set down on the programme, "The Stenograph," by M. M. Bartholomew, St. Louis. I had often wondered what this extraordinary machine was like which could report with a facility equal to that of a shorthand writer, and my wonder and curiosity did not abate until I had examined the machine for myself, and seen it operated by the inventor. The stenograph has been described in the WRITER, so I will not do the work again. Mr. Bartholomew, the inventor, is a practical shorthand writer, and an official reporter, and consequently understands his subject when talking about reporting whether by shorthand or machine. He is a man of about 35 or 40 years of age, of medium height, and very dark complexion, with a slight stoop of his shoulders, and a wrinkled forehead that denotes intense thought. When he stood before the Convention explaining and illustrating the principles and merits of his invention, his countenance lit up with enthusiasm, which, however, did not make him impatient of questioning, and he certainly had plenty of questions to answer before he got through with his subject. The shorthand writers present took a very great interest in the machine, and some seemed to regard it as a rival about to take their places and render their knowledge of shorthand of no use as a means of obtaining a living. But before the Convention closed I had made up my mind that the stenograph was but another instrument for abbreviating writing, a tool to be used just as a pencil for phonographic writing, and that it merely offered another system of shorthand for adoption or rejection by the public. The inventor at present only claims a speed of 160 words per minute, but thinks the machine capable of doing much faster work. The advantage I see it has over the ordinary method of writing is that the motion of the fingers in playing upon the keys is one that will never lead to cramp, or pen-paralysis, that dread foe of reporters and penmen generally.

After hearing the theory of the machine explained, some of us were anxious to see practical work done upon it. So during a luncheon hour Mr. Bartholomew sat down to his machine, and one of the shorthand men present made a little extempore speech of three minutes' duration, at the rate of about 145 to 150 words per minute. We gathered around, and eagerly watched Mr. Bartholomew as his fingers flew over the keys, no halting and no hesitation being visible, the little narrow strip of paper passing out through the machine in short jerks from the cylinder on which it was wound. When the speaker concluded Mr. Bartholomew stopped also, tore off the strip of paper which was indented with little marks at varying distances over its width, held it up lengthwise, and read off the matter he had just reported with much less difficulty than the average reporter has in reading his notes, and making but two errors in small unimportant words. The machine made absolutely no noise, and could be carried in an overcoat pocket. But it would take a bushel basket to hold the roll of paper containing one day's testimony taken in court.

*(Concluded next month.)*

#### NEW YORK STATE STENOGRAPHERS.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION—INTERESTING PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS—A FRATERNAL GATHERING.

The sixth annual Convention of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held in Buffalo on the 23rd and 24th of August. The business was transacted in the roomy offices of Messrs. Slocum & Thornton, which are situated in Main-street, within easy distance of the magnificent court house of the city, and therefore convenient to the field in which those gentlemen find the fullest scope for the exercise of their stenographic skill. Judging from the number of type-writers standing about, Messrs. S. & T. can have no good reason to complain of lack of patronage.

The gathering was a fairly numerous one, considering the fact that the time of holding it was in the dog-days, when there comes a temporary lull in the business of shorthand writing, and when consequently many of the wealthy members of the profession are accustomed to luxuriate for a spell at some delightful watering place, or to absorb from the invigorating air of some favored mountain retreat, a fresh supply of nerve force to serve against the labors of the coming busy season. Only one gentleman was present from the city of New York. Letters from almost all the stenographers of well-known name in the State were read, however, which showed that although absent in body they were with the Convention in spirit. From beyond the jurisdiction there were present, Prof. Dan Brown, of Chicago, J. L. Bennett, of the same city; L. H. Eddy, of Denver; A. W. Fisk, of De Kalb, Illinois; A. M. Haynes, of Bay City,

Michigan; T. J. Tilley, of Topeka, Kansas; and E. E. Horton and Nelson R. Butcher, Toronto. Along with James E. Munson, New York, Benn Pitman, Cincinnati, and Andrew J. Graham, New York, who were not present, Messrs. Fisk, Bennett, Brown, Butcher, Eddy, Horton, F. A. Clark, Rochester; A. C. Bowman, Newton, Kansas; T. Bigelow, Brooklyn; Simon Fleischman, Buffalo; and Geo. S. Dixon, and J. F. C. Crow, New York, were elected honorary members; and those of the gentlemen who were in attendance were courteously invited to participate in the discussions. Mr. Geo. R. Bishop, of New York, formerly an honorary member, was elected an active member. The following new members were also added to the roll of the society, viz.:—Emory P. Close, Buffalo; Geo. Ames, Buffalo; Fred. Tinkham, New York; and Richard Ingersoll, Ithaca.

In view of the fact that the occasion was as much one of pleasure as of business, the members of the Convention devoted themselves assiduously to the duties imposed upon them by the programme. The result will best be seen in the printed report of the proceedings, which we will shortly have on sale, and which every stenographer who obtains it will find to be a mine of valuable information. It would be so did it contain nothing more than the admirable paper by Mr. S. C. Rodgers, of Troy, on Works of Reference, or that of Mr. Stearns, on Pen Paralysis, to say nothing of the various other well-written essays.

Among the papers read was one by Miss M. J. Ballantyne, of Rochester (the only lady member present), on "Women as Stenographers."

In one read by Mr. T. C. Rose, of Ithaca, entitled "The Future of the Profession," it was gratifying to the Canadian stenographers present to find a desire expressed for the co-operation of the shorthand writers of the Dominion in raising it to the position it is destined to occupy. The paper contained some very valuable suggestions.

A paper contributed by Mr. C. F. Earle, of Syracuse, "Canoeing as a Means of Rest and Recreation," was one in which our voyageur friend Tyson would have felt a special interest, even though it contained not a word about strokes other than those of a paddle, and nothing about curves but what related to the lines of the frail craft whose praisers it celebrated.

The election of officers resulted in placing Mr. Geo. H. Thornton, of Buffalo, in the President's chair, as successor to Mr. C. G. Tinsley, of Syracuse, who ably filled the office last year, and in making F. M. Adams, of New York, Vice-President; A. L. Woodward, of Syracuse, Secretary and Treasurer, and the following gentlemen the Executive Committee, viz.:—J. N. Ruso, Albany; H. C. Turner, Oswego; T. C. Rose, Ithaca; A. P. Little, Rochester; and D. C. McEwen, Brooklyn.

On the evening of the 24th the Buffalo members entertained the other members of the Convention at a banquet at the City Club.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have been reluctantly forced to crowd out sufficient interesting matter to fill another WRITER. And yet there is not a single "padded" or "leaded" paragraph between the covers.

A correspondent states that he tried to report in a Justice Court, but found 100 words per minute "too small to handle the business." We don't wonder. He will need at least 150 to do anything like satisfactory work. We presume, of course, that no charge was made for this trial work. No fee should be taken in such a case.

The shorthand pages this month form an unique feature of the WRITER. They represent the article on "the Origin of Modern Shorthand Signs"—a very valuable contribution by the way—as written in the four chief systems. It will be observed that all are of nearly equal brevity; and we venture to think that the students of any one of the systems represented will be able to read all the others with little difficulty.

Shorthand speed and good penmanship are not the only qualifications required by an amanuensis. He should be able at least to spell and punctuate correctly. Yet we sometimes receive communications containing such composition as this, which we give as written barring brackets and italic:—

"I have the Reporting Style learned complete (*sic*) and expect with two months practise (*sic*) to run about 150 words per mint (*very sic*) and I have just received a Standard Phonography Dictionary and mean to push forward, (*rather sic*) ~~to~~ I wish to get a place where there is an opportunity of raising (? *hay-seea*)—but not so particular for the first year as I wish to get it (? *the hay-seea*) so well practiced (*sicker*) so (*sic*) as to be able to take any position. I would like to be in a town or city if convenient."

This applicant writes a beautiful longhand, and we do not doubt that he has attained a good speed; but he can never take any position whatever, either in town or city, unless he digests his grammar and spelling-book. Imagine an important business letter, or any other document, being written in the above fashion! The writer could not hold any position for half a day. It is unnecessary to say he has not yet reached a town or city.

The complaint of "Stenograph" in our August number, in regard to the unprofessional practice of biographical "puffing" which prevails in some American shorthand magazines, is well founded, no doubt. We do not see, however, that the "whole question" might be "profitably discussed" in the columns of the WRITER. Our space is too valuable. The responsibility for this evil practice lies with the phonographic editors more than with the subjects of biography, all of whom are naturally proud of their attainments. Humility is a virtue which shorthand writers especially should cultivate.

Most of them are self-made men, and very few of them need to adopt the Scotch minister's prayer for "a good conceit o' them-sel's."

A diligent reader of the WRITER—unmarried, of course—asks whether it would not be a good idea to publish a group of the daughters of modern Phonographic Authors, for instance Isaac Pitman's, Beun Pitman's, Graham's and Mun-on's. He presumes they are all married and have daughters. He is personally acquainted with one of them, and kindly offers the loan of her photo. Thanks. But before carrying out this very excellent suggestion of our worthy friend, let us first learn how many Authors' daughters there are in existence. So-called Authors may be counted by the score, and we must draw the line somewhere. If the phonographic fraternity will decide that there are only four or five Phonographic Authors that are worthy of that name our task will be somewhat lightened.

Brother Bell, the enthusiastic Editor of the *Grahamic*, alias Phonographic, department of the *Printer's Miscellany*, has abandoned the ancient heading which represented a goose in mid-air carrying Standard Phonography in its beak, and has adopted for the initial number of Volume 6 a more artistic and elaborate engraving. The genius of Bell is evident in this heading, which represents chain lightning, blue vitriol, steam, and the inevitable Standard Phonography. The latter individual is represented as running into the left hand corner, evidently to get out of the way of the murky-looking individual riding a velocipede on the right. Of course the velocipede rider will never catch up to the S. P. runner—the reason, however, being that the velocipede is turned the wrong way around. We begin to despair of Bell, for he will persist in utterly ignoring every one but Graham,—excepting always a certain brown-faced individual in New York.

#### NEWS NOTES.

##### CANADIAN.

Mr. C. W. Treadwell, of St John, reported an important case in the Equity Court, "The Town of Portland vs. Parks." As a result, a saving was effected of about two-thirds of the time which would be required had the evidence been taken in the old-fashioned way. There were twenty-six witnesses.

Mr. Wm. F. Maclean, an experienced shorthand reporter, who with Mr. A. Horton started the *World*, retains his connection with that journal. With the help of three clever brothers in various departments he will make a lively paper, and we believe will be successful in spite of tremendous odds.

The third International Sunday-school Convention, which met in this city in June, was reported by Mr. Thos. Bengough, assisted by Messrs. Robt. Tyson, Wm. A. Sims and Fred.

Sims. The report is much more voluminous than any of its predecessors, and contains about 225 pages. An edition of 7500 copies of this report has been printed, to be sold at 25c. each. Students who want reading matter for practice, and American reporters who want to see how their Canadian brethren do these things, should purchase a copy of this report.

Mr. Wm. A. Sims has retired from the position of Private Secretary to the manager of the Permanent Building Society, and has formed a partnership with Mr. Winstanley as city agents of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. Friend Sims is almost too talented a genius to be an insurance agent, but he will be able by his geniality to redeem the reputation of that much-abused class. His many friends will wish him all success. He doesn't take lives, or there would be a slaughter among the phonographic fraternity.

Mr. Albert Horton has left the *World*, never to return except in spirit; and yet he is as "live" as ever. He purposes devoting the interval between parliamentary sessions, in general not required on the Hansard staff, in general shorthand work and study in special branches. He has done good service as a journalist, and his last year's experience completes the round of newspaper work. He has served in every branch of the profession, working his way in the midst of difficulties from the position of printer's-boy to that of parliamentary reporter and publisher of a "breezy, brief and bright" daily journal. Push, pluck and principle gave him his present honorable standing, and his years have not yet reached a score and a half.

##### AMERICAN.

Mr. T. C. B. Fraser has left Napanee, Ont., and taken a position as shorthand writer for the Bank of Creston, Creston, Iowa.

Wanted—by the Legislature of New York: a thoroughly competent stenographer. One who is not addicted to poker or step-ladders preferred.

Mr. Robert Johnston has taken the position recently vacated by Mr. Kitchen with the Freight Agent, D., G.H. & M. R.R., Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Dana A. Rose, of Ithaca, N.Y., formerly a very successful teacher of standard phonography, has accepted a situation as stenographer in the office of the Vice-President of the Central Pacific Railroad, in New York City.

Who is the stenographer that made affidavit that it was worth only nine cents a page to make daily copy, in opposition to the affidavits of nearly every official stenographer in the State of New York, that it was worth from twenty-five to forty cents?

Mrs. Harry Ellis, *nee* Hattie Tinkham, the stenographer of the Muskegon county circuit court, will hereafter make her home in Muske-



gon, Attorney-General VanRiper having given his official opinion that to hold the office a person must be a resident of the judicial district. Mrs. Ellis receives \$6 per day for her services.

Mr. R. W. P. Kitchen, late stenographer to Mr. P. Tandy, G.F.A., D., G.H. & M. R.R., Detroit, Mich., and for a short time with Mr Paul Morton, A.G.F.A., C.B. & Q. R.R., Chicago, has been appointed Secretary to Mr. D. B. Marey, G.F.A., Chicago, St. Louis, and New Orleans, R.R., at New Orleans, La. Detroit thus loses one of her most promising amateur artists.

The Governor of Michigan has appointed Isaac S. Dement, of Ionia, late of Grand Rapids, as stenographer of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, in the place of Henry F. Walsh, of the latter-named city. The Attorney-General has decided that to hold the office of stenographer of a court he must be a resident of the circuit. Mr. Walsh was thus made ineligible to the office. He still has charge of the Grand Rapids district.

An American subscriber writes that he had the curiosity to count the words in a manuscript sermon preached the other Sunday, and kindly lent him by a clergyman. The sermon contains 3,909 words, and time of delivery never occupies less than thirty minutes, which would give 130 words. He is considered a rather rapid speaker, but that is a long way behind the average of men of the world, which is generally set down at 150. The correspondent would like to hear of further reliable counts of clergymen and others.

A recent four-column technical article in the Boston *Journal of Commerce* was dictated at two sittings by Editor Pray, and went directly to the printers; and after a careful reading of it from the type for the first time, not a word, letter, figure, or punctuation mark was changed. This is a feat worthy of especial mention, and Friend Pray is not backward in giving Graham's Phonography credit for it; but we think the honors may be fairly divided among the phonographic author, the dictator, the amanuensis, and the compositor. The amanuensis, we believe, is a young lady; the compositor—well, we have had considerable experience with compositors, and we should like to see this one.

#### FOREIGN,

Dr. Zeibig of Dresden, Saxony, writes: "The article on Stenography in the olden time, of your very interesting shorthand paper, Vol. 2, No. 2, is overfull of errors. He who has written this seems never to have made a study of the history of shorthand writing. This moment I have no time to correct these blunders, but I am willing to give you some notices on shorthand writing with the Greeks and Romans, if you will grant me the necessary space." The article we published was anonymous, and we do not know the writer. We have no doubt that Dr. Zeibig, who has made a special study of the history of shorthand, will be able to give us

interesting and authentic information, and we shall be most happy to grant him the space desired for his papers. Since the above was written we have received from Dr. Zeibig the following note:—"Under 'Selected' [August] you have a notice on Arends' system, which does not stand with truth. The leading systems of Stenography in Germany are those of Gabelsberger and of Stolze. The adaptations of Arends' system to foreign languages have never been put to the practical proof." These corrections of what passes current as reliable information make it very desirable that an analytical student and at the same time a practical stenographer, like Dr. Zeibig, should give us the benefit of his researches in the form of a summarized history.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### A READING CLUB.

EDITOR WRITER,—A thing that is much needed is a class where young fellows, who are learning shorthand, can meet two or three times a week at night, and let each member take a turn for one night and read to the rest of the class. It is needed, I think, because there are many youngmen who know shorthand, yet cannot get time during the day, nor any one willing at night, to read to them, so that they might increase their speed to a rate that would secure them positions. I would like to see what your readers think of this plan. LEARNER.

[NOTE.—This correspondent hails from Montreal, but his suggestion is one that might be adopted with advantage in most cities.—ED. C. S. W.]

### SHORTHAND IN THE NORTH-WEST.

EDITOR WRITER,—The City of Winnipeg is about the only place likely to require the services of either a shorthand writer or reporter, as the different places west of it are not yet sufficiently populated to be able to support a newspaper of any dimensions, which would need a reporter, and, with few exceptions, commercial or law business is not carried on to such an extent as would require the services of a shorthand correspondent. Both the *Free Press* and *Daily Times*, which are published in Winnipeg, and are the largest papers in the North-West, employ a fair number of reporters. There are some two or three law firms, and one agricultural establishment, who have sufficient correspondence to require the services of a shorthand writer, and who employ correspondents.

I do not say this to discourage aspirants who contemplate coming to Manitoba, but simply to give them an idea of the extent the art is made use of. It would be unwise, I consider, for any young fellow who at present occupies a position which brings him in a fair remuneration to forsake it and come out here on mere speculation with the expectation of securing something fat, as doubtless he would discover he had

made a serious error. My advice to all disciples of the noble art is to continue in their present positions if they are in any way lucrative, and not leave them to come here, where it is very uncertain they may secure employment, as at present the country is not in demand for the shorthand fraternity. A. B.

[NOTE.—Everything is "booming" and "buzzing" in the North-West, and shorthand writers have hard work. Mr. Perkins, who left Toronto and took a position on the press in Winnipeg, is about to return to this city, unable to stand the pressure.—Ed. C. S. W.]

#### REPORTING FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

EDITOR WRITER.—In your July issue, you characterize the report of Carl Schurz's speech in Boston a "great feat" because, though delivered in German, the speech was simultaneously translated and reported in English. You add that you "believe the French reporters in the gallery of Ottawa perform a similar marvel with the English speeches." It should be remembered, however, that the reports of the Parliamentary debates published in the French newspapers are merely synoptical, and therefore there is no marvel in that performance, for it is no more difficult than summarizing a French speech in English longhand.

There is, however, one reporter in Canada who, during his connection with *Hansard*, invariably reported in English the speeches delivered by members of the House of Commons in French. I refer to Mr. John A. Lumsden. The translation was instantaneous, and the notes, which were *verbatim*, were written in the English form. I believe Mr. George Holland does something of the same kind in the Senate.

Yours truly,

THOS. JNO. RICHARDSON,

Ex-Contractor for House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ont. "Hansard."

#### THE RELATION OF THE SYSTEMS.

EDITOR WRITER.—It seems to me you might do your young enquirers a service by explaining what "Benn Pitman's system" really is, and why it is so popular. It is nothing more nor less than Isaac Pitman's discarded ninth edition. When the tenth edition appeared, Mr. Benn Pitman and a majority of phonographers on this side refused to follow the old leader on account of the change in the vowel scale, and they have had the vantage ground and have very naturally more than held their own. Benn Pitman's and Graham's approximate so closely to each other that any one who can read the one can decipher the other. "X."

[ED. NOTE.—Surely the Millennium will soon arrive in the phonographic world. Benn's is Isaac's system; Graham's is nearly like Benn's (or, as Mr. Graham would put it, Benn's is very similar to Graham's); and another cor-

respondent—a Munson writer—tells us he can easily read Isaac's, though he never paid any attention to it or any other except Munson's. Surely we be all brethren! Isn't there a poet among us who can celebrate the coming jubilee in respectable verse? Cosmopolitan for ever!]

#### MR. CRAWFORD'S FAMOUS FEAT.

EDITOR SHORTHAND WRITER.—You ask what your readers have to say to the assertion that Mr. Crawford took evidence at the rate of 160 words a minute for five consecutive hours, the usual delays being included in that time. Mr. Editor, I have nothing to say to it; such a statement speaks for itself. N. S.

[ED. NOTE.—Mr. Crawford has given us the reference to date on which the evidence in question was taken, and we intend to secure a copy of the transcript, which is now being made, with a view of verifying the statement.

#### ORIGIN OF MODERN SHORTHAND SIGNS

BY EDWARD POCKNELL.

I have met with many Shorthand writers who have inquired the origin of the signs or marks now in use in modern Shorthand systems, but with few who could answer such questions with any degree of accuracy. The Shorthand historians have naturally judged the systems of authors as a whole, and have therefore not descended into minute detail, so that many questions of interest as to where certain signs originated cannot be solved by a mere reference to those histories. The young writers of the past twenty-five years appear, as a rule, to think that the signs they daily use were invented during this century, and have no hesitation in ascribing them to living persons. Thin and thick strokes and curves, half-length and double-length characters, are believed by many, as an article of faith, to have been unknown forty-five years ago; while combined consonant characters (dissimilar from the joined simple characters) are regarded as of equally late origin. Those who hold such opinions must be prepared to abandon them; for in pursuing a careful investigation into the chief of the older systems between 1602 and the present date, I have met, sooner or later, with all the main principles, characters, and devices which go to make up modern Shorthand. The results are too voluminous to give in full as an appendix to a new system; but I can give "chapter and verse" for the following statements:—

The use of two sizes of characters I have traced back to 1602, a year to be remembered by all Shorthand writers, when John Willis published his small but remarkable treatise on the Art, which contains many of the leading principles adopted in all systems to the present day. Willis used dot-vowels in position against his characters, in the way familiar to the wri-

ters of Gurney, Byrom, and Taylor—since extended in Phonography. He also had detached signs for diphthongal signs, such as *aa ay av, ee ey ew, oo oy ow*. He was careful to have a means of distinguishing the short words, so difficult to reconcile with legibility, and made special rules for the different classes of those words. He recognized the constant occurrence of blended consonants in the language, and provided for a large number of them by arbitrary and other signs, not forgetting *sh, th, and wh*, which have since been regarded as having one sound only, and have been included in the alphabets of most Phonetic systems. He used arbitrary signs for words, and curiously enough "Phraseography," as it is termed, was known to him and provided for. He likewise introduced what is termed now-a-days the "vowel-mode;" he also used "joined-vowels;" and we must credit him besides with using duplicate characters for the letter C. Further he employed the circle, and also the loop or elliptical character, both of which he used as representing letters of the alphabet. Willis's book may be consulted in the British Museum.

In the seventeenth century subsequent writers invented other marks which have come down to the present day. The circle and stroke combined, to form one character to represent a single letter of the alphabet, I have traced back to 1618. Within a few years after that, the stroke and *final hook* combined to form one character to represent one letter, came into use; as also an additional "tick" before a stroke, likewise used for a letter. This latter form was quickly converted by a succeeding author into the *initial hook* before a stroke; and thus early, before the seventeenth century had half expired, the main alphabetic materials were prepared for future use.

The first instance of long and short letters occurs in 1642, the letter *n* being represented as half the length of *m*, and both by the horizontal lines. We have to come down to a hundred years after the time of Willis before we meet with a thickened character for a letter, which is curiously enough found in Mason's alphabet, on which Gurney's was formed. Difference in length, both of strokes and curves, became common in the systems between 1700 and 1750, and just before the latter year I have met with a double-length character used for duplicate letters, such as *d* (normal length) and *dd* (double length). The first Phonetic alphabet (Tiffin, 1750) was obtained by strokes and curves in different "position" above and below the line, as well as by letters differing in length; and about the same time Annet paired *t* and *d*, and *p* and *b*, by difference in length. In an early copy of Gurney's Shorthand there is an instruction to *thicken* a letter under certain circumstances.

The next innovation was by Byrom (1767), who used triplicate characters for his letter *l*.

In the systems of the latter part of the eighteenth century several attempts at phonetic pairing of letters according to the modern plan

are discernible; and in 1768 two sizes of circles were brought in for vowel purposes. Towards the close of the century an alphabet appeared in which not only was the pairing of the letters accomplished both by difference in length and thickness, but the thickening was carried to the extreme of double-thickening, and corresponding thin strokes were used for compound letters. —From Pocknell's "*Legible Shorthand*."

#### NOTES, QUERIES, REPLIES, HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

"I write Munson's system. I never paid the slightest attention to any other, but I was able to read the most of your questions for all that" —A. W. P. [What is the use of quarreling about the peculiarities of different systems, if they are so much alike as this off-hand remark indicates? —ED. C. S. W.]

Q.—"You give no encouragement to change or improvement. It is Isaac, Benn, Munson, Graham, and changes running there-on! What has become of the host of other systems and satellites?" A.—Our system of astronomy is modeled after the great original. A constellation of all the great stars might create consternation. Some of the satellites have just been discovered, and others require telescopic observation. They will all appear duly.

Q.—Which do you consider the best? Graham? or Pitman?—A. A. C. A.—We like Pitman best, but other reporters, quite as competent to judge, prefer Graham. So both are best—P. best for some, and G. for others. P. writers have given him up for G., and *vice versa*. Why don't you ask about Munson, Marsh, Pocknell, Lindley, and the rest of the host of authors?

Q.—I wish you would give your opinion of double-line paper.—J. S. A.—We don't use it; don't like it; it is too confusing; have no occasion for it; prefer simple appliances. But other reporters use it with great advantage, and some have no trouble with treble-lines. Of double-line paper we may say, as Abe Lincoln once said of something else: "To those who like that kind of thing, it's the very kind of thing they like."

The Law offices of the Government of New Brunswick have had under consideration for some time the question of introducing shorthand into the Courts, but so far have taken no action in the matter. A legal committee has been getting information in the meantime, and we should think they would be prepared very shortly to make the appointment. With Mr. Treadwell and Mr. A. B. Walker, the celebrated colored Stenographer, there should be no lack of material to make a start. Both of these gentlemen have had experience that fits them for the work, and the Courts are losing valuable time and money by the delay.





ORIGIN OF MODERN SHORTHAND SIGNS.

In Graham's Corresponding Style.

1. a ~ b ~ c ~ d ~ e ~ f ~ g ~ h ~ i ~ j ~ k ~ l ~ m ~ n ~ o ~ p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

2. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

3. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

4. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

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19. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

20. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

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16. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

17. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

18. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

19. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

20. p ~ q ~ r ~ s ~ t ~ u ~ v ~ w ~ x ~ y ~ z ~

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ORIGIN OF MODERN SHORTHAND SIGNS.

In Benn Pitman's Corresponding Style.

The following is a collection of shorthand symbols and their corresponding letters, arranged in a grid-like fashion on a set of horizontal lines. The symbols are written in a cursive, shorthand style.

The symbols are organized into several columns and rows. Some symbols are accompanied by small numbers or letters, such as '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '8', '9', '10', '11', '12', '13', '14', '15', '16', '17', '18', '19', '20', '21', '22', '23', '24', '25', '26', '27', '28', '29', '30', '31', '32', '33', '34', '35', '36', '37', '38', '39', '40', '41', '42', '43', '44', '45', '46', '47', '48', '49', '50', '51', '52', '53', '54', '55', '56', '57', '58', '59', '60', '61', '62', '63', '64', '65', '66', '67', '68', '69', '70', '71', '72', '73', '74', '75', '76', '77', '78', '79', '80', '81', '82', '83', '84', '85', '86', '87', '88', '89', '90', '91', '92', '93', '94', '95', '96', '97', '98', '99', '100'.

The symbols represent various letters and combinations of letters, including 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z', and combinations like 'ab', 'bc', 'cd', 'de', 'ef', 'fg', 'gh', 'hi', 'ij', 'jk', 'kl', 'lm', 'mn', 'no', 'op', 'pq', 'qr', 'rs', 'st', 'tu', 'uv', 'vw', 'wx', 'yz'.

The symbols are written in a cursive, shorthand style, with some symbols being more complex and others being simpler. The symbols are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some symbols being grouped together and others being separated.





**ORIGIN OF MODERN SHORTHAND SIGNS.**

In Munson's Reporting Style.

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Handwritten shorthand notes on the left side of the page, including various symbols and numbers such as 1613, 1642, 1750, and 1750.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the right side of the page, including various symbols and numbers such as 1767, 1768, and 1750.

