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# THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1880.

No. 4.

## Editorial and Contributed.

PROF. A. MELVILLE BELL, F.R.S.S.A.

Biographical Sketch of the Eminent Phonetician, Author and Inventor.

**T**HIS distinguished phonetician, whose original researches and publications have done more than those of any other author to place on a scientific basis the study of the art of speech, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on the 1st of March, 1819. He is the second son of the late Alexander Bell, Professor of Elocution, London; and, having shewn special aptitude, he settled in London, in 1834, as his father's assistant, and had thus the opportunity of special training and practice in the cure of stammering and other forms of impeded utterance, as well as in imparting the principles of elocution to extensive classes in the great metropolis of England. Mr. Melville Bell removed to Edinburgh in 1843—Prof. D. C. Bell, his elder brother, having, in the meantime, settled in Dublin—so that the Messrs. Bell, father and sons, were simultaneously acknowledged as the chief instructors in their peculiar art in the capitals of England, Scotland and Ireland. Mr. Melville Bell's success in Edinburgh was not only brilliant but steady; and, for more than twenty years, he enjoyed the highest reputation as teacher, lecturer and author, filling the important position of Professor of Elocution in the rival colleges of modern Athens, and gaining such special celebrity in the removal of stammering, that pupils attended him from all parts of the world.

In 1854 he published his system of stenography, and for the "new principle" therein developed, of showing the *position* of the vowels without requiring their notation—a principle which may be advantageously introduced into many systems of phonography—he was awarded the silver medal of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts. Professor Melville Bell's Phonetic Alphabet has the peculiar advantages of uniformity and philosophical accuracy; so that it is more rapidly written, and more easily read, than many of the rival sys-

tems. It may be accepted as an undoubted fact that, had not the engrossing nature of his professional duties and private studies prevented, he might have been enabled to popularize his steno-phonography, and to secure its general adoption. But his projects extended beyond this narrow limit.

On his father's death, in 1855, Professor A. M. Bell removed to London, where he was appointed Lecturer on Elocution in University College. For nearly thirty years he had been laboriously engaged in perfecting his system of Universal Phonetics, and in 1867 it was published under the name of "Visible Speech." By this remarkably simple system, it is possible to note down, and consequently to reproduce, every variety or shade of sound or of articulation which the human organs can by any possibility form. On account of the *universality* of the system, its author asked for the assistance of the British Government, that it might be made a free gift to the world at large; but Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister of the day, while admiring the invention, was not disposed to assist the inventor. Professor M. Bell, therefore, in 1868, paid his first visit to America, where he was most warmly received; and, in three successive years, had the distinguished honor of delivering three courses of lectures and readings in the Lowell Institute, of Boston—the great centre of American literary activity.

Professor Melville Bell's fame will henceforth rest chiefly on his "Visible Speech," which is now largely employed in the instruction\* of foreigners in English, as well as in the dissemination of every variety of spoken language. Especially in India, in China, and in Japan, as well as in Africa and America, it is largely employed by the missionaries of the various Christian churches. But the most valued *home-use* of the Visible Speech Symbols, (which, we may add, are extremely simple and strictly phonetic,) is in the instruction of the deaf and dumb, enabling them to read, to write, and to speak with remarkable distinctness and accuracy. This development of the system is due to the ingenious labors of Mr. Bell's only surviving son

—Professor A. Graham Bell, late of the Boston University, (but now of Washington,) whose brilliant invention of the telephone has placed him in the foremost rank of the scientists of the age, and from whom, if report speaks truly, more astounding discoveries will shortly emanate.

Professor A. Melville Bell's chief publications are: "The Principles of Speech and Cure of Stammering," "The Elocutionary Manual," "The Emphasized Liturgy," "The Standard Elocutionist," "Visible Speech," "Popular Stenography," "The Shorthand Master Book," "The Reporter's Manual," "Universal Line Writing and Steno-phonography," &c., &c. Professor Bell's works on Visible Speech, &c., are being reprinted in America.

#### MR. HENRY PITMAN.

**H**ENRY Pitman, brother of Isaac Pitman, was born in 1826, being now 54 years of age. At a comparatively early age he mastered shorthand, and followed his vocation as reporter on several newspapers. His chief sphere of labor has been and is Manchester, England, where for 23 years his way of the phonographic sceptre has been productive of incalculable benefit. For years he has conducted phonographic classes in offices and institutes in Manchester. His work, too, as a phonographic lecturer, deserves a notice in this brief sketch. Ever ready to encourage the slightest sign of interest in the art, he may constantly be found discoursing on the principles of and advantages to be derived from the study of phonography. Besides being a devoted disciple of shorthand, he is greatly interested in the spelling reform; and he champions the co-operative, anti-vaccination and anti-tobacco movements.

#### SCOVIL'S SHORTHAND.

**T**HIS system of shorthand was invented by the Rev. W. E. Scovil, who devoted forty years of his life to experimenting and perfecting it. He was born in Kingston, New Brunswick, in 1810, and died in 1876. The system was first brought before the public in the year 1867, since which time ten editions of the text book have been issued. The foundation of the system is the common alphabet, a table of terminations and syllabic characters,—characters representing all the consonantal combinations of frequent occurrence. These tables, with a few prefixes and suffixes, and rules and principles for abbreviating, constitute the elements of the system. Its founder claimed as its merits over phonography that it is not phonetic, except in cases where words are thereby shortened; the vowels are joined to the consonants as in longhand, and not implied by position; and the thickening, shortening and lengthening of characters is reduced to the lowest possible minimum. This system has an organ in the *Shorthand Review*, published in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### THE FLEDGLING REPORTER.

By T. W. G.

**D**ID you ever watch a fledgling reporter taking notes in church? In all the glow of an early enthusiasm he has felt it his duty to bring his note-book and pencil into play wherever anything in the shape of public speaking is going on, and though he has some compunctions about it, he takes them at length to church. Cautiously does he produce them while the text is being given out, and everybody is settling comfortably into place and there is the least danger of his being noticed, and carefully does he assume an attitude which he fondly hopes will delude those behind him into thinking that he, too, has ears only, and not fingers, for the sermon. With a conscious look he fags away some twenty or more words a minute behind the preacher, who he feels certain has detected him in the act, and is levelling his discourse at him. But there is no one more persevering than a young reporter who has "got it bad," and he doesn't give up, but sticks to the sermon until it is done, and having succeeded in taking from one-half to two-thirds of it, he pockets his book and thinks about the frightful time he will have when he goes home and tries to read his notes.

#### ACCURATE REPORTING.

By Greybeard.

**I**N our earlier years we all had the principle instilled into us that "if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well." I have known inexact reporters to lose valuable and lucrative engagements through their carelessness. Some have done their work in a slipshod way, and full reliance could not be placed upon them for doing their work properly, as, for instance, omitting the figure 0 from a number or by leaving out a short qualifying clause, turning, it may be, a negative into an affirmative statement, or *vice versa*. One reporter whom I knew—we will call him Bob Carrol—once astonished his employer by terming a collision on a railway as an "infernal confusion." It was the same man who perpetrated the blunder in writing a sermon of making the Israelites "swallow" the Philistines instead of "slaying" them.

The weakness of poor Bob Carrol is not uncommon, for it is only too easy to find imperfect work. I am of opinion that unless a man is endowed with a physical and mental organization of a very superior kind he should train himself to habits of intelligent cautiousness if he would attain accuracy and score a professional career of the highest usefulness. Happily there are some reporters who accomplish their work in an almost perfect manner. There is an extraordinary amount of safety in Phonography when well written. As a rule a mistake occurs from an unfortunate error in the imagination,

which causes some phonographic form to be taken for something else.

In the reporting profession there is a wonderful diversity of knowledge required. Chemistry, however, would be of little value to an amanuensis, or book-keeping to a reporter in the House of Commons; while with the newspaper reporter engaged in miscellaneous work no knowledge can come amiss. Each person should be well acquainted with the subjects that may be likely to come before him. Every effort should be made to attain a degree of accuracy that will render errors impossible, and thus raise the standard of the value of Phonography.

### SHORTHAND FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES.

**E**VERY year adds proof, by the constantly increasing demand for it, how indispensable in a modern education is a knowledge of rapid writing. The young by all means should acquire it. It may be used by the author in his study, the editor in his "sanctum," the clergyman in his library, the lawyer in his office—in fact, everywhere that writing is needed, the simplicity and dispatch of shorthand make its value apparent. The beginner should determine, at the outset, whether or not he will, for a time at least, do verbatim writing. If he wishes to do this, he must expect to give much time and close attention to it. The man or system that promises verbatim speed in a few weeks' time is unworthy of confidence. It is useless to expect to be a good reporter and follow some other business at the same time. Reporting is a profession of itself, and requires the undivided attention of the person following it. If, however, the beginner simply wishes relief from longhand in his daily writing, is content with a rate of speed that gives a fully written and absolutely legible manuscript, a style that is easy to learn, write, read and remember, let him take up the simplest style, master it thoroughly, and depend for speed upon perfect familiarity with the word-forms used, and the greatest facility in their execution, as in longhand, and he will gain his object more easily and quickly than if he seeks it through shorter word forms, which must necessarily be more difficult to learn and read. Very few people need to become verbatim reporters; every one, however, having much writing to do, can use a simple style of shorthand to advantage.—*Hill's Manual.*

### THE VARIOUS SHORTHAND SYSTEMS.

By George T. B. Gurnett, Toronto.

**T**HERE is, of course, no royal road to the successful acquisition of shorthand; but as to the existence of such a road, there is apparently a wide-spread delusion. "Which is the best system?" "Which is the easiest?" are questions which intending beginners are

apt to trouble themselves about altogether too much. My reply to the first question has always been that to it there could be no satisfactory answer—that first-class writers were never likely to agree upon this point, but each maintained that *his* favorite system was the best, whether it might be Isaac or Benn Pitman's, Graham's or Munson's—that although I preferred Graham's myself, and considered it the best on the whole, there were others, equally competent to judge, who placed the other system above Graham's in point of worth; and the fact that each system had as its advocates men of superior ability in the profession, proved that all of them were good, and that a choice to the really earnest student was, after all, a matter of secondary consideration.

As to which is the easiest system—knowing what I do of the differences between them—I have always said that whichever was adopted, it would require patience and application to thoroughly master the art, and that success lay far more with the student himself than in the choice of any particular system. Early in 1860, I learned stenography from a member of the *Colonist* reporting staff—a style of writing long since discarded, because of its great inferiority to phonography—yet my tutor was so proficient in the use of this awkward and unphilosophical method of taking down speeches, that he was undoubtedly one of the best reporters on the continent. Some men will succeed with any system, while others will invariably fail—in the latter case the want of success being due to the man himself, and not to the particular author whose work he may have undertaken to master.

### REPORTING IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

By Henry Pitman.

**T**HE first unofficial Parliamentary reporter was Sir Symonds d'Ewes, M.P., and the earliest systematic attempt to report the debates was made in 1706. It was done surreptitiously, and hon. members complained that it was a breach of privilege. The newspaper of that day was issued at uncertain intervals. The addition to its small quota of news of an outline of Parliamentary news, with an occasional speech almost *in extenso*, marked an epoch in the history of the "fourth estate" of the realm. Sir Thomas Wynnington protested against this innovation, and several members of the House implored the House to "put it down." Sir William Wyndham, all honor to his name, contended that the people had a right to know what their representatives were doing. The House considered the matter, and resolved that it was a "high indignity to this House for any newspaper or printer to publish an account of its debates, and the House will proceed with the utmost severity against any and all such offenders." In 1731, Edward Cane commenced the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, and published Parliamentary reports under fictitious

names, after the manner of "Gulliver's Travels." In 1746, Dr. Johnson, then a young man of thirty, tried his powerful pen at Parliamentary reporting. Cave and his assistants were concealed in the gallery of the House. For a time this system of secrecy succeeded. There is little doubt but that Cave furnished Johnson with the raw material of the speeches, and Johnson worked them into shape. At last Cave was prosecuted, and for twenty years the battle raged, and fines and imprisonment were frequent. Gradually shorthand forced its way into the House, in spite of all opposition, and now-a-days, reporters are considered as necessary as long-winded speakers to "make a House."

#### AMONG THE MAGAZINES AND BOOKS.

The *Phonographic Review* is one of the most interesting of our English exchanges. It is specially the organ of the ever-circulators. Every page of matter is readable. S. G. Jarman, Church street, Tiverton, England, is the editor.

The June number of the *Hamilton School Magazine* is, as usual, excellent in every respect. The contents are varied and of a character suited to the taste of those who are interested in educational matters. The magazine is a credit to the excellent Collegiate Institute from which it is issued.

The *Journalist* for July, published in London,

opens with an article on and lithographed portrait of Thomas Cooper, journalist and chartist. This monthly is well printed and illustrated. Both it and Mr. T. A. Reed's *Reporter* for the month contain extracts from the *Times* article on Telephonic Reporting.

The *Yorkshire Phonographer* is a sixteen-page monthly, all being lithographed shorthand. It is a new venture. In it may be found some well-written matter and judicious selections that are of interest to phonographers. J. Rhodes, Lawkhone Lane, Keighley, England, is its editor and publisher.

We have received from the Secretary a supply of the "Proceedings of the New York State Stenographers' Association, including Amended Constitution, By-Laws, Papers read, etc., at the Fourth Annual Meeting held at Saratoga Springs, N. Y." The volume contains 150 pp. The papers are very interesting, and we are instructed to send a copy to any address, postage paid, on receipt of 50c.

The *Dietetic Reformer and Vegetarian Messenger* is an interesting monthly, published in London, Eng., by Fred Pitman. The motto of the magazine is:—"Fix upon that course of life which is best: custom will render it most delightful." We believe Vegetarianism is much better and more palatable than Tannerism, and this magazine dishes up celery and such like in a most toothsome fashion.

### Helps and Hints to Students.

**A** NUMBER of questions have been asked since the publication, in the May number, of the specimen queries and replies.

A learner asks us to "join the alphabet all together, because with those that have no teachers it is rather hard to learn; because when they are trying to join them, they would not know which letter is to go above the line or below." We never felt the need of such a conglomeration, and we imagine the questioner has a good deal yet to learn regarding the rules for combination; but if others have not been able to find in the text-books the knowledge sought, we shall be happy to supply it.

A subscriber propounds this conundrum:—"A friend of mine—not a shorthand reporter, but interested in the subject—and who knows, he says, either personally or indirectly, about all the leading shorthand writers in the United States, makes this strong assertion: That there is not a *verbatim* shorthand reporter in the United States; and no doubt he would assert the same of other countries. He says that it is physically impossible to take a *verbatim* report of a speech which is an hour or an hour and a half long, and is delivered at the rate of 150 words per minute. He says the re-

port is necessarily a partial one, and is fixed up afterwards from memory." The "friend" of our friend is "not a shorthand reporter." This would seem to render an explanation unnecessary; yet, the author of the "strong assertion" seems to be thoroughly acquainted with "shorthand expedients"—such as "fixing up" speeches. We might infer that he got this "wrinkle" from the "leading shorthand writers" with whom he professes to be on such intimate terms, and the only explanation of the matter is that these "leading" brethren have broken down their physical constitutions by eating too much dyspeptic pie-crust, and are unfitted to bear the strain of 150. What have our United States friends to say on this subject? The production of the unknown "friend" is very, very rich.

A student who writes seventy words per minute, wants to know how long it takes to reach a speed of 125 or 150. This question involves several others, to which we first require answers. What is your age? Your parentage? State your mental capacity and precocity; your early educational advantages; your present knowledge of grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.; give size of chest and capacity of lungs; also your muscular activity and nervous irritability.

Are you sound in wind and limb? Are you sober, steady, industrious, plodding, active, earnest, energetic? Does time hang heavily on your hands? Are you in love? If so, does she reside in the vicinity of your domicile? (This is important.) Whose system are you learning? How long has it taken you to reach your present speed? How much do you think it worth to be able to write 150 words per minute? When we have this information, and a photograph of the questioner, we will be in a position to form some idea of his capacity and respond to his request. Others desiring similar information will please note these points and govern themselves accordingly.

Mr. O. B. Harden, of Philadelphia, suggests these rules for the guidance of beginners:—1st. Always read what you write. 2nd. Write always in position. If the word has more than one vowel, in the accented vowel place, it is regardless as to whether you insert the vowel or not. 3rd. Learn to write words out, whether they have a contracted form or not. You will not then be at a loss for the outline of a word for which you have no contracted form.

(3.) Q.—Why can't a first-class telegrapher who writes on an average of thirty-five or forty words a minute become a practical shorthand writer?—G. E. S., Toledo, Ohio.

A.—There is no reason why telegraph operators should not make the most efficient shorthand writers. The experiments with the telephone seem to point in the direction of superseding the telegraph operators, and it would be a wise thing for them to take up the study of phonography.

(4.) Q.—How would you hold the pen or pencil?—C. A. M., Pittsburgh, Pa. What is the correct position for arm and hand? Should the elbow be resting or not?—W. B. R., Welland, Ont.

A.—The natural and easy position of the arm and hand, and the manner of holding the pen or pencil, in longhand writing, will be found to be the most convenient for shorthand writing, and in the latter, as in the former, the object should be to secure freedom of movement and perfect control of the hand, so that no time may be lost. It is not essential that the elbow itself should rest; but the difficulty of writing will be greatly increased, and speed will be lost, if the muscles between the wrist and the elbow be not relieved by having a firm pivotal position.

(5.) Q.—What do you know of the Duploye system of stenography? Is it used successfully by any one in the English language?—J. H. S., Chicago, Ill.

A.—It is the system chiefly used in France, and is employed by a majority of the official Government reporters. Its advocates claim that speed can be attained by it, as great as by any English or American system. It has been adapted to the English language by Prof. Manseau, of Montreal, Quebec.

(6.) Q.—What system of shorthand is most used in Canada?—J. J. R., Providence, R.I.

A.—Isaac Pitman's, "by a large majority," judging from the number of our subscribers who claim to be his disciples. We know of no more accurate criterion.

(7.) Q.—Which do you consider the best plan to memorize word-signs—before doing anything at actual writing, or alternating the two?—T. H. F., Galt, Ont.

A.—Memorize *by* writing. Don't try to memorize except by writing, for you are not now learning a *science* (i. e. general principles that are to be known), but an *art* (i. e. practical rules for something that is to be done). You are learning the art of *writing*. The best way to learn to do a thing is to do it. If your memorizing be *mental* only, and not *manual* also, you will only know what to do, and how not to do it. With text-books before you, write out each word-sign carefully, pronouncing it aloud while tracing it. You will thus train eye, ear and hand. Memorizing without writing would be leaving the hand out, and shorthand without the hand would be—well, rather short-handed.

(8.) Q.—What do you consider the best means of working up speed after having learned the theoretical part of the system?—P. D. U., Chicago.

A.—This question is somewhat indefinite. We do not quite comprehend what the questioner means by the "theoretical" part of a system; for theory and practice must go together from the beginning, or the student will learn very little about any system. If the writer has learned thoroughly the rules, and understands how to make and join the consonants, and how to insert the vowels, speed will come as the result of a thorough discipline of the eye, ear and hand. A good reader will be a great assistance. The speed of the reader can be regulated to suit the writer; care being taken always to make the outlines as correct and perfect as may be. After having written for, say, an hour from dictation, write out your notes in longhand. This will familiarize your eye to the phonographic outlines, will give you speed in longhand writing and test your ability to punctuate—(two very important requisites for a reporter), and will enable you to test the correctness of your transcript, not only as to words but as to sense. If you stumble at an awkward outline, tackle it in every shape, giving the consonants and vowels every shade of sound, until you come upon the right one. Then, having mastered the difficulty, take care to prevent its recurrence, by correcting the outline, or more fully vocalizing it, and also copying it in a book kept for the purpose, writing the correct form several times. Thus treated, your errors will prove positive helps instead of hindrances to progress. When you have a speed of from seventy-five to one hundred words a minute, venture out to sermons and lectures, and take down what you can take in connected form. Don't take half-sentences, or they will puzzle you in reading. Take complete sentences, no matter how few. You will find the modulations of the public speaker's

voice very different from the monotone of the reader; you will be startled at the rapidity of utterance; you will grow nervous as the speaker warms up in his subject, for you will feel the importance of your mission. But keep cool—or at least try to—and be careful about your forms. Go home and transcribe in longhand all you have written, and correct errors. Keep on in this way, and some day you will be a skilful reporter.

(9.) Q.—Does it not require unusual skill to give satisfaction as a short hand clerk—say to take down conversations in business or law offices?—C. A. M., Pittsburgh, Pa.

A.—It requires unusual skill to be a satisfactory shorthand writer in any capacity. A quick eye, a ready hand, a sharp ear, an active brain, a strong physical constitution, good education,

cheerfulness, courage, and vim—these are only a very few of the characteristics of a skilful shorthand writer. But our questioner mistakes the work of shorthand clerks. They are not required to take down conversations, but to write letters and documents from the dictation of some person who will generally tone down his speed of utterance to the capacity of the stenographer. With a good-natured chief, the clerk's work is reasonably easy if he be even usually skilful in the use of his tools; but there are times when the temper of the best of clerks will be tried by hasty or muffled utterance, or long and involved sentences. It requires unusual skill to render intelligible some of the sentences dictated by inexperienced chiefs—for dictation is an art only to be acquired by study and practice, and when the dictator is "green" the clerk has a trying time of it.

## Phonographic Gossip.

### CANADA.

Mr. E. E. HORTON is the happy father of a bouncing baby boy.

Mr. W. H. HIGGINS, editor of the *Whitby Chronicle*, reports speeches for his own paper in a shorthand of his own invention.

THE matters in dispute between Mr. C. H. McIntosh, of the *Ottawa Citizen*, and Mr. T. J. Richardson, the former contractor for *Hanaard*, in reference to the payment for the reporting of the Commons debates, are being settled by a Receiver appointed by the Court of Chancery.

Mr. F. W. WODELL has disposed of his interest in the *Forest Adviser*, as joint publisher, and has accepted a position in the establishment of the publishers of the *WRITER*. The magazine will profit by this latest addition to the ever-increasing staff. Mr. Wodell writes Benn Pitman's system.

THE Debates of the Senate, reported, edited and published by A. and G. C. Holland, have been issued in the usual book form. The index and table of contents are very carefully compiled. These are important features in a work of this kind. Of the reporting, it is only necessary to say that it is done in the best style of the art, of which the Messrs. Holland are masters.

MR. HERBERT BURROWS, a young and promising phonographer from Napanee, has secured a position as shorthand clerk in the law office of Messrs. Ferguson, Bain, Gordon & Shepley. Mr. Burrows's father is School Inspector in Napanee district, and has the honor of having introduced to the phonographic world Mr. E. E. Horton, Superior Court Reporter, and of having guided up the hill of learning the youthful footsteps of Mr. Albert Horton—a transcript of whose notes appears in this issue.

### UNITED STATES.

PROF. C. L. MARTIN teaches shorthand in a Quincy, Ill., school.

The full account of Harry P. Comegys' suicide at Topeka, Ka., came too late for this number.

Mr. John Gray, court reporter, Chicago, is on a vacation. The rest of the profession is scattered over the country.

Mr. Alfred Gregory, late of the Grand Trunk Railway, is stenographer to the Purchasing Agent of the C. B. & Q. Railway, Chicago.

A correspondent writes that he heard on the street that Mr. Dement, Sr., a Chicago court reporter, recently wrote 300 words of testimony in a minute.

James E. Munson, law stenographer, and author of *Practical Phonography*, has removed to more commodious premises in the *Tribune* building, New York City.

Mr. Daniel Fritts, stenographer to Messrs. Brunswick & Baily, billiard manufacturers, Chicago, died suddenly. He was much respected by all who knew him.

Mr. J. W. Fortune has left the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railway, and is now chief clerk and Secretary to the Manager of the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway Company.

MALVERN McCCLURE committed suicide recently in Carrollton, Ill., by shooting himself through the head. He had been studying very assiduously at shorthand, but whether that had anything to do with his mental derangement was not proven at the inquest.

THE average speaker uses 120 words a minute. John Sherman once delivered a speech at the average of 170 words a minute, and Benn Pitman reported it so plainly in phonography that his wife copied the signs into longhand without having heard a word of it.



The annual meeting of the New York State Shorthand Association will be held at Syracuse, N. Y., commencing on Thursday, the 19th of this month. A cordial invitation is extended to all phonographers of the United States and Canada. Headquarters will be at the Vanderbilt House. The first day will be devoted to business, and the second day to social pleasure.

MR. JAMES E. MUNSON writes that, owing to a severe attack of rheumatism, he has not been able to attend to business since May. He is well now, however, and hard at work. He feared he should have to forego his trip to Canada this summer because of his sickness, which has put his business very much behind, but he thinks he may come over late this month or early in September. Canadian disciples and many friends. We extend to Mr. Munson our sympathy in his sufferings, express our joy at the prospect of his visit to this Dominion and promise him a hearty reception.

## FOREIGN.

MR. THOMAS, the editor of the *Phonographer's Herald*, is dissecting Isaac Pitman's new dictionary.

A MR. HUNT, of Bristol, has issued a system of shorthand which may be learned in a couple of months.

One of the 9th Lancers, in Afghanistan, amuses himself by teaching shorthand to his fellow soldiers.

Isaac Pitman, in the *Phonetic Journal*, has adopted a system of semi-phonography. It is intended as a stepping-stone to his "pure" style of reformed spelling.

The late General Election made a busy time for shorthand writers. Mr. Henry Pitman, of Manchester, estimates that 2,000 phonographic reporters were employed in note-taking throughout the United Kingdom. MR. GLADSTONE said "the reporting was admirably done."

### Editorial Notes.

PARTICULAR attention is drawn to the advertisement of our Shorthand Employment Bureau. See second page of cover.

We have received a poem entitled "Cosmopolitan," after the style of Longfellow's "Excelsior." As there may be more to follow, we will hold it over that a comparison may be made and the best one will be published.

We have concluded the purchase of the subscription list and good will of the well-known *Phonetic Magazine*—the oldest shorthand journal in the United States—from its late publisher, Mr. S. B. Wright, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and will consolidate it with the SHORTHAND WRITER.

Rev. Wm. D. Bridge, of East Pepperell, Mass., who has been a phonographer since 1854, sends a critique of Mr. Pinkney's forms in his transcript of the article on "Hansard" (page 44). He points out several words and combinations which, he avers, are not in accordance with the rules of Graham's Standard Phonography. We shall publish Mr. Bridge's letter in next number.

It is questionable whether the profession of shorthand writing is improved by students advertising for positions when they can write only seventy or eighty words per minute. It is impossible to do satisfactory work at that speed, and those who attempt it only lower the standard of more deserving men. No one should accept a shorthand position with salary attached unless he can write at least one hundred words per minute.

Our good friend Fortune sends us a postal card written in shorthand by a printer's boy 16 years of age after studying phonography for 3 or 4 months. We print a fac-simile of the card

on page 57, omitting, however, the name of the writer, lest injury be done to native modesty, which is such a rare virtue as to call for special protection. The phonographic forms are as full of grace and beauty as the whole production is of playfulness.

Human ingenuity is frequently devoted to singular purposes of a not very useful description. At the Dusseldorf Exhibition, a member of the Rhenish and Westphalian Stenographic Society exhibits a German postcard containing Voss's translation of the first three books of Homer's "Odyssey" and part of a very long debate which recently took place in the German Imperial Parliament. The number of words in the extract of the "Odyssey" is 11,000, while in the parliamentary debate the number is 22,000. The whole of the 33,000 words have been written in the Gabelsberg system of shorthand and with the naked eye. The quantity of matter in this German shorthand and manuscript would be equal to what is contained in about twelve columns of the New York *Sun* set in solid agate type.

The late Henry J. Raymond, in the early days of his career, before the era of telegraphy, was sent to Boston to report one of Webster's speeches. Rival city journals also despatched their reporters, each selecting their best shorthand man to work against Mr. Raymond. After the speech had been delivered, the New York reporters took the night boat, and all, except Mr. Raymond, enjoyed themselves as well as they could. Raymond, however, sat quietly in a back cabin and was observed to be writing furiously. Upon examination it was discovered he had a fully-equipped printing

office in his cabin. His manuscript was taken page by page by the compositors, set up immediately, and upon the arrival of the boat in New York, at five o'clock in the morning, Mr. Raymond's report, making several columns of the *Times*, was all in type. These columns were put into the form at once, and at six a full report of Daniel Webster's speech was selling like wild-fire on the streets.

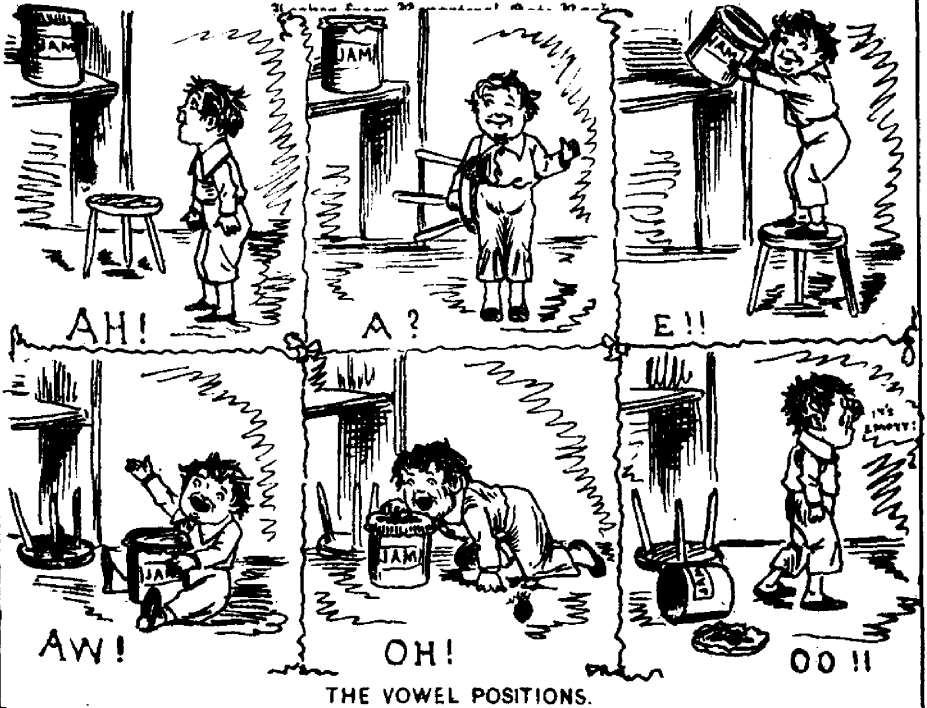
A leading article in *L'Unite Stenographique* for February treats of the extended use of shorthand among the military, and of its special importance in war offices. And war is the great thought and care of all the nations of Europe. Prussia, bloated with conquest, goes on making yet greater preparations in weapons, in system, and in subjecting every man over 18 to years of drill, which makes of him as perfect a machine as they make of their iron and steel. All the other nations are obliged to prepare and hold themselves prepared for an avalanche of this mass of havoc. In actual service a single minute of gain or loss of time or movement may be decisive. Exactitude is above everything a requisite. The general must give orders briefly, hastily and in all directions; his aides take them down in shorthand and fly with them to their address. His information as to movements on the field comes to him in the same way, sure and prompt. The wires of the telegraph or telephone may be cut by the enemy, but stenography aids even the lightning to do its work in time, and prevent the consequences of orders arriving too late. Concision and secrecy of character are two qualities of the mystic symbols that are invaluable in actual service.

Some observations made lately by the *Scientific American* in connection with its account of the great improvement and revolution in telegraphy by the substitution of Faradic machines for the vast array of batteries hitherto used in the great offices, go to shew that in the coming age of wire, stenography will be one of the most useful agents as adjunct to the telephone and telegraph. Even now, in the great centres of intelligence, news must go to press so quickly that the stenographer cannot take time to transcribe his notes. In lieu of sending one shorthand reporter to take the notes of an important speech or discussion, a whole staff is sent under direction of a chief, often as many as ten to fifteen. One writes for five, or, perhaps, ten minutes when, at a signal, a second moves his pencil, continuing the notes while the first withdraws to a side room and reads his in the mouthpiece of a telephone, at the other end of which, in the printing office, a compositor sets up the matter from the reporter's lips; before he has done, and read his type back to the reporter for verification, other wires and compositors are engaged, and No. 1 presently returns to take his turn again in catching the speaker's words.

Ever-circulating magazines, which have, through many years, been so usefully employed in England as a means of mutual improvement and friendly correction among students, seem to

be scarcely known in France. The stenographic periodicals there are giving interesting accounts of their management, and of their constantly increasing extension. In the United States, although the post office authorities borrowed the term "phonographic paper" from the British postal regulations as one of the items allowed to pass as third class matter (for the benefit of home students), they would never allow circulating magazines, written in phonography, to pass at less than letter rates. They seem at last to be ashamed of this oppression on the large class of poor but ardent, aspiring students who live in secluded country homes, and cannot meet or see any fellow students, or gain such help in the line of study they desire to pursue. Many circulating magazines are now going the rounds through the States. If the conductor takes the precaution to have all the paper uniform, and with a printed heading showing its title and "students' essays," "no personal correspondence," it is now allowed to pass. In England, neat covers, like those used for the better sort of diaries, form the wrapper; but across the lines a circular envelope is mostly used.

The careful observer will find many curious blunders and "solecisms" in the newspapers of the day. Upon a hasty glance over a few recently, we discovered some choice gems. "With every edition we send out more or less sample copies," writes an editor who has gone through college and obtained an education,—"more or less." The same author writes, "We were once knowing to a case where," etc., etc. This is evidence that he is a "knowing" editor, whatever his education may have been. Similar to this construction is the following sentence from a High Church paper whose editors are supposed to have studied English prose writing:—"On the question of the New Constitution attempted to be brought in, a number of insuperable objections present themselves." In the same paper appears an announcement by an insurance company which states that "No minister, especially those with a family, should be without an insurance against accident." If the agents of this company handle ministers as carelessly as they do the Queen's English, the ministers need insurance against accident at the hands of the insurance company. The learned and classic editor of the *Canadian Spectator* used this expression recently:—"A minister should be a little abreast of his people, but not very much." This is surely a slovenly use of language. Examples such as the foregoing are quite common, and the critical reader may discover scores of them. We have noted these because all (except the insurance advertisement) are sips of clerical pens, and such "clerical errors" are almost un pardonable when the standard of ministerial education is so high. Words are tools, and those who live by their use should know how to use them properly. Shorthand writers and newspaper reporters can see readily how intimately this subject is related to their own work, and they may take valuable hints from the exposure of the above peculiarities.



AN ASPIRANT FOR PHONOGRAPHIC HONORS.

A series of lines of shorthand characters and symbols, including various loops, dots, and lines, representing phonographic notation.

xx x

[ ... ]



MR. HENRY PITMAN.

ACCURATE REPORTING.

Written in Isaac Pitman's Phonography.

The following is a sample of shorthand text written in Isaac Pitman's Phonography. The text is dense and fills the left column of the page.

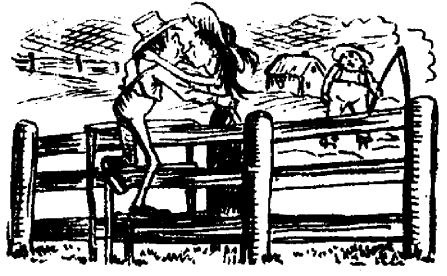
The following is a sample of shorthand text written in Isaac Pitman's Phonography. The text is dense and fills the right column of the page.

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CORRESPONDING STYLE.





A REPORTER'S ENTERPRISE



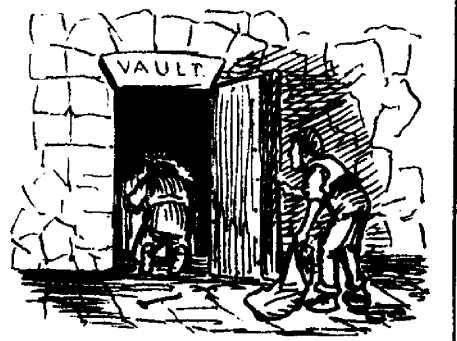
Handwritten shorthand notes in cursive script, arranged in several lines across the page.

SHORTHAND IN MILITARY CIRCLES

Handwritten shorthand notes in cursive script, arranged in several lines across the page.



Handwritten shorthand notes in cursive script, arranged in several lines across the page.



PROFESSIONALS TAKING NOTES.



THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS.

Written in Graham's Standard Phonography.

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

SHORTHAND FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES.

Written in Scovill's System.

This section displays shorthand symbols for business purposes, written in Scovill's System. The symbols are arranged in approximately 20 rows, each containing several characters. The characters are more angular and geometric than those in the first section, often resembling triangles, squares, and circles. Some characters are accompanied by small numbers or letters, such as '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '8', '9', '10', '11', '12', '13', '14', '15', '16', '17', '18', '19', '20', '21', '22', '23', '24', '25', '26', '27', '28', '29', '30', '31', '32', '33', '34', '35', '36', '37', '38', '39', '40', '41', '42', '43', '44', '45', '46', '47', '48', '49', '50', '51', '52', '53', '54', '55', '56', '57', '58', '59', '60', '61', '62', '63', '64', '65', '66', '67', '68', '69', '70', '71', '72', '73', '74', '75', '76', '77', '78', '79', '80', '81', '82', '83', '84', '85', '86', '87', '88', '89', '90', '91', '92', '93', '94', '95', '96', '97', '98', '99', '100'.

Geo. J. G. Bennett

W. 10 5, 1880.

Leaves from Reporters' Note Books.

FACSIMILE OF REPORTING NOTES OF ALBERT MORTON, OF THE CANADIAN HANSARD STAFF, WRITTEN IN GRAMM'S SYSTEM.

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 g o a w p s — z h v z i  
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