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THE CANADIAN

ILLUSTRATED

SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1880.

No. 5.

Editorial and Contributed.

STENOGRAPHERS IN COUNCIL.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION AT SYRACUSE, N. Y. — SKETCH OF THE ORGANIZATION—HOW THE CONVENTION IMPRESSED A CANADIAN.

(Editorial Correspondence of the WRITER.)



FOREIGNER, after noting men and things on the other side of our lakes, sentimentally remarked:—"Everything in the United States is organized." This remark, though not fully borne out by the facts, is particularly applicable to the stenographic profession in the State of New York—the organization here spoken of being entirely distinct from a similar one, whose membership is confined to the capital city of the State. The benefits to be secured by organization, provided there be something to organize, are so evident that it would seem a useless waste of wind and words to enlarge upon the theme; and yet, outside of the State which is blessed by the Association it was my privilege to attend on August 19th, Stenographic Associations are not nearly as numerous as they should be, even among the people who are supposed to organize everything. If such Associations aimed for nothing more and nothing greater than the promotion of the feeling of fraternity which should characterize phonographers, there would be sufficient reason for bringing them into existence; but when, as in the case of the one which I visited, the organization avows as the purpose of its existence, "the establishing and maintaining a proper standard of efficiency in the profession," and when, in fact, it not only influences, but controls, all local legislation affecting the profession, it is impossible to calculate the benefits to be derived by competent reporters from its existence.

I use the phrase "competent reporters" advisedly, for the New York State Association chose first-class material with which to organize, no member being enrolled who had not had "at least five years actual experience in the practice of his profession," and it has maintained the standard of efficiency by an initial

tory test, such as is in vogue in the Associations in other parts of the Union. It may be interesting to quote from the constitution the following, in reference to this test, to be applied by the members of the Examining Committee to whom the application is referred:—

FIRST.—The applicant shall be fairly tried as to his speed in writing. If he fails to write legibly, at the rate of 150 words per minute, matter never before written by him, for five consecutive minutes, his application shall be rejected.

SECOND.—If this preliminary test be successfully passed, the applicant shall be fairly tried in actual reporting, and the result of such trial, including a specimen of his notes and a transcript thereof, shall be submitted to the other members of the Committee.

A candidate who successfully passes this examination is received on a two-thirds vote of the members present at the next regular meeting. These tests may be waived, however, in the case of a stenographer of well-known or sufficiently vouched for competency,—a provision which is thoroughly safe, for each member is interested in maintaining the high character of the Association, and no one would recommend an incompetent stenographer for membership.

As originally organized in 1876, the name of the Association was: "New York State Law Stenographers' Association." The constitution was, however, amended last year, and the scope of the organization was enlarged by dropping the word "Law." There is now an active membership of over forty, and there are about twenty honorary members. Very few of the whole number are other than Law Reporters, and seldom does a more law-abiding assembly ever meet than that which filled the rooms of Messrs. Tinsley and Morgan, at the beautiful city of Syracuse, N. Y., on Thursday, 19th August, 1880. I say nothing of the proceedings at the "clam-bake" provided on the following day by the firm mentioned, for I was unable to remain; but the unbounded generosity of the hosts, combined with the very evident intention on the part of the guests to make the occasion memorable, might suggest a considerable degree of rollicking enjoyment.

Arriving at Syracuse in the early forenoon, I repaired to the Empire House

where Messrs. Tinsley and Morgan occupy a suite of rooms fitted up with conveniences for the holding of references, arbitrations, etc. Parties to references are allowed the free use of the large room furnished with tables, chairs, and pedestals "whereon doth sit the dread and power" of the arbitrator. Here sat, during the afternoon, the genial President, S. C. Rodgers, of Troy, supported on the left by the whole-souled, energetic Secretary, Theo. C. Rose, of Ithaca. After a few hours spent in fraternal intercourse, and an intermission for lunch, the assembly was called to order between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, and about twenty members responded to the roll-call. Many members were unable to be present, professional engagements detaining some; while a host of letters were read from stenographers residing in various States, expressing regret at enforced absence, and conveying fraternal greetings.

Having written this much of introductory information concerning the Association in which the reader has, by this time, begun to feel a lively interest, I suppose I shall not be pardoned if I do not give a full report of the proceedings. Yet, notwithstanding all consequential possibilities, I do not propose to do anything of the kind. The Association, with commendable enterprise, publishes a full report in book form each year; and every phonographer who can command fifty cents, and who possesses fifty cents' worth of enthusiasm, should purchase that valuable compendium in addition to the WRITER. Moreover, if an attempt were made to publish the proceedings in this magazine, everything else must be crowded out, and the reader must wait a whole year before he would reach the end. Neither do I propose to give a summary of the papers read, and the discussions which they excited. Practical stenographers are also practical writers and speakers, and are not in the habit of using that excess of verbiage which they know from actual experience is, above all things, to be dreaded. I did not receive any incivility or ill-usage at the hands of any of the members which calls for revenge; and any attempt to "boil them down" would be most ungenerous on the part of one who, meeting with them as the representative of another nationality, was treated with all the kindness, and was made the recipient of all the thoughtful attention, which whole-hearted American cousins could bestow.

The Association will meet next year at Buffalo, and additional interest will attach to the Convention when it is announced that members will be accompanied by their wives—those, we mean, who are so blest; those who are not, will be expected—the Secretary says—to take some one else's wife—or daughter.

Before leaving Syracuse, I was enabled, by the courtesy of the members of the Association, to secure the autographs of about twenty of them. These I hope to give in the next number of the WRITER, accompanied by brief biographical notices.

T. B.

LEGIBILITY OF SHORTHAND NOTES.

By Bez.

THE *verbatim* writer must possess two great qualifications—speed and legibility. Upon the possession of the latter depends, to a very great extent, the success of the reporter. Ease in deciphering one's notes compensates for many sins against "style" and "the book." The most sure method by which the young aspirant to phonographic fame may secure a perfectly legible style is to search out by diligent study, practice and comparison the best form for a word, and then always, without exception, write that word in the same manner. This done, a "hand" will be formed, which will be as legible to the writer as his longhand manuscript. In the majority of instances illegibility arises either from carelessly written, or varied forms—sometimes both causes combined. Standing on the head, turning the page of the note book in all directions, even calling in the aid of Prof. — who is noted as a decipherer of ancient (and modern) hieroglyphics, will occasionally fail to bring out the "vast treasures of deep thought," which lie hidden in the close embrace of a carelessly written word or phrase.

Young and inexperienced writers should strive for even mathematical accuracy in their writing during the early stages of their practice. As they progress, experience will teach the modifications which are allowable and necessary; and the eye will become accustomed to the rounding of angles, the flattening of curves, and the doing away with heavy strokes; and notes that look more like "chicken tracks" or a map of the streets of old London, will be as easily read as are the carefully written exercises of the text-books. In nine cases out of ten the writer, not the system written, should receive the blame for illegibility. I have been moved to inflict this screech upon the readers of this journal by the fear that some of my young friends, noticing the "free and easy" style of some of the pages from reporters' note books given in previous issues of the WRITER, would conclude that they also might "indulge." It should be remembered that experience in many departments of the profession is the only guide one has in writing and reading such notes.

FREDERICK PITMAN.

IN a narrow street near St. Paul's Cathedral stands a small bookseller's shop, over the window of which may be seen the name of "Pitman." We say small, because it looks small from the outside. It is rather narrow, as are all the other shops in Paternoster Row, and almost every shop is a bookseller's shop; but inside, a great deal of work is done, and there is more room therein than most people imagine. Such is the place which is regarded as the centre from which the phonographic instruction books, magazines and material of all kinds

are sent to all parts of the world. To phonographers it is only second in point of interest to the Phonetic Institute at Bath. The proprietor of the office in Paternoster Row is Mr. Frederick Pitman, who is some years younger than his brother, Mr. Isaac Pitman. Some thirty-five years ago or so he opened a depot in London for the sale of Phonographic publications, and afterwards took a place in Paternoster Row, where he carries on the business not only of Phonetic publisher, but of musical and general publisher also. He takes no part in the publishing business himself, however, but leaves that in the hands of a manager, while he devotes his time to teaching phonography, having several classes per week, both public and private. He is also editor of the "Shorthand Magazine," established in 1866, and the "Phonographic Lecturer," established in 1871. Two magazines conducted by him for some time, viz., the "Phonographic Pulpit," and the "Phonographic Student" were discontinued in 1876.—*From the Phonograph.*

WANTED—BRAINS.

77

THE capable Stenographer must not only think; he must *know*, and knowledge is his power. He must be skilled, of course, in the practice of his art; but he needs to be scholarly, too. His vocation gives him constant opportunity for acquiring knowledge, and makes continual demands upon him for its application; but he should not content himself with such means of education alone, as he stumbles across in his daily employments. He should cultivate habits of study and research. He needs such general information as is necessary to the journalist, and much of the special learning of the lawyer. It is of great advantage to him to be familiar with the nomenclature of the sciences, and to have some acquaintance with their general scope. It is a disgrace to a Stenographer not to be tolerably conversant with English literature, (he cannot be *too* much so) and not to be familiar with the phrases from foreign languages so commonly used in our own as almost to form a part of it, is likely, sooner or later, to render him ridiculous. He should be able not only literally to reproduce, with the accuracy of the phototypograph (as in the reporting of testimony), but to *interpret*. He should have the art readily to convey meaning in words more fitly chosen than those employed by a speaker, yet so accurately to express his thought that he shall recognize it as his own, and perhaps be agreeably surprised at the purity and flow of his own diction. This is often indispensable to render a report intelligible when read. Many speakers make their thoughts clear, and even eloquent, to an audience by the aid of gesture, facial expression and emphasis, whose language would be obscure to the reader unless remodelled.—*D. C. McEwen, at N. Y. State Stenographers' Association, 1879.*

THE STENO-PHONOGRAPH.



MR. J. HOWARD HUNTER, M. A., Principal of the Institute for the Blind, Brantford, in his last report gives an interesting description of an instrument which may sometime, next century, replace the ordinary shorthand writer. As our readers are interested in learning the latest developments of science, especially in connection with those appliances which are capable of annihilating them, we quote the description given by Mr. Hunter. The Steno-phonograph, it will be readily seen, is a most remarkable invention; and the only hope we can hold out to shorthand writers is that it may be some time before the wonderful Steno-phonograph shall have reached this hemisphere. If any of our readers can furnish further information in regard to this mechanical Stenograph, we shall be happy to receive and publish it. Mr. Hunter says:—

"Perhaps the most wonderful writing appliance ever invented was shown at Paris last year, in the Italian Section of the Exposition. M. Michela, the inventor, designed the instrument to replace the ordinary shorthand writer, and he calls it therefore the *Steno-phonograph*. The extraordinary speed that the operator could command attracted crowds of wondering spectators. M. Vitali, the Superintendent of the Milan Institution for the Blind, has studied the capabilities of this appliance with reference to the blind, and by experiments with his own pupils, he finds it quite within their reach. I here translate and condense the description furnished by M. Vitali. The instrument resembles a miniature harmonium with its case, key-board, and pedals. It is 17 7/10 inches long, 9 4/5 inches wide, 7 4/5 inches high, and by removing the pedals, it may be carried under the arm. There are 20 keys in two rows, and the intervening space is occupied by a cylinder of paper, feeding automatically, and extending nearly the whole length of the machine. The paper used resembles that in the Morse telegraphic register. The keys actuate levers, which print in slight relief the conventional phonetic characters, that are intended by M. Michela to constitute a universal alphabet and represent all articulate sounds. The words are written by syllables, each syllable being printed by striking together the necessary combination of keys. These syllables appear in a vertical order, the second directly under the first, the third beneath the second, and so on. The general principles of M. Michela's method remind one of Prof. A. Melville Bell's "Visible Speech," though the details and the characters themselves are quite different. Only six different symbols are employed in this new system, and these of the simplest form:—a single dot, two horizontal dots, a curve convex downwards, a straight line sloping from left to right, a curve convex upwards, and an inverted T. These symbols correspond respectively to the numbers 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 18; and numbers other than these are expressed by combinations; thus, 4 = 3 + 1; 24 = 18 + 6. Ten vowels and 24 consonant sounds are recognized; but in these consonant or "accompanying" sounds are sometimes included *i* and *u*. The Abbe Vitali assures us from personal observation that the machine attains the wonderful speed of 175 to 180 words a minute, and that this speed can be maintained; also, that the manuscript can be read with the same speed that it is written. Now, the very best of our verbatim reporters cannot long maintain this speed, and their manuscript, from its personal peculiarities, is rarely intelligible to any but the stenographer himself. A blind operator can use Michela's instrument as rapidly as if he were sighted; and, usually having a cultivated ear, he would rather have the advantage in this phonetic work. The relief in which the characters are printed is almost too low to be legible to the touch, but this could be overcome, and at the worst the manuscript could be copied at length, or given directly to a compositor trained in the system. For a knowledge of the conventional signs sufficient to write words, 20 days suffice; but for stenographers' use six months would be requisite. The price at which the instrument now sells

is rather high—\$85; but with an increased demand a large reduction could be made, for the estimated cost of construction is only \$50. Judging from the Abbe Vitali's experiments, a blind reporter, provided with the mechanical stenograph, should be able to represent phonetically any language, if distinctly enunciated, whether it were intelligible to him or not. This facility would be useful for the expression of quotations from foreign languages."

SAD SUICIDE OF A PHONOGRAPHER.

WE are called upon to record a sorrowful event,—the suicide of a promising young American phonographer, Mr. Harry P. Comegys, who had been employed in the office of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway, in Topeka, Kansas. For some days before his death, on the 24th of July, he had been quite despondent, though the cause of his depression could not be ascertained. On Friday he consulted a local physician as to the influence of chloroform, asking how much was necessary to produce sleep or death. He was ailing that day, but on Saturday morning was somewhat better. At noon he returned from his office to his lodgings and wrote this note:—

You will find money and other things in my trunk. Telegraph, and ship my body to J. M. Comegys, St. Albans, Vermont.
H. P. COMEGYS.

At half-past four the body was found cold in death, lying on the bed, the face of the unfortunate young man being buried in a pillow saturated with chloroform, and a half-emptied bottle of the drug lying near. The dying request of the deceased was mournfully complied with. After brief funeral services at the house, he remains were borne to the railway depot—the following stenographers of the city acting as pall-bearers: Messrs T. J. Tilley, W. A. Smith, R. A. Henderson, S. M. Gardener, Harry Reighart and E. T. Hall.

Mr. Comegys was 23 years of age, an only son, and well connected. He was a genial friend and a general favorite in society, and he had no enemies. He held a good position, and had just before his death been promoted, and expected to leave the following week for Denver, Colorado. He was one of the most promising members of the phonographic fraternity. It is difficult to understand how the young man should lose hope when every circumstance appeared encouraging. But each heart knows its own bitterness, and no doubt there were ele-

ments of sorrow in the young man's life of which the world was kept in ignorance. We extend to all the friends, and the fraternity in Topeka, heartfelt sympathy in the sad bereavement.

At a meeting of the stenographic fraternity held in the office of Mr. J. F. Goddard, G.F.A., A. T. & S. F. R. R., July 26th, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Man has his appointed time in life to labor; in youth, the springtime of life, to prepare himself for the great battle of his future; in manhood, to discharge the various duties devolving upon him honorably and well; and finally, to prepare himself for the call of our Heavenly Father; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of profound regret that we are called upon to record the untimely death of one of our craft just entering upon the active labors of manhood, surrounded by a large circle of warm, sympathizing friends, and

WHEREAS, We had in our brief acquaintance with our beloved companion, Harry P. Comegys, learned to appreciate his true worth and many estimable qualities, knowing the great sacrifices and the unwearied labor and zeal necessary to success in his profession in which he bid fair to occupy a prominent part, and

WHEREAS, He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, but esteemed the most by those who knew him best, and will be sadly missed by his many friends and fellow craftsmen wherever known; and it being the desire of the Stenographic Fraternity to give expression to its sorrow at this sudden loss, be it

Resolved, That in the death of our companion, the fraternity has lost a true and worthy member, one whom it was always a pleasure to meet in the social circle, or in the stenographic field; society a most estimable young man, and his many friends a most affectionate, social and generous companion.

Resolved, That it is with oppressed and broken spirits that we here express our sorrow and grief at this sudden loss of our companion so early in life, thus depriving the Stenographic Fraternity of one of its most promising lights.

Resolved, That while we mourn his loss, it is nevertheless a sad consolation to know that he has only preceded us by a few years in joining that innumerable host which has gone on before, to commence the great journey upon the eternal track of time.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family and other relatives of our deceased companion our kindest sympathies in this, their hour of affliction, and may He who holds the destiny of us all in the hollow of His hand, give to them that consolation which we cannot.

Resolved, That the President and Secretary furnish a copy of these proceedings to his family, and also to *Bronson's Phonographic Monthly*, New York City, the *CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER*, Toronto, Canada, and the daily papers of this city, for publication.

T. J. TILLEY,

E. T. HALL,

HARRY REIGHART,

} Com.

R. A. HENDERSON, President,

W. S. JORDAN, Sec'y of meeting.

Our Bureau Drawer,

Our Shorthand Employment Bureau is now thoroughly organized. Our anticipations in regard to the usefulness of this Bureau have been verified thus far, even beyond our anticipations. A few days after the August number of the *WRITER* was issued we received several applications. The success of the Bureau will depend chiefly upon the character and ability of those for whom we seek to secure positions. As we

stated in the announcement of the Bureau, the field for Phonographers is unlimited. There is hardly a single legal firm in this city whose business is not sufficiently varied and extensive to justify the employment of a Shorthand Clerk. When it is remembered that there are 150 of such firms in Toronto, and that three years ago there were only one-third of that number, it will be readily seen that in this department

alone, calculating future increase at the same ratio, there is opportunity for a large proportion of the present students who are ready for work. But the legal fraternity is simply one of many. Each of the numerous wholesale houses, counting-houses and insurance companies requires phonographic help. It must be remembered, however, that the advantages of shorthand, in many of these establishments, are as yet unknown, and an important part of our duty will be to advocate the claims of stenographers in these various departments.

ONE of the earliest applications for a position was made by a young man in New York City who, though able to write one hundred words per minute, modestly suggests that he could not "let" as a shorthand reporter, because he "cannot take down *verbatim*." He desires a position on some paper as a longhand reporter, and asks whether we contemplate providing such situations. In reply to this we desire to state that our Bureau, though mainly so designed, is not exclusively intended for shorthand writers; and we anticipate applications for journalistic help, which need not necessarily imply a knowledge of shorthand. We may remark that we consider the young man to whom we have alluded is rather too modest for one who has had experience in reporting as he has, and who can write one hundred words per minute. He would soon work up speed on a newspaper, and has the peculiar advantage of being a printer. Every printer should understand shorthand.

IN a lengthened and varied intercourse with shorthand writers of all grades, we have found the number of those who are addicted to the use

of intoxicating liquors to be extremely small; but we call to mind the case of an expert writer, who, although enjoying the confidence of Judges and the members of the Bar, and possessing the prospect of a successful career both socially and financially, has been reduced to intercourse with pettifoggers, because he gave way to his inclination to inebriation. The advocates of tipping may argue as they please in regard to the stimulation which comes from imbibation, but we beg mildly to suggest that we are not at all desirous of risking our reputation in connection with this Bureau by placing in responsible positions shorthand men who are at all inclined to love of liquor. One case of failure in this direction would bring discredit upon the whole craft.

MANY letters have already found their way to the Bureau. One of our correspondents says:— "In your advertisement you talk of 'a nominal commission on the annual salary.' Does that keep on forever? Do you find situations in the U. S. as well as in 'those few acres of snow'?" To which we reply: (1) The nominal commission (five per cent.) on the annual salary is to be paid on receipt of the first month's salary. No further payment will be demanded. (2) We expect to place a goodly number of stenographers in lucrative positions on the other side of the lines.

THE employers of Shorthand Clerks who have had no experience with that kind of help, are impatient of any seeming delay or lack of energy or capacity on the part of the clerk to catch the meaning of sentences dictated. We mention this now, so that phonographers who have such positions in view may sharpen their wits as well as their pencil points.

Editorial Notes.

WE take pleasure this month in presenting to our readers the portrait of Mr. E. L. Knapp, of Dowagiac, Mich. We gave a specimen of this gentleman's reporting notes in our June number.

OUR supply of WRITERS for May and June is completely exhausted, and we cannot, therefore, supply new subscribers with the back copies. Judging by the number of applications for them we may some day require to publish a reprint.

ARRIVED—another "Cosmopolitan" poem. This one comes from Illinois, and the writer is a lady. It bids fair to win the prize. We shall be happy, when a few more are received, to assume the task of deciding on their respective merits, and awarding the promised prize.

WILL our friends who have business correspondence for the WRITER please send their communications in longhand? We find it difficult to secure in one individual all the qualifications necessary for deciphering the various and peculiar styles of Phonographic aligraphy.

THE *Printer's Miscellany* has a conundrum:—"What is the difference between shorthand notes and bank notes?—The former are usually taken with a pencil, while the latter are always taken with thanks." If it were not that the number of the *Miscellany* containing this conundrum is dated July, we should have concluded that the idea was a plagiarism of one of the cartoons in the last number of the WRITER.

Two correspondents who write Graham's system think the specimen given in the August WRITER under the heading "The Various Systems" has not the slightest resemblance to Standard Phonography. The point is well taken, for the specimen was marked "Graham" through a misconception. Mr. Gurnett is in no way responsible for the shorthand, though his name appears to it, - he having written only the original manuscript from which it was transcribed.

FOR rich, varied, valuable, vivacious, voracious reading, such as every voracious shorthand writer is ready to digest, we know of hardly

anything so rare and racy as the papers read at the meeting of the New York State Stenographers Association last year, with the discussions thereupon. The book consists of 150 pages, and if it contained nothing but Mr. S. C. Rodgers' paper entitled, "The Stenographic Laws and Reporters of the United States and Territories," it would be worth three times the price at which we sell the volume—50 cents.

We have recently received from England two photographs of post cards containing respectively 14,250 and 11,650 words, in short-hand. They are real curiosities. The former took the first prize in the recent prize competition for miniature writing, offered through the medium of the *Phonograph*, and the other is written by the prize-winner. The former contains 10½ columns of the London *Times* leader type, in fact 8½ leading articles from that journal. The price is 25c. each, or the pair for 45c. We shall be in receipt of a stock in about a month, and shall be happy to receive orders for the same.

With a view of establishing harmony between the Phonographic editor of the *Printer's Miscellany*, and those individuals who are continually finding fault with the tone of his productions, he is considering the advisability of supplying with each number of the magazine a blank page, so that subscribers who hold opin-

ions on shorthand matters that do not exactly coincide with those set forth by the editor, may fill them up with Carter's Blue Black, to suit their own peculiar ideas. We can give brother Bell a suggestion for which we are not quite sure that he will thank us, but which would effectually remedy the difficulty. It is this: that the *Printer's Miscellany* should not so warmly espouse the cause of Graham, to the utter exclusion of all other systems. We have no such difficulty, as he, because the WRITER is "truly cosmopolitan."

We subjoin the transcript Mr. Odlin sends with his page of notes, remarking that in the second question the word "men" does not appear in the original, and consequently in the *fac-simile* notes.

Q. How many men wore the ball and chain? A.—I don't know.

Q. How many men did you ever see wearing it? A.—I don't think I saw more than three or four.

Q. Who were they? A.—Well, John Brown was one.

Q. Give us another. A.—I don't remember their names.

Q. Can't you remember a single one? A.—No, sir.

Q. Is anything the matter with your memory? A.—No, sir.

Q. Who asked you to testify in this case? A.—No one.

Q. Haven't you talked with anybody about it? A.—No, sir.

Q. Not a single individual? A.—No, sir.

Phonographic Gossip.

CANADA.

MR. T. W. GIBSON has been appointed private secretary to Hon. T. B. Pardee, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

THE last of the English pages of the *Hansard* have been printed. The French pages, with the exception of the index, have also left the printer's hands.

THE Secretary of the Barrie Mechanics' Institute writes us to the effect that shorthand classes are to be formed under the auspices of the Institute during the approaching winter.

MR. THOS. BENGOUGH, Official Reporter to the York County Courts, and conductor of the WRITER, was made an Honorary member of the New York Stenographers' Association at their meeting last month. He took pleasure in acknowledging the honor done to him, and through him, to the Canadian fraternity.

MR. F. W. WOBELL has been "kidnapped" from us by Mr. John Cameron, of the London *Advertiser*, who has been on the look-out for a phonographer possessing the necessary qualifications for general reporting on a daily newspaper. He is happy in his choice, and is confident that our late assistant will be a valuable acquisition to the *Advertiser* staff. Notwithstanding that this change will complicate our machinery for a time, we are pleased at it, as we rejoice in the progress of all phono-

graphers, especially those whom we have the honor of bringing out from comparative obscurity and placing in positions of prominence.

THE editor of the *Canadian Spectator* thinks the manner in which examinations are carried on in the Montreal Courts now is a machine admirably adapted for wasting time and puzzling a witness. The words are taken down in long and slow hand, during the writing of which the examining lawyer has a chance to induce the witness to alter them occasionally. Then comes a long pause, and then the sentence is read over by the writer of the long and slow hand in a very pronounced French accent, which often puzzles witnesses and criminals not accustomed to the bewildering beauties of English prose set to French music. It is this inevitable slowness that induces the lack of decorum in the court. If the subordinates had work to do, or could watch work being done, so as to be interested, it would mend their manners.

THE legal fraternity in St. John, New Brunswick, are moving in the direction of a system of shorthand reporting in the Courts of that Province. A committee of legal gentlemen has been appointed, of whom Geo. G. Gilbert, Esq., is the moving spirit. The conductor of the WRITER had the pleasure of an interview with this gentleman a few days ago, and

furnished such information in reference to the Court reporting in this Province as is calculated to aid in the inauguration of the system in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Gilbert has advanced views on the subject, being himself a phonographer; and if the Legislature will adopt his views the Province by the sea will be converted into a paradise for phonographers. Already there are several aspirants for the position of law reporter. It is probable that but one will be appointed at the start, though four or five will eventually be required.

The latest journalistic enterprise in this city—the “breezy, brief and bright” *World*—is owned, controlled and conducted by two shorthand writers, Messrs. Albert Horton and Wm. F. Maclean. We have already given a biography of the former, in connection with the official *Hansard* staff, of which he is a member. Mr. Maclean has been for many years engaged in journalistic work, first on the *Hamilton Times*, and subsequently on the *Liberal and Globe*. He has had experience in every department of literary work on a daily newspaper, and was recently acting as amanuensis to Mr. J. Gordon Brown, the *Globe's* Managing Editor. Messrs. Horton and Maclean are young men possessing vigor, versatility, and enthusiasm, and the *World* will, we have no doubt, find a place among the established institutions. The early appearance of the *World* contributed to the death of the *Evening News*, which was to have been.

Mr. Wm. A. Sims, who was installed as shorthand writer to the Manager of the British America Assurance Company through the medium of the conductor of the *Writer* some four years ago, has been promoted, step by step, until he now holds the office of Chief Clerk, and deputy-manager. His duties are very important, as he must examine all risks assumed both in Canada and the United States. In a recent business tour to Atlanta, Georgia, he conversed with Capt. Harry Jackson, who is legal Reporter (not stenographic) for the State. He reports that shorthand reporting is not exactly recognized by the State, but they always have a stenographer to take reports of cases; and the Captain said he would as soon think of getting up his case without reading his brief, as to conduct it without a stenographer to take the evidence. He added that it was only a matter of time to have the system introduced into every State of the Union.

Mr. F. E. Horton recently spent a half-day in a court room in the city of Buffalo, with the object of learning the mode of questioning adopted by counsel. Mr. Horton is writing to the *Law Journal* urging upon members of the Bar more careful attention to the matter of examining witnesses, with a view to relieving the stenographer of the puzzling position in which he is frequently placed by careless and unfinished questioning on the part of counsel, and the confusion created by witness and lawyers, all speaking at once. This whole matter was discussed at the Convention of the N. Y. State

Stenographers, and various methods were suggested for overcoming the difficulty. Mr. Horton was very favorably impressed with the regularity of procedure in Buffalo and the deference paid the Stenographer; but, Buffalo lawyers have been trained to good conduct, and, where the system of law-reporting is new, the difficulties referred to are invariably encountered.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. H. A. LANGFORD, lately of Chicago, has taken the position of Stenographer to the Assistant General Freight Agent of the Michigan Central Railway, at Detroit.

A CORRESPONDENT thinks the word “Scugog” is easy to write compared with these names of Stations on the Michigan Central Railway:—Tittabawasee, Zilwaukee, Kalamazoo, Ypsilanti, Dowagiac, Pokagon, Wasepi, Tekonsha, Owosso.

MESSRS. LOOMIS & AUGMENT, proprietors of the *Sterling Business and Phonographic College*, Sterling, Ill., are western agents for this Magazine. They have issued a pamphlet circular in reference to their College, and state this fact, quoting several paragraphs from the *WRITER*. Mr. H. A. Aument has charge of the Phonographic Department of the College.

In the paragraph referring to Mr. James E. Munson in last month's issue a very elegant sentence was spoiled by the intelligent compositor. What we wrote was: “On behalf of his Canadian disciples and many friends we extend to Mr. Munson,” and so on. The printer, no doubt, looked upon the first four words as superfluous, and neatly chopped them off. That is one kind of “be-half off,” sure enough.

The July and August numbers of Mr. D. L. Scott Browne's *Phonographic Monthly* are going through the press at the same time. This fact perhaps will explain the reason of Mr. B's non-appearance at the meeting of his State Association at Syracuse. He writes that he has been overworked for the past six years. No one will wonder at this who knows the hard fight he has had; but while we sympathize with Mr. B. in his personal afflictions we cannot but remark that he has gone through much unpleasantness that might have been avoided by a more fraternal attitude towards those with whom he should be a co-worker in the advancement of the art.

Mr. Charles Grimes received \$8.50 for reporting the testimony at a trial in Sterling, Ill. He had studied phonography but five months, and this was his first job. The *Gazette* says it gave excellent satisfaction. We do not desire to doubt this statement, but would rise to remark that it would not be safe for students generally to take this as an ordinary case. If we knew Master Charley personally we might speak more positively, but we feel safe in hazarding the assertion that he spent his study hours in unusually hard study, and not—as is the case with the average collegian—in ringing the changes on “Old Grimes,” to whom, we presume, he claims no relationship.

FOREIGN.

GABELSBERGER'S system is principally used in Germany.

SHORTHAND is extensively studied at the Cape of Good Hope.

EARL BEAUCHAMP wanted to have the reporters' gallery in the Upper House removed, so that the members and speakers would face the pressmen, but the proposition was rejected. So it is true that some people *are* afraid to face reporters!

A PHONOGRAPHER has been employed to report the evidence given at the Court Martial now being held in England in the matter of the alleged bribery of the marker at Wimbledon. This is a noteworthy step in advance, for shorthand writers have not been employed in Court Martials in England until now.

We have received from Mr. M. Hurst, 23 Church Street, Sheffield, Eng'and, two curious photographs. They represent the contractility of phonographic forms—being fac-similes of postal cards, one of them containing 11,650 words, and the other 14,250 words. They were both written by Mr. G. H. Davidson, of London. With the aid of a magnifier they would be quite legible, but as we look at them with naked eye we are constrained to exclaim, as the frogs did to the naughty boys in the fable. "It may be fun to you, Mr. Davidson, but it's death to our poor eyes."

MR. J. H. AYERS, of the Telegraph Department of the Ipswich Post Office, has completed a task which testifies to uncommon practice and perseverance. He has carefully written out a complete copy of the Church Service in phonography. It is comprised within the compass of a volume similar in size to the ordinary printed Church Service, and is yet so legible as to be read by a phonographer with almost, if not quite, as much fluency as print. Some idea of the amount of labor involved may be gathered from the fact that the book contains 563 pages, and, on a fair average, each page includes 450 separate characters, representing a still larger number of words. The Suffolk, Eng., *Chronicle* thinks Mr. Ayers must possess not only patience and carefulness, but an enthusiasm for phonography to which the editor lays no claim.

In Westminster Abbey will be found the following inscription to the memory of William Lawrence, a writer of shorthand, who died 250 years ago. William Lawrence was probably clerk to the prebendary who indited the inscription in grateful remembrance of the services of this useful shorthand writer of the olden time:—

With diligence and trust most exemplary,
Did William Lawrence serve a prebendary;
And for his pains now past before, not lost,
Gained this remembrance at his master's cost.
O, read these lines again! You'll seldom find
A servant faithful and a master kind.
Shorthand he wrote, in prime his flower did fade;
And hasty death short had of him hath made.
Well couth (knew) he numbers; and well measured
hand,
Thus doth he now the ground whereon you stand,
Wherein he lies. So geometrical
Art maketh some, but thus will nature all.

ENCOURAGING WORDS TO LEARNERS.

An old phonographer sends us the following, which we gladly insert:—

Will you kindly give me space in your valued journal to say a word of encouragement to beginners in the art of phonography.

When phonography was young it seems to me there was much more enthusiasm amongst learners than we see now-a-days. Isaac Pitman was our idolized chief, and no claimant had as yet arisen to distract our attention. Out doors or in, phonographic characters were everywhere present. Roofs and spires and trees and fences bristled with suggestive dots and strokes and curves and angles. Hundreds of young people, having once got an inkling of phonography, followed it up for the pure love of the thing and without any thought of becoming reporters. There should be more of this spirit now. It is not desirable that all should seek to be reporters; it is desirable that hundreds of thousands should learn to practice this extremely useful art. The dread "reporting machine" may one day cause reporters to quake in their shoes,—it cannot touch the usefulness of phonography in private life. Four of my family are now thorough phonographers, but I should regret to see any one of them try to make a living by it unless they gave promise of a special aptitude for the business. Yet I doubt not it will be to them, as it has been to me, the most valuable secular study of my life.

Algebra, geometry and some other pet hobbies have never, in my calling, been of the slightest use to me; but tell me, if you please, in what occupation a knowledge of shorthand may not be made serviceable? It is a great help in composition. Of this particular feature a striking instance occurred in my own experience. We had had a "grand occasion," and nothing short of a two column report would have pleased the Boss. Several smart men, including a clergyman, laid their heads together to get out the "copy." I was merely a clod-hopper, but had taken notes, and I, too, was busy inditing, each party unknown to the other. The thing leaked out, however, and I was sent for, reports were compared, and mine was adopted. Sermonizing was too slow and heavy. Phonography had given me a facility in composition that "astonished their weak minds"—as the saying goes.

Phonography is of great service in learning a foreign tongue; but my remarks on this head must be deferred.

Phonography is a *life-long amusement*. An intellectual hobby of this sort will help to keep you clear of smoking, drinking and other abominations. Begin the study and practice at once. In a cosmopolitan magazine like the WRITER, comparisons are odious, but there can be no harm in saying that while all have merit you are safe with Benn Pitman and perfectly safe with Isaac. Glide over the corresponding style and make permanent use of the reporting style. Remember further that phonography is no manner of use unless thoroughly mastered.

EXPLANATION.

"When a man sits down to write a history, although it be but the history of Jack Hickathrift or Tom Thumb, he knows no more than his heels what lets and confounded hindrance he is to meet with in his way."—STERNE.

To OUR READERS.—The September number of the WRITER has been delayed beyond the first of the month, owing to the following causes:—(1) the absence of the Conductor during the latter half of the month of August, and the sudden withdrawal of his assistant; (2) the rush of work in the printing and lithographing departments for the first two weeks in September, owing to the holding of the Industrial Exhibition in Toronto—all the printing offices in the city being crowded to their utmost capacity; and (3) an error on the part of the lithographer in numbering the shorthand pages, caused the forms to be held open with the intention of inserting a supplement to make the paging regular, but which it was afterwards found would delay the magazine too greatly.

We bespeak the kindly consideration of subscribers in this matter, and sincerely hope that such a delay will not again occur.

Fraternally,
BENGOUGH BROS.



Begin to Study early in life



Make an intelligent choice of a system



Jolly Roommate



Oh my dear fellow you've got the wrong system!



Having chosen a system Hang on to it!



Be Diligent in Study.



A weak voice



The MS. of my speech



Study like Logarithms as you go along



Seize every opportunity for practice



The old Party was always reported



FABER'S BEST

HINTS AND HELPS FOR PHONOGRAPHERS.

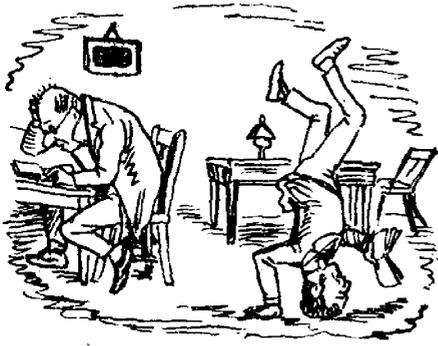
WANTED--BRAINS.

Written in Benn Pitman's Phonography, by F. W. Wodell, London.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the left side of the bottom section.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the right side of the bottom section.

- B.C. McEwen, Brooklyn



A DIFFICULT PASSAGE.

OUR BUREAU DRAWER.

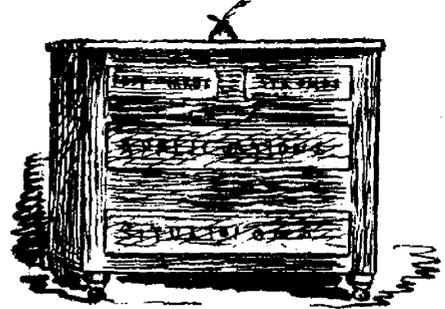
Written in Graham's Standard Phonography, by T. Pinkney, Toronto.

LEGIBILITY OF SHORTHAND NOTES.

Written in Graham's Standard Phonography, by T. Pinkney.

Handwritten shorthand notes on ruled lines, demonstrating legibility.

Handwritten shorthand notes on ruled lines, demonstrating legibility.



CRITICISMS ON A "STANDARD" SPECIMEN.

Letter from Rev. Wm. D. Bridge, of East Pepperell, Mass., criticising Mr. T. Pinkney's Specimen.

19. — 744 7 1/2 1/3 ...
 21. ... []
 22. ...

See = "b" for "Reports" ...

See = "p" for "Printed" ...

See = "r" for "Reporters" ...

See = "s" for "salary" ...

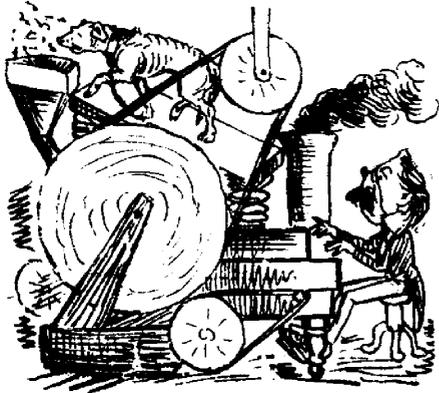
... "g" "z" "v" ...

... "y" "z" ...

... "y" (London) "o" (Printer) ...

THE STENO-PHONOGRAPH.

Written in Isaac Pitman's Phonography, by S. T. Bastedo.



Handwritten shorthand notes in Pitman's Phonography, including numbers like 177/10 and 94/5.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Pitman's Phonography, including names like M.A. and M. V. Vitali.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Pitman's Phonography, including mathematical expressions like 6 4 = 3 + 1, 24 = 18 + 6.

STENOGRAPHERS IN COUNCIL.

Written in Munson's Phonography, by W. Taylor, Toronto.

1. The first line of shorthand is a series of connected loops and curves.
 2. The second line begins with a colon and contains several distinct symbols.
 3. The third line features a slash and a series of vertical strokes.
 4. The fourth line shows a sequence of curved lines and dots.
 5. The fifth line includes a vertical stroke followed by a series of loops.
 6. The sixth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 7. The seventh line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 8. The eighth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 9. The ninth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 10. The tenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 11. The eleventh line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 12. The twelfth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 13. The thirteenth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 14. The fourteenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 15. The fifteenth line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 16. The sixteenth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 17. The seventeenth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 18. The eighteenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 19. The nineteenth line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 20. The twentieth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.

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 2. The second line begins with a colon and contains several distinct symbols.
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 4. The fourth line shows a sequence of curved lines and dots.
 5. The fifth line includes a vertical stroke followed by a series of loops.
 6. The sixth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 7. The seventh line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 8. The eighth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 9. The ninth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 10. The tenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 11. The eleventh line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 12. The twelfth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 13. The thirteenth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 14. The fourteenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 15. The fifteenth line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 16. The sixteenth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 17. The seventeenth line features a series of connected loops and curves.
 18. The eighteenth line starts with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.
 19. The nineteenth line contains a series of connected loops and curves.
 20. The twentieth line begins with a vertical stroke and a series of curves.



"MANUAL" LABOR.
As defined by the Inventor of Phonography.

Leaves from Reporters' Note Books.

FACSIMILE OF REPORTING NOTES OF J. W. ODLIN, OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, U. S.

w a s l v . v

z

w i n c) v l

y 7 a e

o v d) e

e

z 2
- n 7 . e e

e

e e . n r m

e

- h n . k t e

e

o n 4 e 7

e

- e e e

e