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BENGOUGH'S  
COSMOPOLITAN  
SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. III.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1883.

No. 12.

A RETROSPECT.

Labor with what zeal we will,  
Something still remains undone,  
Something uncompleted still  
Waits the rising of the sun.  
\* \* \* \* \*

Till at length the burden seems  
Greater than our strength can bear,  
Heavy as the weight of dreams  
Pressing on us everywhere.

And we stand from day to day  
Like the dwarfs of times gone by,  
Who, as Northern legends say,  
On their shoulders held the sky.

We are contemplatively filling the editorial armchair. "It rains, and the wind is never weary." It is the sort of a day when Hope's bedraggled wings refuse to carry her into that region beyond human vision, the future. Practically we have long since arranged with neatness,—the neatness born of a wet day and outside discomfort—all things appertaining to the profession. Metaphorically, we are now ransacking the pigeon holes of memory and consigning, with mingled sighs and smiles to the metaphorical wastepaper basket, the mistakes and triumphs, in fact all the used-up material of the past year.

'Tis now just a year since we moved to our present address. We were not seven, we were only two. The same remark might apply to our furniture, our type-writers and our pupils. The first revolution of Fortune's wheel involved the engaging of that necessary evil,—a boy.

"O boy! of such as thou are oftenest made  
Earth's fragile idols ;  
\* \* \* \* \*

When first thou camest, gentle, shy and  
fond."

It was a pardonable mistake of ours that for the first seven days we felt inclined to shout "Mercury" instead of "Jerry," to look vainly for the silvery wings, which we felt positive were hidden

under his Wellingtons, where other boys are supposed to have holes in their socks ; but it was a dismal awakening to be compelled to acknowledge that if the wings were there they must have only been electro-plate, and that of the poorest kind. Ah! well, that was one of the mistakes. We know now that office boys are sent to mortify the flesh ; they are one of the ills the editorial flesh is heir to.

Then it dawned upon us that our trio as a trio soared too much among the upper notes for our own good. We must have some one to take the lower chords. Some one who could grovel among the practicalities of life. We were born to idealize. He came—our book-keeper ; he came, he saw, he conquered. From chaos he brought order. But alas!

"The pleasures and delights, which mask  
In treacherous smiles life's serious task"

proved too much for him. Another mistake. Live and learn. "All's for the best," we murmur as we reflect upon the numerous virtues and talents possessed by our present *chef d'affaires* in the type-writing department.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." With the click of more than half-a-dozen type-writers, the hum from a busy class room, where two teachers are required to keep up with the press of work, and with a satisfactory book of sales now before us, we can afford to smile at the recollection of the morning we came down to find that fortune was literally at its flood—the water not having been turned off on the flat above—and that a boat was almost a necessity to enable us to reach our private office, and that removal to this side of the hall was the only resource.

Our editorial feelings suffer a severe strain as we think of the way in which our monthly offering has lagged in making its appearance. But now, with staff fully or-

ganized and office methods perfected, we indulge in hope of future promptitude. We swell with proprietorial gratification, as we review our present staff, numbering six *aides*. We smile as we think of the success which has attended our classes both in and out of the city, and melt with pity as we contemplate the struggles of imitators and rivals. But

—*Requiescant in pace.*

We linger over the events of the Convention, and regard with pleasure the fact that like human driftwood on the sea of chance, we have come in contact, during the past year, with many unknown to us heretofore except by their pens.

"No chance of birth, or place had made us friends,

Being oftentimes of different tongues and nations,

But the endeavor for the self-same ends

With the same hopes and fears and aspirations."

"*Requiescant in pace*," we say again, as we sweep the ludicrous and grave, the pleasant, and the "carking cares," the duns of memory and the receipts of conscience, alike, into what is doomed to be their funeral pyre.

Shall we then conclude thus? Shall we with man's proverbial ingratitude overlook the words of encouragement and praise which have been waited to us from all parts of the world; the contributions which have materially assisted us in winning that praise? Never! We are more than man; we are editor; and we will once more let our poetic vein run away with us and say:—

"Thanks for the sympathies that ye have shown,

Thanks for each kindly word, each silent token,

That teaches us when seeming most alone

Friends are around us, though no word be spoken."

### ANOTHER GLIMPSE OF GOTHAM.

This number of the *COSMOPOLITAN* is delayed on account of business which required attendance at Gardner, Mass., where the Conductor took evidence on a commission issued out of the High Court of Justice of this Province, in a suit between the firm of Heywood Bros., of the town of Gardner, against Hay & Co., of the town of Woodstock, Ontario, in connection with a patent for the manufacture of rattan. The testimony amounted in all to about six hundred folios, and it was necessary to transcribe it within two days. Taking the New London

route, and arriving in New York Friday morning by the steamer City of Boston, we made every effort to secure stenographic assistance, but were unsuccessful until the evening of Friday, when Mrs. M. A. Underhill took about a hundred folios from dictation, and afterwards Mr. A. Edwards, who assists Mr. E. F. Underhill, the reporter of the Surrogate's Court, took several hours' dictation. On the following day, Saturday, the assistance of some seven or eight stenographers was secured through the medium of Mr. E. F. Underhill. The notes thus taken were dictated to typers and printed upon litho-transfer paper, from which they were litho-typed, and several copies were printed from the stone.

Mrs. M. A. Underhill, of New York, who assists Mr. E. A. Underhill, typed 240 folios on Saturday, partly from her own notes, but principally from the dictation of Mr. Edwards. This is the smartest day's work she ever did, and is a remarkably good record.

The Underhill process, which we prefer to call litho-typing, is comparatively simple and very efficient. Mr. Underhill uses it constantly in his work in the Surrogate's Court. There are several exceptional advantages connected with his position which allow of it being done when it could not be made general by stenographers. The law relating to his office requires that every case reported shall be transcribed, and as the costs are paid out of the estate, which is always a wealthy one, this process is resorted to and the several copies printed are distributed to attorneys and interested parties, the charge being as high as thirty and thirty-five cents per folio, according to the number of copies distributed. There is no reason why this method should not be employed generally in heavy cases.

Mr. Underhill, whose features adorn the illuminated cover of *Brown's Monthly*, is very rapid in his movements, both mental and manual, and "runs" the Surrogate's Court as Clerk and Stenographer, to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has a very efficient staff of *aides*, and does a fine business. He is one of the busiest men in New York, and when he gets down to his summer home in Nantucket during the "dog days," he takes a hard rest, and doesn't take much interest in the Conventions.

We had arranged with friend Scott-Browne to visit those of the New York stenographers who were in town, but pressure of work left no time. Returning home

by the Connecticut Valley route, we were met at the St. Alban's depot by Mr. J. H. Mimms, who, in 1874, was our *confrere* with Prof. Fowler. He had just returned from Albany (where he had been helping Mr. S. C. Rodgers in the Legislative gallery), in order to take proceedings in his own Court in St. Albans. At Brattleboro', Vt., we were shown through the famous Estey Organ Works by Mr. J. W. Goodner, stenographer to the firm, who expects to be present at the Congress. He represents Vermont on the International Committee.

## NEWS NOTES.

### CANADIAN.

Mr. W. W. Fox, of the *Mail* staff, has been presented with a well-filled purse by the editors and his fellow-reporters. Mr. Fox has just become a benedict.

The publisher of the *Orillia Packet* recently published a program of a church entertainment entirely in phonetic spelling without the aid of the new letters. The specimen was quite a novelty.

On the departure of Mr. Charles E. Clarke to take a position on the *Hamilton Tribune* his fellow scribes and the employees of the *Canadian* office made him a presentation and gave him a farewell address.

The advantages of shorthand and type-writing are illustrated in the case of a law firm in this city who employ two shorthanders and by the aid of these machines have quadrupled the work formerly done with the same staff of longhand clerks.

Mr. Frank Yeigh, private secretary to the Hon. A. S. Hardy, intends taking a tour of England and the Continent during July and August, starting next month. He expects to be back in time for the International Congress on the 16th August.

Mr. W. H. Huston, the young Principal of Pickering College, called on us the other day. He has charge of a larger number of pupils than have ever before assembled within the college walls, and he appears to feel the responsibility of the work. He has joined the army of benedicts within the past few months.

Dr. A. Hamilton, of Port Hope, is contributing to the *Times* paragraphs spelled phonetically without the use of new letters, but with adaptations of the various types from the printer's case, small capitals being used for emphasis or elongated sounds, and other letters being inverted to denote a change in a vowel sound.

Mr. J. J. Pritchard has been appointed teacher of classes in the Central Prison, and has over fifty eager pupils, who assemble two

evenings in the week. Mr. Pritchard, who is a phonographer, intends to introduce the phonic and phonetic systems, and, as part of his program, is arranging to teach pronunciation by means of phonography.

Mr. Croker and the publisher of the *Orillia Packet* offered prizes for competition among the members of the Mechanics' Institute classes in Phonography, and the prizes in the advanced class were given to Messrs Herbert Murray and E. A. Doolittle, and in the elementary class to William Morrison and Charles Kennedy. Mr. Morrison had only the benefit of half a term's instruction.

The *Hamilton Tribune* is the latest accession to Canadian journalism. It is a bright, pithy evening paper, under the vigorous management of Mr. John T. Hawke, formerly editor of the *Toronto Globe*. Mr. Charles E. Clarke, formerly of the *Evening Canadian* of this city, Mr. E. V. Martin of the *Port Hope Times*, Mr. Nelson of the *Spectator*, and Miss Nimmo, make up the staff. The *Tribune* is the first Canadian newspaper that has engaged a lady as reporter regularly upon its staff.

Mr. William Houston of the *Globe*, of this city, has delivered before several Teachers' Conventions and before the Canadian Institute of this city a paper upon phonetic spelling based on etymology. He has formulated a few simple rules with the object of securing etymological distinction where possible and of securing simplicity where the etymological argument does not prevent. He proposes calling a Convention of phonologists during this summer and establishing uniformity if possible. Under the new management of the *Globe* the rules for the proof readers' room are being revised and numerous spellings are being changed to suit the more advanced ideas.

Miss F. H. Churchill gave an evening of readings in Shaftesbury Hall on the 29th ult., under the auspices of the Shorthand Society, for the benefit of the Library Fund. The program embraced nine selections, illustrating the humorous, pathetic and dramatic, and was carried out most successfully. Paull's Orchestra of 30 performers, several of whom were shorthand writers, furnished selections during the evening. His Worship, Mayor Boswell, occupied the chair, and in his introductory remarks paid a high compliment to the shorthand profession, referring to the useful character of their work, in relation to commerce and literature. The entertainment was a success in every respect.

Mr. James Crankshaw of Montreal has successfully passed his examination as barrister, and is now fully fledged. The examinations were unusually severe this year, and considering that he worked at his shorthand reporting up to the last day of the term in December, we are sure all his confreres and many friends will congratulate him on his

good fortune. The examiners gave him a very severe oral examination for half an hour, comprising about one hundred and twenty questions in Civil Law, but he got through so well as to merit and receive the unanimous congratulations of the Board of Examiners. Mr. Crankshaw is taking an active interest in the promotion of the official reporting system for the Quebec Courts, and we hope soon to be able to record the complete success of the movement.

The following, from the *Seaforth Expositor*, is the Provincial publisher's view:—"That the paper upon which both the *Weekly Mail* and *Globe* are printed, costs more than the subscription prices nets the proprietors, is a fact patent to every person who knows anything of the business. The daily editions of both papers, including the advertising, pay well enough, but what is made on these is more than wasted on the weekly editions. Financially, the *Mail* is not in one whit better position than the *Globe*, if so good. It could not live a year as an independent enterprise, and it is now only kept afloat by a few wealthy politicians, backed up by the Dominion Government. The *Weekly Mail* is published, not with a view of making it pay its way, but for the express purpose of political influence, and the *Globe* is issued on the same absurdly low price, to keep the *Mail* from getting the start of it. This is hard on the proprietors and shareholders, but it affords the public cheap reading. Not only is this sort of fun hard on the proprietors and shareholders of the dailies, but it is hard on the country publishers as well, who have to compete with the cheap weeklies."

The *Toronto Globe* has entered upon the policy of reporting the proceedings of Parliament in a different style from that which has hitherto been in vogue. The system of verbatim reporting could not be carried out; it made the reports too long for the people to read, and too expensive for newspaper publishers. The *Hamilton Times* thinks "there is much said in Parliament that is not worth reporting in full. A comprehensive summary will meet the public want far better. When a Minister or a leading member of the Opposition delivers a set speech on an important topic, it can properly be reported in full, but for ordinary efforts a summary suffices. A simple contest between the *Globe* and the *Mail* to see which paper can fill more columns with a report is foolish, and the plan of reporting one's political friends in full, and cutting off one's opponents with a couple of lines, is mean and partial. Now that *Hansard* is firmly established, a means of reference for cases of dispute is provided, and when country papers want full reports of their local representative's speeches they can be copied from *Hansard*. The *Globe's* new departure will be popular." It is difficult to say at this early day whether the new plan will be permanently popular. We incline to

think that the "back-country Grits," to whom the *World* occasionally refers, will want to read more full reports of the speeches of their representatives. The *Globe* now gives verbatim reports only of the great speeches—and these are copied from the daily *Hansard*.

The adjourned meeting of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association for the election of officers was held in the Upper Press Room, House of Commons, on Saturday afternoon, (31st ult.,) Mr. T. J. Richardson, the retiring President, in the chair. Mr. A. J. Henderson, of Toronto, was unanimously elected Secretary-Treasurer, and the following local Vice-Presidents were appointed: Ottawa, T. J. Richardson; Toronto, A. F. Wallis; Montreal, F. R. Marceau. Mr. A. Horton, who had been previously elected by acclamation President for the ensuing year, then took the chair. Mr. G. Eyvel, was appointed Secretary *pro tem*. A considerable quantity of important business was transacted. Mr. H. M. Mathewson was elected Acting Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of the session, as Mr. Henderson will be in Toronto. A special meeting will be held during this week for the purpose of revising the tariff. The following is a complete list of the new officers:—President, A. Horton; Secretary-Treasurer, A. J. Henderson; Acting Secretary-Treasurer, H. M. Mathewson; Local Vice-Presidents—Ottawa, T. J. Richardson; Toronto, A. F. Wallis; Montreal, F. R. Marceau.

#### AMERICAN.

Mr. W. B. Estabrook has retired from the management of the Typewriter agency in Washington, and his place will be filled by Mr. Albert Baker, Junior, who will be assisted by Mr. M. A. Canfield.

Mr. Elias Longley of Cincinnati sent assignments of his new Eclectic Manual of Phonography, and the American Phonographic Dictionary, to his agents in London, Eng., who proceeded to advertise the same, when they were promptly served with an injunction by Mr. Pitman, who quoted the English copyright act upon which he forbade their sale. The change of a few alphabetic outlines, Mr. Pitman contends, does not affect his right to forbid the sale, for he says his copyright extends to all the editions of Phonography he has published. In Mr. Longley's magazine, the *Phonetic Educator*, he publishes Mr. Pitman's letter, and replies that as to Mr. Pitman's copyright "It is nothing more than his copyright to his form or style of book, and not equal to a patent on an invention, and there is as much difference between his Manual and ours as between any two arithmetics or geographies." Mr. Longley says that his view is upheld by publishers and lawyers in the United States generally. Mr. Longley states in conclusion that he has almost completed arrangements for supplying his books to all who want them

in England and other countries, notwithstanding Mr. Pitman's prohibition.

## BRITISH.

A Chicago correspondent in London, says of English editors:—"They are great chinnners about the dignity of journalism, and they don't take into consideration the possibility that a paper which is all dignity gets to be almighty stupid. There are a few journals in London which are beginning to demonstrate the fact that brevity is the most popular thing after all." There is certainly more brevity than dignity in the phrases "great chinnners" and "almighty stupid."

The first-personal editor of London *Truth* finds fault with the word "unwisdom" as "wholly un-English." It would probably be difficult for Mr. Labouchere to explain precisely what he means here by "un-English." If he means that it is not justified by good usage, he is greatly mistaken as to the facts. If he means that it serves no useful purpose in the language, he is deficient in a knowledge of synonyms. If he means that it violates by its composition any canon of English etymology, he *ipso facto* shows that he has not seen how the word is really made up. "Unwisdom" is not the noun "wisdom" with the adverbial prefix "un" added; it is the adjective "unwise" with the suffix "dom" appended. The word is both legitimate and useful, and it is mere pedantry to say of a word of which this is true that it is "un-English."—*Toronto Globe*.

## JOTTINGS FROM OVER THE WATER.

Mr. G. E. Wainwright, a pupil of Mr. F. Pitman's, has been appointed head-teacher of phonography in the Young Men's Christian Association of London. This is another proof of Mr. Pitman's success as a teacher of phonography.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Bee, who was for fifty years one of the reporters in the gallery. The deceased retired into private life a few years ago, but he was seized a short time since with a fit of paralysis from which he never recovered. He had reached the ripe old age of seventy-nine years.

Mr. Withers, the renowned teacher and lecturer of phonography, has found it necessary to sever his connection with the Liverpool Young Men's Christian Association, on account of his services not being adequately recompensed. Mr. Withers is a tried and expert teacher, and the loss rather rests with the association than with Mr. Withers.

On the occasion of the presentation to Mr. T. A. Reed of a volume signed by all the most distinguished professors of phonography throughout the world, by the Phonetic Shorthand Writers' Association, London, Mr. Reed took the opportunity of delivering an admira-

ble address on phraseology, of which I see a verbatim report in the *Shorthand Magazine* for January.

Phonographic magazines have lately been on the increase. The *Shorthand World*, a new phonographic paper from Ireland is a very wild production; the *Phonographic Miscellany* is another new magazine in Pitman's system. The *Phonographic Magazine* and the *Phonographic Meteor* have both issued new series for the present year.

News reaches us from Sydney, N.S.W. of a new shorthand writers' association about to be started. The first meeting was a decided success, many having to go away not being able to find standing room. Mr. Jacob Pitman, brother of the inventor, was the leading star present. A good deal of business was got through, and as many as sixty-six names were handed in for intending membership. Let us wish them prosperity in their new undertaking.

Phonography is making rapid strides amongst the railway companies in Manchester. Mr. Henry Pitman, in writing to the *Phonetic Journal*, says:—"Since that time (referring to the time when Sir Ed. Watkin was the first to discover the value of phonography in railway work, and engaged Mr. Henry Pitman to teach some fifty clerks), I have taught several hundred youthful penmen in the service of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire railway company. Sir Ed. Watkin once said, when distributing some phonographic prizes, 'During the last few years I have assisted in finding employment for at least fifty young men who have become proficient writers of Mr. Pitman's system of phonography.' It is very gratifying indeed to see phonography making such headway amongst the railway companies. No doubt the time is not far distant when phonography will be indispensable in every railway company's office."

In the annual address presented to the members of the Phonetic Society, Mr. Isaac Pitman says, "There are about two thousand members of the two societies instituted in this country for the carrying out of a spelling reform, namely, 'The Phonetic Society' and the 'English Spelling Reform Association.' If only one in four of these will send a contribution—a letter on the reform, an interesting paragraph, or a piece of news—to some newspaper in the first style of the spelling reform, and keep it up, every week, we shall in a short time hear no more objections to phonetic spelling." In his concluding remarks we find the following:—"Let us labor for the dissemination of phonography in the schools and young men's associations, for the introduction of phonetic reading into the infant and elementary schools, and for the extension of phonetic spelling by the old alphabet in the newspapers, magazines, and correspondence, and our reward will be great."

## LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. J. Thomas, Honorary Editor of the English *Phonographer's Herald*, in reviewing his eighth year's work, refers to some developments in the English phonographic world during the year. Regarding "Legible Shorthand," he registers his opinion that "Mr. Pockwell fails entirely in his alphabet, and as the foundation of the work is a muddle, so is the superstructure. The editor fears Mr. Anderson's "History of Shorthand" will be a financial failure, as it would interest only a few readers. He admits Anderson's talent as an author, but thinks it a pity he did not confine himself exclusively to history, as no doubt in the opinion of many he has spoiled the work by finding fault with Mr. Pitman's phonography, and advocating a new system of stenography. With Mr. Locke's "Rapid Shorthand Writer" Mr. Thomas entirely disagrees; the author of that book having set himself to the task of criticising Mr. Pitman's system as presented in the instruction books. Mr. Thomas thinks there are persons who cannot learn phonography, even under the best teachers, and mentions as a well-known fact that there are "heaps" of persons who have taken up phonography and dropped it at the moment they reached the "r" and "l" hooks. Of this fact there is ample evidence; but we are not led to infer that Mr. Locke has aided in simplifying the study—a consummation devoutly wished by many an unsuccessful student. Mr. Thomas states that his editorial aim has been to furnish thoroughly good reading matter, "written in perfectly correct style, according to the rules furnished by Mr. Pitman in his instruction books" a statement which shows that Mr. Thomas is not, perhaps, totally unbiassed in his judgment of the work of rival authors, who certainly have to publish their productions against heavy odds in the United Kingdom—the tendency of British phonographers, as of English people generally—viewed from this side the ocean—being conservative.

## PHONOGRAPHY IN THE COURTS.

(To the Editor of the *St. John Telegraph*.)

SIR,—Recently I learned that a project was on foot for the introduction of shorthand reporting in the Circuit and Equity Courts of this Province. A society formed in this city last fall was said to have the matter in hand; since then it was represented that the Government were taking steps to have an Act passed at the coming session of the Legislature for the appointment and remuneration of four shorthand writers to test the scheme. I sincerely trust that such is the case, and that the new Government will immortalize itself by a useful Act, and one that will establish its claim as a party of progress. It is almost amazing that this subject has been regarded

with so much indifference in the past. In nearly every State in the Union the Court records are taken by stenographers, who are paid salaries per diem and per annum ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 yearly. In Ontario the system is in vogue, and is proving a direct financial benefit to the Province, besides conferring an immense boon upon litigants and judges. Only one Judge in Ontario has uttered a syllable against the system, and he is an expert stenographer. In Quebec the scheme is now being tested with excellent prospects of success—although the highbred population renders the employment of French and English reporters a necessity, and of course greatly complicates the work. In several of the Nova Scotia circuit courts, if I mistake not, shorthand is employed, and for a number of years the proceedings of the Legislature have been efficiently reported by two capable phonographers. I have never heard of an instance where the system was fairly tried and capable men secured that it did not give complete satisfaction.

And now in *re N. B.* As I understand it, the proposal is to appoint four stenographers to report the proceedings of the Circuit and Equity courts of this Province, under the immediate jurisdiction of the Chief Justice, who shall give them their assignments in the various circuits. These reporters shall be sworn officers of the courts, and shall make transcripts of the shorthand notes as the record of the court, under the personal direction of the presiding Judge. They shall receive an annual salary (say \$800), obtain their appointments by competitive examination, and hold their offices for life or during good behaviour. As a partial reimbursement to the Government for their outlay of \$3,200, the clients in each case shall be liable to a per diem fee of \$5. This will largely, perhaps entirely, remunerate the Government. This income from litigants, supposing these four reporters are required and enabled to attend the sittings of every circuit court in the Province during the year, as I believe they shall, should more than meet the outlay. With the imperfect returns of all the civil suits tried before the various circuit courts during the last calendar year, I should place the income accruing from these per diem fees at \$2,600—allowing 50 per cent. for the reduction in time which I believe would be effected by the taking of the evidence in shorthand. The saving in the expenses of running the courts in jury fees, clerk and constable fees, light, fuel, etc., I roughly estimate at \$800 more, though no less an authority than Sheriff Harding considers that the amount annually saved by the Province from this source would greatly exceed that sum. At all events, taking the inside figures from increased revenue and decreased outlay for the administration of justice, the Province would make \$3,400 to offset the \$3,200 paid as salaries to



the reporters. Nor is this all, for should important civil suits arise, and more especially criminal cases occupying several weeks in trial, the financial benefit to the Province would greatly add to the above estimate. In the McCarthy murder case, for instance, a reduction of several thousand dollars could have been effected had the evidence been taken in shorthand.

It might appear at first sight that the tax of \$5 per day upon litigants in all civil suits would render the system obnoxious to them. But as an offset to this it must be considered that by the shortening of the case the clients escape the payment of about one half the costs of court and counsel. If any one is injured it is the fifth-rate shyster lawyer, whose efforts to prolong the case and fleece his "allow clients will be rendered of more effect. Lawyers of large practice will extend a hearty welcome to the reporters, enabling them, as it will, to obtain a hearing instead of being blocked out of court by the lengthy docket and brief time at the disposal of the judge.

As for the judges, it ought to be a glimpse of the Beulah land for them, and all the desperate scrawlings, and scratchings, all the appeals for time and frantic efforts to catch the words of an excited witness; all the exhortations to subdue the badgering and blathering of an exultant lawyer; all the hopeless horror of taking down the maximum of words at the minimum of sense and legality—removed next door to the left, where the bland and genial man of dots and dashes and crooks and curves, calmly collars each wayward syllable on the fly! Of all men they should feel most favored.

Surely, Mr. Editor, life is far too short to wrestle any longer with this relic of bygone barbarism. Let the boasted centennial year witness one real step in advance—the adoption of shorthand reporting in the Province of New Brunswick.

Yours faithfully,

April 7th, 1883.

STENO.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

We are glad to be able to inform our readers that arrangements have been completed with the Kossin House for the accommodation of delegates to the Convention.

Favorable answers have been received from the various railroad lines leading to Toronto, giving reduced rates for persons attending the Congress. These rates can be obtained only on certificates officially signed. Stenographers living in Canada who desire to avail themselves of these special rates, and American delegates coming from the east per the Grand Trunk can obtain such certificates by addressing this office. Tickets will be made good for sufficient time to allow those who desire to do so, to attend the meeting of the New York stenographers at Watkins, or to make a trip up the

St. Lawrence. Reduced rates have also been quoted, by way of Cleveland, allowing a stop over at that city to attend the Ohio State Association meetings.

Invitations are cordially extended to all shorthand writers, irrespective of system, position or nationality.

#### REPORTING FROM MEASURED READING.

The following extract is from an article which appeared in *Good Words* several years ago:—

"Matter deliberately read off, with guarded accent and even pauses, may be torture to the stenographer who tries to take it down. He would rather have a quick but irregular pace, just as a suspension bridge will better bear the hasty rush of an undisciplined crowd than the regular tramp of a regiment of soldiers. I should think it would be possible to drive a man mad by deliberate, timed reading. It is notorious that reporters take down badly what is read; that they only lay aside the pen when a speaker reads an extract, and afterwards procure the original. What makes them cease writing on such occasions is not idleness, though rest is often welcome enough to an arm that is stiff or aching, but the same sort of feeling which would make a man who knew what it was beforehand try to avoid that famous Inquisition torture which consists in causing a drop of water to fall at regular intervals upon the crown of the head."

#### PENMANSHIP OF FAMOUS MEN.

The evidence of handwriting, as of style generally, is not to be relied on when men's lives and liberty are at stake. Still less can character be judged from handwriting. Brave men may perpetrate a timid scrawl, generous and high-minded men may write a mean hand, and cowards produce a bold and flowing script. Porson, the great Greek scholar, among the untidiest of students, wrote neatly and elegantly. Cromwell's writing, though large, is shaky. Shakespeare's signature is particularly clear. Napoleon Bonaparte wrote illegibly, it is said, purposely, to hide his bad spelling. The handwriting of the tortuous-minded Charles I. is as clear and striking as that of Thomas Carlyle is crabbed and indistinct. On the other hand, Queen Elizabeth's writing is magnificent. Edgar Allan Poe wrote beautifully, and with scarcely an erasure; whereas the manuscripts of Charles Dickens, to be seen in the Forster collection at South Kensington, are ragged and full of alterations and emendations. Many men write large or small, in characters boldly or weakly formed, according to their humor of the moment. Again, handwriting depends for its style on the school in which it is applied. The manuscript of Byron, of Thomas Campbell, and of Thackeray, may be called the literary hand. It is uniform in color,

small, and fairly legible, but without a superabundant curve or flourish. The great mass of "copy" which passes through the hands of a modern printer is more or less of the same character. A commercial hand, as it is called, is something quite different. Given an envelope addressed by a city clerk, and one from the hand of a university professor, and it is well nigh certain that the former will be more distinguished for elegance and clearness than the latter. Again, the writing of the rustic and uncultured class is so much alike as to defy differentiation. All this goes to prove that the evidence of experts must be taken with the proverbial grain of salt.

#### TECHNICAL TERMS.

[Mr. E. E. Horton furnishes the following selections from a report which he took of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario. It shows how varied must be the attainments of the reporter, and how thoroughly he must be able to write and spell foreign terms.—Ed.]

MR. DENTON—Would you allow me to ask whether this maggot you refer to comes from the coleoptera or the lepidoptera?

THE PRESIDENT—It is of the anthomyia family.

[And again.]

MR. ARNOLD—The next climbing shrub I would choose would be the *Wistaria sinensis*.

MR. WELLINGTON—There is another climber that I would call attention to. It has no flower. It is the *Amphelopsis Veitchi*. I think it will grow anywhere that the *Aristolochia* will.

#### AN OPEN CHARADE.

WRITTEN FOR "BENGOUGH'S COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER," BY HARRY J. EMERSON, RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO MESSRS. WYCKOFF, SEAMANS AND BENEDICT.

My first is the name of a rifle, that oft

Has my second in battle defended,  
When reared 'mid the roaring of cannon aloft,  
Or o'er fortress and redoubt suspended.

But though 'tis a sponsor to weapons of war,  
In peace 'tis more frequently seen  
In letters of gold, a title before  
A favorite sewing machine.

My second, 'mid carnage and war's wild alarms,  
Is e'er to be seen in the van;  
In defence of it heroes will stand to their arms,  
And die, if need be, to a man.

Its folds flutt'ring proudly o'er turret and tower,  
Gaily dance in the sunshine and breeze,  
Symbolic of Majesty, Empire, and Power,  
Domain over ocean and seas.

My third, when in "column" or "line," is possessed

Of a power to be feared e'en by kings,  
Its influence is felt from the east to the west,  
For knowledge to all men it brings.  
Sometimes in a "galley," oft times in a "case"  
'Tis found, or perchance in a "pie,"

And although not a sportsman, 'tis found in the "chase,"

You can surely guess this if you try.

My fourth was a luckless pen-paralyzed wight,  
But now if he uses my whole,  
He may follow his business from morning till night,

Free of pain from his toes to his poll.

He once was the slave of a scratchy old quill,  
But now are his labors made lighter,  
For all of his work can be done, if he will,  
On the "REMINGTON STANDARD  
TYPE-WRITER."

For the WRITER.

#### THE BEWILDERED REPORTER'S SONG.

With Harry Emerson's *Apologies to the Authors of Iolanthe*.

When a speaker you take like John A. or Blake, who possesses a fund of verbosity, You're likely to find yourself lagging behind, while he's going ahead with velocity;

First you're stuck on a word that you have misheard, in the midst of some grand peroration,

And you find yourself flurried and mentally worried, by feelings allied to vexation.

In the temporary pause that's caused by applause, you contrive by some digital scrambling

To catch him again, but soon find with pain, that once more he's ahead of your rambling; At this critical juncture your pencil will puncture your paper, and cause you some trouble,

And further delay in a maddening way, so your efforts you have to redouble.

Next the point of your pencil, that's not very tensile, gives way with an ominous cracking, And, searching your pockets, mid knives, coins and lockets, you find that a second you're lacking;

With the stump then resuming, perspiring and fuming, your brains in a state of confusion. There's naught recollected, all seems disconnected, you fail to catch every allusion:

Then your fingers get stiff, and you feel just as if they were racked by the throes of paralysis;

Your emotions are such as don't admit much of description or careful analysis—

For your features are burning, your faculties churning, your hair standing up perpendicular;

Your eyeballs dilating, your heart palpitating, bereft of your senses auricular—

You're all in a maze, a horrible haze your vision appears to be dimming,

While all in a whirl, a terrible swirl, your cranium is rapidly swimming!

But, a torrent of cheers arouses your ears, so near of their functions denuded,

He's taking his seat! my joy is complete, thank Heaven! my task is concluded!

## A TELEPHONIC EPISODE.

We thoroughly believe in every brief method for the despatch of business, and use the telephone and telegraph very largely in negotiations for shorthand writers' positions, etc. Some telephonic incidents are very amusing and interesting, as showing how the ideas of business men take shape and develop in relation to the demand for, and compensation of, shorthand help. One of these incidents may be related.

"Hello, Bengough's Shorthand Bureau!"

"Hello!"

"We're thinking of getting a shorthand writer."

"Did you ever have one before?"

"No."

"How much are you willing to pay?"

"Well, what should we pay?"

"We could send a young fellow for seven or eight dollars per week at the start." (This rate being fixed as simply introductory, and for the purpose of increase, if the applicant be able to fill the position satisfactorily. The applicant, of course, would be quite inexperienced.)

"Oh! We cannot pay anything like seven or eight dollars; we have been paying an engrossing clerk only five dollars."

"Is that so? But you are not getting an engrossing clerk now; we are speaking of a shorthand writer."

"Well, that is pretty high, because *we really don't need him*. We were just thinking about it; but you might send one over and let us experiment a little."

"All right!"

We send over a really capable man who is just waiting for a few days for the close of negotiations in reference to another position at \$75 per month. The principal member of the legal firm takes this young man in charge and drives him at such a rate of speed that it requires two hours to transcribe what he writes down in fifteen minutes. He works away at a per diem allowance, and then leaves the city to take the new position. The vacancy caused by his departure is immediately and painfully perceptible to the firm, and they telephone to us to send another to fill the gap immediately. Though they really "didn't want any help" at first, the experiment so far has been an unqualified success.

We send another, this time an inexperienced one, who starts at \$7 per week. In a few weeks a \$600 position opens, and the young man begs off from the law firm. After he leaves, there is another gap for a few days, during which telephone calls come in at the rate of two or three per day; anx-

iously and urgently demanding another shorthand writer. It is no longer an experiment; they "really *do* want one now," and, picking out a very good man, who is in receipt of a salary of \$10 per week, the answer is sent that this young man can be had for \$12. The legal gentleman protests against such an increase of stipend, but the employment of shorthand is no longer a luxury but an absolute necessity. No. 3 is told to call again and the \$12 question will be considered. In a day or two another message comes and the negotiations are closed at \$12. This man fills the position exactly—is doing splendid work, and making money for his employers, who will never be without a shorthand writer again, and will always be willing to pay at least what they are paying now. Any change of salary that will be made will be an advance. No. 3 is taking up type-writing, and when he adds that to his accomplishments, he may be able to obtain \$14 or \$15 per week. If the above narration of plain, unvarnished facts is an illustration of how the business is being demoralized in Toronto, we are sure shorthand writers will hope the demoralization may develop in proportion.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

## CANADIAN SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

Editor WRITER:

DEAR SIR,—I had the good fortune to be present at the evening session of the Teachers' Association, held in Victoria Hall, London, some time ago, and reaped the benefit of the exposition of one very attractive and interesting feature of the programme, viz., "Shorthand Writing," the merits of which you so forcibly impressed upon your hearers on that occasion. Since then I have taken a lively interest in all that savors of shorthand, and have had many a hard tussle with "Graham's Standard Phonography," a system I had studied some time before hearing your lecture on the subject.

I have watched with a good deal of interest and satisfaction the progress of the C. S. S., which you were so eminently instrumental in propagating and bringing to its present state of efficiency and strength, and in which I hope to be enrolled as a member at a date not far distant.

In the February-March issue of the WRITER I am sorry to see signs of "trouble in the house." Now, I have always understood that both the President and Secretary of the C. S. S. were *first-class men*. This being the case, I cannot understand why they should be found fostering a Society which, upon association with, would be likely to prove inimical to, the interests of first-class men—or, as the President of the C. S. W. A.

puts it, competent men. May there not be competent men in both classes?—the glory of the Amanuensis being one, and the glory of the Official Court or Parliamentary Reporter another? Mr. Richardson would doubtless term the former a second-class man, and while suffering for want of an opportunity to assist and encourage him, builds a wall of "strong association" around himself to the exclusion of all but first-class men. It seems to me there is room for a little consistency here.

What do they wish to be protected from? It cannot be the *professed* shorthand writer he speaks of, because *he* is not eligible for membership in the Society under discussion. If I understand you correctly, a would-be member of the C. S. S. is required to pass a test in which is included his ability to write at a rate of speed sufficient to qualify him for a position as amanuensis, or second-class man—a position that a first-class man would not as a general thing seek, and therefore he would not be affected.

In reference to the tariff, surely the minutes (Sec. 1) of your January meeting effectually dispose of that to the satisfaction of first-class men, as they are simply requested to arrange it to suit themselves, and the Juniors will abide by it. I cannot imagine a second-class man placing himself in the humiliating position of *failure* to do first-class work. Taking this into consideration, why should the two classes approach anything like antagonism? I am sure the Juniors will strain every nerve to perfect themselves in the art that has won such an enviable reputation and position, thereby being enabled in their turn to assist and encourage their then Juniors, regulating them as their own long experience would suggest as being the best means of promoting the general prosperity of the noble army of shorthanders.

Hoping the Seniors may see their way clear to a recognition of their less fortunate brethren (not tyros),

I remain, very respectfully,

ERNEST FITZALLEN.

Delaware, March 26, 1883.

#### SHORTHAND IN THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

*Editor* WRITER:—A year or so ago the City of Winnipeg was probably the only place in the North-west doing a business sufficiently large and important to require the services of shorthand writers. With the exception of railway offices and some agencies established in a few of the other important towns of the country, phonography is yet confined chiefly to the city. Nearly three years ago, when the writer first came to the country, there was but one shorthand writer then employed in the city, on one of the daily papers. There were then no correspondents made use of in mercantile houses or law offices. At that time the end of the track was not much farther west than Winni-

peg, and in the whole employ of the C. P. R. in this country there was not one stenographer; now in just one of their departments, that of Assist. Traffic Manager, Mr. Harder, four writers were kept busy during the Fall. Other railways in the country have writers in their employ; and quite a number of the railway Co's who have not a single mile of road graded, a tie bedded, or a rail laid have shown their great enterprise in the respect of engaging phonographers. The several Departments in the Provincial Government are now adding shorthand secretaries to their staff; and to-day phonographers can now be found in every line of business from digging pothooks and ploughing semi-curves for some Colonization Land Co., to transcribing the almighty technicalities of an architect's Specification. The pay is rather good, from \$50.00 to \$130.00 per month. The amount of business done in the city of Winnipeg is immense, and large numbers of phonographers find employment, but I would not advise anyone to leave Ontario with the hope of immediately securing something very advantageous, though if anyone has grit and perseverance, and the necessary cheek adequate to the securing of good positions, providing always that he is qualified, there can be no doubt but what Manitoba or the Western States offers a far better field to the shorthand writer than Ontario ever can hope to give him. G. B.

#### OUR AMANUENSIS.

BY E. MASON, NEW YORK.

The average amanuensis is young, jolly, and pretty smart.

Previous to entering the stenographic field, he has filled some clerkship where the prospect for material advancement was poor.

Having no influential friend to secure for him a lucrative birth, and no means for establishing a business of his own, he spends a few months in close study, then scans with eagerness the columns of the "Advertiser," and in a very short time pops into a good position as correspondent.

If he be required to perform clerical work, through letter-writing, the daily contact with his employers, and familiarity with details, are generally the means of placing him above his fellow-clerks. In places where the amanuensis is engaged solely in correspondence, success and permanency are sure, having once gained the confidence and good will of his principals.

But the benefits derived from a knowledge of the glorious art do not end with business.

Encouraged, perhaps, by his change of fortune, our friend becomes a regular attendant at church meetings. While apparently engaged in religious devotion, he keeps his weather eye upon that charming girl over there in the "far amen corner." With grave importance he "takes down" the sermon, and soon makes a "mesh," as we American boys say, for there seems to be a fascination about the shorthand

writer, which attracts the fairer sex. His umbrella is a constant companion at these gatherings, and he sincerely prays for rain. It does rain. With true stenographic style he gracefully "curves," and she "hooks" on. Oddly enough, the merits of the discourse are not discussed but a coripect is entered into at once, and the young lady becomes an apt scholar of her handsome escort, who insists that in order to become proficient, three lessons per week are necessary to attain any degree of skill, and so the other chaps are cut out in quick time.

It is needless to dwell upon the course of true stenographic love. Suffice it to say that the "L" and the "V" hooks, the graceful curves, sweet-sounding phrases, and angles, are practically illustrated, when the old folks are nowhere about. Apart from his regular avocation, there are many little channels open to the amanuensis for making money, such as teaching, reporting, and assisting lawyers, writers, business men and others in evening work at their homes. Great satisfaction has been afforded the writer by the success which has attended some of his pupils, and if the reader will pardon what appears to be egotism, he will relate a few instances of interest to the profession.

A young man, discharged for incompetency in clerical work by a large corporation in New York city, started out on "his own hook," and collected eggs from the farmers in New York state, which he shipped to merchants at intervals. This mode of existence proved hard indeed, for he barely made a living, and was often obliged to sleep in some friendly barn, and tie his horse to a tree in the vicinity. The writer, who had been offered a situation at Susquehanna, which the egg merchant at this time was approaching, referred him to the office, wishing a correspondent. The position was secured, and efficiently filled.

A lad in impoverished circumstances was induced to master shorthand. He succeeded in obtaining good speed in a short time, and now receives \$50 per month for his services. His former pay was \$10 per month.

A young lady, desirous of contributing to the support of her widowed mother and smaller sisters, became skilful in the art, and now is able to clothe the entire family from her earnings.

The amanuensis has great opportunities for self-culture, for there are always leisure moments during business hours, when he can follow the thoughts and ideas of the kings of English literature, and study, with incalculable profit, the great masterpieces.

#### SHORTHAND WRITERS IN MANTOBA.

A. Boyle, formerly correspondent with Bain & Blanchard, now Secretary for Acton Burrows, Minister of Agriculture and Statistics, Winnipeg.

W. A. Perry is Private Secretary for J. M. Egan, Superintendent C. P. R., Winnipeg.

Wm. Perkins, lately a reporter on the Winnipeg *Daily Times*, now Court Reporter, Winnipeg.

Geo. Broughall, formerly with A. Harris, Son & Co., Winnipeg, now Shorthand Secretary for the contractors of the P. W. & N. W. Railway, Portage La Prairie.

Geo. Seachem, who was Secretary for A. B. Stickney, when General Manager of the C. P. Railway, is now with Langdon, Shepard & Co., St. Paul, the C. P. R. contractors.

W. C. Wonham, Shorthand Writer for Drummond Bros., Real Estate and Insurance, Winnipeg.

J. W. Britton, of Montreal, formerly with Harris, Son & Co., Winnipeg, now on the staff of the Winnipeg *Free Press*.

R. Irving, Secretary for J. McTavish, Land Commissioner of the C. P. R., Winnipeg.

W. F. Payne, formerly of Toronto, now on *Free Press* staff, Winnipeg.

A. Fraser, Private Secretary for Boyle-Campbell & Co., Financial Agents, Winnipeg.

J. M. Chisholm, formerly with the Massey Manufacturing Co., Toronto, now engaged with Harris, Son & Co., Winnipeg.

A. Andrews, Secretary for Mr. Ogden, Auditor, C. P. R., Winnipeg.

Mr. Morden, reporter *Daily Free Press*, Winnipeg.

W. L. Ross, correspondent for Bain, Blanchard & Mulock, Barristers, &c., Winnipeg.

#### A GEOLOGIC SPECIMEN.

[The following extract from a Montreal newspaper report of the American Science Association will furnish excellent practice on peculiar phonographic forms.]

Dr. F. Szabo, of Buda-Pesth, Hungary, read his paper on "A new micro-chemical method of determining felspars in rocks." He said his method of determining felspars was based chiefly on the coloration of the flame, and on the fusibility of the felspar, as well as on the quality of the fused matter. The silicate of sodium was very volatile, the silicate of potash much less, and the silicate of lime and aluminium not at all. The yellow flame was always visible, there being scarcely any felspar without at least a trace of sodium. The intense yellow sodium covered the red flame of potassium. In order to see the latter a solution of indigo in sulphuric acid or a blue glass was used. According to the percentage of sodium the yellow flame had different dimensions of height, breadth, and intensity, and five degrees could be discovered corresponding to certain limits in the percentage. The red coloration by potash was visible only when the felspar contained of this element more than four per cent., and consequently visible only in orthoclase, the flogioclase always containing less than four per cent. of potassium. The experiments were

made in two parts of the flame in a height of five millimetres, at a lower temperature in the highest part of the flame, which was to be found after having put in the chimney over the top of the latter in about five millimetres height. The platinum wire must be very thin for determining the felspars. Three experiments were made; the first at the height of five millimetres, without a chimney. One minute observed the degree of discoloration by sodium (1.5 degree), by potash (0 or 1-3), and the degree of fusibility together with the quality (degree 0.5) of the fused substance. Second experiment, at the highest temperature with the chimney, one minute. Observed the same, but the degree of fusibility is now concluding as well as the quality (a globule with smooth surface or with bubbles, these only inside or also outside.) Thirdly, at the same highest temperature, but add to the same small fragments, of the size of mustard seed, of powdered gypsum. A chemical change then took place on introducing felspar into the flame, and leaving these for two minutes the alkali silicates were converted into sulphates, which were of course much more volatile. The coloration of the sodium increased relatively not so much as the red coloration caused by the potash, which was then well visible, and 1.4 degrees can be discerned, 1.2 corresponding to the flogioclases and 3.4 to the orthoclases. The Professor then showed that for the purpose of petography it is enough to make the following distinctions:— (a) orthoclase, for the potash felspar; (b) oligoclase and anorthite, for the soda felspar; (c) labradorite; (d), anorthite, with the intermediate bitronite. His experiments were worked while he explained them, and considerable discussion followed its conclusion. He was warmly commended for the conclusions reached.

### BLAINE AND THE SHORTHAND WRITERS.

(Washington Cor. Chicago Daily Tribune.)

James G. Blaine refuses the aid of a stenographer in writing his book on the political history of the past twenty years. The fact of the matter is, Blaine can write as fast as he can dictate. A shorthand writer only bothers him. As soon as he gets one in front of him his thoughts are at cross purposes, and composition is slow and laborious. I had personal experience of this fact during the campaign of 1878. I was then on the local staff of the Chicago Times. A spurious interview with Blaine had been printed in that paper. It ridiculed his views to a maddening extent. It put words into his mouth like those which a beggar in his drink is said to use. It was widely copied and created a sensation in the states the Senator from Maine was then stumping. Blaine was at last unable to stand the stinging paragraphs which the interview evoked. He wrote to the Times declaring that he had never talked to one

of its reporters, and that the alleged interview was false from beginning to end. Of course the Times printed the denial. It added insult to injury, however, by an editorial note to the effect that, while Mr. Blaine might have forgotten the circumstance, the interview had taken place and was correctly reported. This was like the red rag to the bull. The Maine Senator wrote a fiery note to Mr. Storoy. The venerable editor had no ill-will against Blaine. While he would not take anything back in his paper, he was willing to make amends in some way. He decided to publish a bona fide interview with the great Eastern statesman. The assignment fell to my lot. Blaine was then speaking in Michigan. I was told to take the Michigan Central one evening, and look for him along the route. I had not the remotest idea where he was to be found. Fortunately for my peace of mind, he boarded the train at Niles. He took a seat in the Pullman with his friend J. C. Burrows. There was no use fooling around trying to extract an interview from him in those days. I determined to introduce myself and ask squarely for a talk with him. "You are from the Times," he said; "you know how shamefully I was misrepresented in your paper. I must decline to be interviewed; in fact I am never interviewed." I assured Mr. Blaine that the Times was desirous of laying his views of the political situation correctly before the country, and that anything he might choose to say would be given in his exact language. After studying a while he said, "Well come to Burrows' house in Kalamazoo, to-morrow morning, and I will see what I can do for you." I was on hand at 11 the next morning. Mr. Blaine was shaking hands with a crowd of citizens. "Come this way," said he, as soon as he had disposed of this business. We went into Mr. Burrows' library. "Now," said he, "I have told you I am never interviewed. I do not want to be interviewed. You want an article, do you not?" I told him I would prefer an interview, even if he asked as well as answered the questions himself. "Do you write shorthand?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. "Well," he continued, "I will soon see whether you write fast. We have some quick stenographers in Washington." I made sure he was going to fire one of his impetuous speeches at me, and got ready half a dozen pencils. "Now," said he, "you must take down every word I say, and promise to print it without changing a word. I am not going to give you a formal interview; I will relate a conversation between some of these gentlemen and myself on the cars." "I soon found out there was no cause for alarm as to my ability to 'take him down.' It took him fifteen minutes to shape an introduction of about a dozen lines. I was with him two hours. The result was only one column of type. He would form a sentence, go over it once or twice and then carefully remodel it. Between sentences he would ply me with questions about almost everything under the sun. He became well acquainted with my career up to date, and knew my views on a variety of sub-

jects, from interviewing to astronomy. He would pause in his questions to dictate another sentence, and then go at me again. It seemed as if he could not keep his thoughts running on the subject in hand. While not in orthodox form, the interview was a good one when completed. It detailed a conversation between himself and other politicians on the journey from Niles to Kalamazoo. Blaine, of course, was principal talker, and he gave his views on the question of the day of great freedom. The article was supposed to be wormed out of one of the party by the reporter. On the platform Blaine speaks four columns an hour. Yet, in two hours, he only composed, with the aid of a stenographer, one column of the *Chicago Times*. His book requires more careful handling than a newspaper article, and its dictation would give him greater labor than writing it himself.

J. W. P.

### BOOK REVIEW.

MANUAL OF COMPENDIOUS SHORTHAND; OR, UNIVERSAL VISIBLE SPEECH. By Edwin Guest, F.S.S. London: Wyman & Sons.

A neatly printed, though roughly engraved, 100 page compend of facts, figures, fonetics, filology, fonography, filosofy, vocal fisiology, fonology, geomery and facility; asks a fair field and no favor; claims to expound a "practical system of steno-phonography simple enough for the elementary school; legible enough for business correspondence; brief enough for reproducing verbatim the fastest oratory; and so compendious that a single pen-stroke as a rule fully represents a syllable." The manual is published as a book for teachers, or for self-tuition, the author being engaged on a larger work dealing with the scientific part of the subject. We do not doubt that a pupil might learn, or be taught, from the Manual; but very few would thank the author for his learned dissertations on the mathematical and philological phases of the Shorthand Science. The style of the book is too learned for the ordinary pupil. This, as an example:—"The coalescent and the supplementary characters do not take any additional signification when isolated, because they are already capable of forming monosyllables as compendiums, by reading a vowel between the consonants coalesced." The Canadian or Columbian pupil would, on reading such a definition as this, be tempted to ask: "What are you giving us?" and to request in the next breath, "Give us something easy." The author speaks of facility as the paramount consideration which governs the stencographer's art; we would humbly suggest that he do not completely set at nought this qualification when preparing his second edition, so as to make it "simple enough for the elementary school." These are minor faults, however: unquestionably the system has merits of speed, accuracy, and adaptability to foreign languages. As compared with phono-

graphy on several points, the latter, all things considered, quite holds its ground. The relative results of a comparison of this new system with phonography were as follows,—the Lord's Prayer being the text:—Inflections of pen required, 67, 76; lifts of pen required, 34, 36; total number of efforts, 101, 112; effective result in words per minute, 192, 180. This book, we take it, will prove a boon to the scientific shorthand world by its suggestiveness. The author has been engaged for over seven years in studying the science in all its bearings, and he proposes to show how Universal Visible Speech can be made applicable to the acquisition of foreign languages, the teaching of children and adults to read their native tongue; the teaching of the blind; the teaching of deaf mutes to speak; as a simple means applicable by missionaries and travellers to the rapid and accurate reproduction of sound in unwritten languages; as a means of quickly discovering the philological relationship between words which have assumed unrecognizable forms in the ordinary spelling in passing from one nation to another, or from one generation to another; and as a means of preserving dialectic peculiarities which are fast disappearing. These are objects quite as important, in our opinion, as the addition to the already long list of another system of phonography for ordinary reporting purposes, and we trust that Mr. Guest will concentrate his genius upon the perfecting of the system for the accomplishment of these objects. For every-day use we imagine that ordinary phonographers will be content during their natural lives with the common forms of phonography, as pure and simple as may be. We wish we could say that the book would be of general interest on this continent, but we cannot. The members of the profession on this side the water, from the expert stenographer to the simple shorthander just starting on the road to fame, wants something easy in the shorthand line. Simple text-books have made Isaac Pitman's phonography what it is, and any new system, to be popular, must be placed before the public in simple style. We have been deeply interested in a perusal of the work, and regret that we have not space at present for an illustrated description.

### A FONETIC FATALITY.

As is pretty generally known, we have no very deeply-rooted respect for present orthography, but we know of no good reason why we should suffer martyrdom on that account at the hands of the proof-reader. On glancing at page 154 just as this form is going to press we find that a word printed in italics is spelled according to an original design, which we never intended. The termination "*caat*" is good—viewed from the standpoint of originality; but in the case of this quotation we think we would prefer the old-fashioned "*cant*." May the ashes of the unfortunate proof-reader "*Requiescant* in pace."

## HOW SKILLED WORK REMUNERATES WOMEN.

### TYPE-WRITING AND PHONOGRAPHY.

(From *Harper's Bazar*.)

The nature of the work required in type-writing and phonography and the wide and rapidly increasing demand for it invest the subject with a special attraction for women who desire to earn a living. An artist, unless she possesses the very rare gift of genius, usually encounters difficulty in selling her wares, and even the true daughters of the Muses often pine for lack of recognition. But a type-writer operator or a phonographer, or, best of all, a woman who is both, may reasonably expect to find steady, comfortable, and remunerative employment.

The business known as type-writing is only about eight years old, having been first brought into general notice at the time of the Centennial Exhibition. A small instrument fixed to a stand about the size of a sewing machine table is operated like a pianoforte by playing upon three or four banks of keys with the fingers. Whenever a key is struck, a letter of the alphabet is printed on a sheet of paper, and these letters can be printed as fast as the keys can be struck. Obviously this is very much faster than they could be written by the most practised penman. Experience shows that a skilful copyist transcribes about twenty words a minute, and that a skilful operator on a type-writer prints about sixty words a minute, or three times as many as a skilful penman. A young woman sitting in front of the instrument disposes herself as easily as when in front of her pianoforte. She plays on the notes, but neither uses her feet nor bends her back. The type-writing machine occupies less room than the sewing machine, and to operate it is very much less trying to nerves, spine, and soul. "I have noticed with surprise," said a well-known business man recently, "that our girls, after seven or eight hours of work, perform their last half-hour's duty without apparent fatigue." The cost of the two instruments is about the same, the cost of a first class type-writer being from eighty to one hundred dollars, but in two months you can earn enough to pay for your type-writer by working on it only six or eight hours a day.

There are other things to be said in favor of the type-writer. It operates as legibly as a printing-press—more legibly than some printing-presses; its letters are two or three times as large as those of an ordinary newspaper; its sentences are punctuated with the care bestowed by a good copyist, and the general effect of a page of them is a refreshment to the eye. If "carbon" or "manifold" paper is used, three pages are written simultaneously; at the end of your allotted task you have three copies instead of one. For whenever you strike a note of the instrument, the impress of the particular letter of the alphabet represented by that note strikes through the lowest of

three superimposed sheets of paper, and appears successively on the other two. On each of three sheets, placed one upon another, the imprint of the letter is seen, and it takes no longer to print triplicates than to print a single sheet. If, therefore, the operator on a type-writing machine can copy a page of MS. at the rate of sixty words a minute, or three times as fast as a skilled penman can do it, she can make three copies of that page simultaneously, or, in other words, can accomplish the work of nine skilled penmen. Put your nine skilled penmen in one room, and your skilled operator on the type-writer in another; at the end of the day the latter has produced as much copy as her nine competitors; and while anybody who can read at all can easily read her copy, perhaps it will require an expert in penmanship to decide what many of the words in her nine rivals' copy really are.

But this is not all. The penman copyist is much more liable to make mistakes than the copyist who uses a type-writer. Experience demonstrates that not one man in a hundred does accurately copy ten pages of MS. with a pen and ink. When compared with the original his work will be found to contain errors, and his employer would not use a pen-and-ink copy of an important document without having read it over carefully. The operator on the type-writer, however, is substantially trustworthy, and the lines of his sheets being of the same length, and each sheet containing the same number of lines as any other sheet, the reader can run his eye down one side of the sheet, and easily detect any variation from a sheet already examined and found correct. It is not usually necessary for him to read every word. "I have known one of our women operators to copy twenty pages without a single error," says the speaker just mentioned.

In all business offices, therefore, where much copying is required, the type-writer is a valuable assistant. Lawyers are already using it extensively. Authors, too, are finding it an important ally. One of the professors of Princeton College keeps a type-writer in his library, and when engaged in the business of original composition may be seen sitting in front of the instrument, and handling its keys with the agility of a practised pianist. It is said that Colonel T. W. Knox, whose contributions to *Harper's Young People* and whose books for young readers are a delight in so many thousands of American and foreign households, composes without putting a pen to paper. He takes his place at the type-writer, and the compositors who subsequently set up his legible copy bless his name. Mr. George Bancroft dictates his private correspondence to a phonographer, who then mails himself of a type-writer. Hundreds of business men pursue daily a similar course, and their number is destined to increase many fold. One of the editors of one of the leading newspapers in



New York city writes all his editorials by the aid of a type-writer. The invitations to his wedding, recently issued by another American citizen, were written on the type-writer.

I mention these facts to show how wide a field for woman's remunerative work has been opened by this clever little instrument: for woman's work, I say, because the demand for it is greater than the demand for man's work—a fact due to the following among other reasons:

In the first place it has been found by business men who have availed themselves of woman's work in type-writing that women possess the inestimable advantage of not being the rivals of their employers. A man acting the part of private secretary or confidential clerk may leave his employer at any moment and set up for himself. The brighter and smarter he is, the more anxious he is to do so. After becoming familiar with his principal's ways of doing things, the possibility and in many cases the probability is that on some pretext or other he will walk out of the front door and install himself as a competitor in the same line of business. The American atmosphere is peculiarly favorable to the incitement to such exploits. Young men of talent do not in this country purpose to remain clerks and subordinates always. With young women the case is different. For reasons which everybody recognizes, but which perhaps will not hold good forever, they are not regarded by business men as possible rivals.

In the next place, and as a consequence of what had been said, young women are more contented with their lot as private secretaries, more cheerful, less restless, more to be depended upon, than young men. I do not say that they are likely to be so, that they ought to be so, that they will be so, but that they are so. I am dealing not in speculative theories, but in facts. Business men testify that they are so, and that because they are so their services are so far more valuable than those of young men. A lawyer or a merchant who is served to his satisfaction by a young woman private secretary, expects her to stay with him as long as he needs her, and does not expect any morning to receive notice of her intention to quit. Of course the attractions of the hymeneal altar may prove superior to those of the office. An incipient husband may call her off, but with this exception (which, by-the-way, in the constantly increasing struggle for existence, is likely in great cities to become yearly of less frequent occurrence) the private secretary or confidential clerk in many an office is considered more of a fixture when in dresses than when in coats. Still further, the young woman is found to be more willing to do as she is asked, more teachable, more flexible, than the young man; and as for those weightier matters of punctuality, endurance, and regularity, she has won the credit of being at least the peer of the male secretary—has won it in the face of the noisy

disputants who for centuries have argued that nature specially unfitted her for the exacting demands of business life. Of course there are women and women, and some women have less physical endurance than others. My point is simply this: business men who have used the services of women as private secretaries declare that they are to be depended upon; that they are punctual in attendance; that their names do not go on the sick list any oftener than the names of men who are occupied in similar pursuits. "My private secretary," said a well-known solicitor of patents the other day, nodding in the direction of a young woman who sat in front of a type-writer, "has been in this office two years, and has never lost a day, nor an hour."

The average salary of such a secretary is five hundred dollars a year. Sometimes a thousand dollars is earned.

The use of the type-writer can be learned in a week, and after a practice of three or four weeks a clever girl can write faster than a penman. Persons who can play on the piano-forte become proficient in a shorter time. In any case it is comparatively easy to become a first-class operator. An hour, or two hours, a day is as much as any young women ought to practice when beginning.

To become a first-class phonographer or shorthand writer is much more difficult. One can go through a manual of phonography in a month by working four or five hours a day, and can become an expert in perhaps six months. Proficiency here is a matter of resolute perseverance, of persistent attention, of memory, of self-confidence. The young woman who begins at the age of twelve or ten years is likely to succeed the soonest.

The best private secretary is one who can write shorthand and can operate a type-writer. She is able to take down answers to letters, and then to make copies on the type-writer from her phonographic notes. The lawyer, merchant, or other business man sits in his office in the morning, opens his mail, and as he reads a letter dictates to his secretary the answer to it. The young woman who can write shorthand and operate a type-writer is in demand to-day, and she can reasonably expect to earn from seven hundred to nine hundred dollars a year, if, of course, she has had a good common-school education. A knowledge of French and German is likely to increase the pay. The proprietor of a business college says that he could at once find inviting places for fifteen such secretaries if he knew where such secretaries were to be found. The business of a firm of solicitors for patents has so increased since the advent of the type-writer (their days seem to have become longer, because so much more work can be done in a day) that they are training in their office two or three young women to become operators on it, who meanwhile make themselves generally useful, and receive for their services five or ten dollars a month. After a year so spent these pupils

will earn forty dollars a month. Young men, if applying at this office for similar positions, would be told frankly that experience had led the firm to prefer the services of the gentler sex. The rooms are bright and cheerful, and I noticed that during an interval of her task one of the operators had been refreshing herself with a novel, in strict accordance with the privileges of her position.

#### THE BENEFITS OF PHRASING.

Doctors differ—so do shorthand writers and teachers. The *American S. W.* says: "Experience shows that not only is a judicious use of phraseography a saving of time, but it renders the outlines *more legible* than if the words were written separately."

*Per contra*, the *Australasian S. W.*, asserts: "The more you phrase the more trouble you will have in reading your notes," and advises "write disconnectedly as much as possible."

These opinions, seemingly "wide as the poles asunder," tend in the same direction—guarding against a too profuse use of phraseography. A "judicious" use, as the *A. S. W.* puts it, is helpful. The phrases must be easily formed, characteristic, and not too long or involved. Some of the most eminent American reporters almost entirely discard phrases; but they are exceptional in their attainments or work chiefly in legislative assemblies where the eye must be as active as the hand in order that each speaker may be credited with his own speech. When the eye of the reporter is moving towards the various speakers as they articulate, the phonographic outlines must be left to take care of themselves, and in such cases they are simple, large, free-hand strokes and curves, dots and dashes. For ordinary reporting we decidedly recommend phrasing, with the qualifications named.

#### ANCIENT AND MODERN REPORTERS.

The Rev. John G. Oakley, of the Forty-fourth Street Methodist Church, New York, speaking of the lessons to be drawn from the contrasting characters of the twelve men whom Moses sent into the land of Canaan to investigate and report on the condition of things, said that ten were cowards, and prated of giants and unsurmountable difficulties; but Joshua and Caleb were moral heroes, who were discouraged by none of the difficulties that presented themselves. They were likened by the preacher to the modern reporters, who stop at no obstacles, quail at no dangers, and triumph over every difficulty. "It would be an impossibility," said the speaker, "to pick at random ten reporters from the great journals of our day who would be all cowards. The press of to-day may well be proud of the courageous band of men who have risen up around it, and the community at large may be thankful that night and day these men are fighting the battles of education and human intelligence."

#### THE EGYPTIAN MEMORY.

##### MARVELLOUS CULTIVATION OF ONE FACULTY OF THE MIND.

The University of Cairo, established, during the 10th century, in the Mosque of El Azhar, is, says the *St. James Gazette*, the most important seat of learning in the Mahommedan world. Its 10,000 "undergraduates" flock there from every quarter of the globe in which the Moslem faith is professed. The teaching is presumably the best; it is universally believed to be the best. The period of residence there varies from three to six years. The students pay no fees, nor are the professors paid. Each teacher has his class, who either listen or read aloud. The place is a very babel for noise. Study consists in learning by heart; the subjects taught are religion, jurisprudence, logic and poetry. Mathematics, once so flourishing in Egypt, are practically a dead science now. It is a strange sight to view the pupils repeating their tasks to a mechanical swing of the body, which seems to be essential to their studies. Of modern thought and natural science, the teachers are profoundly ignorant; indeed, they despise them. The methods of criticism and study universally adopted in Europe, and which develop in so high a degree the reasoning powers of man, are equally unknown to them. The result of such a system of education is the cultivation of one faculty of the mind only—that of memory—at the expense of the rest; and the knowledge thus acquired, to the exclusion of all independent thought, is regarded as final and infallible. It is no unusual thing to meet with men who know the whole Koran by heart, and who can quote freely from the commentators. To such an extent is the memory cultivated that in the study of the law or in the acquirements of a foreign language very little effort is necessary to an Arab. To read is almost to know.

#### THE GROUPING OF ANIMALS.

It is a curious fact that the English language has a separate word to designate the groups of the various animals. Thus one group of birds is differently named from another, and so with animals. If any one desires to be specially technical in speaking of groups of birds, the following will be found serviceable: A covey of partridges, a nide of pheasants, a wisp of snipe, a bevy of quail, a flight of doves or swallows, a muster of peacocks, a siege of herons, a building of rooks, a brood of grouse, a plump of wild fowl, a stand of plover, a watch of nightingales, a flock of geese, a cast of hawks, a swarm of bees, a school of whales, a shoal of herrings, a herd of swine, a skulk of foxes, a pack of wolves, a drove of oxen or cattle, a sunder of hogs, a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, a sleuth of bears.

Thus ends the third volume of the *COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER*.