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# THE CANADIAN

## ILLUSTRATED

# SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1880.

No. 8.

### Editorial and Contributed.

#### PRACTICAL STENOGRAPHY.

BY H. C. DEMMING, OF HARRISBURG, PA.



FEW further thoughts as to speed and legibility, at the risk of some repetition, possibly. The first-class stenographer is he who can follow the speaker, no matter how rapid his utterances, and transcribe his notes with accuracy, if need be, or with judgment and sound sense where departure from the real words is essential. To follow the speaker, one should not only be able to write as rapidly as the words are spoken, but from ten to twenty words a minute faster;—for there are times when there is indistinctness, or ambiguity, or a proper name again, confusion in the audience, or something else to throw the reporter back a few seconds, and it becomes necessary to catch up. The ability, then, to write more rapidly than the speaking is of great and decided advantage. Then there are times when persons, who perhaps only the day before were reported with ease, become uncomfortably fast, though listeners will aver they are speaking in their usual way. This is due to a stenographer's physical and mental condition. Nearly worn out by hard nightwork, or many hours of note-taking, the mind acting sluggishly and the muscles protestingly, it is quite readily understood how this feeling will arise. It may be that this painful dragging behind comes from want of practice, or from unfamiliarity with the subject being reported. To overcome this, a few minutes' exercise with the pen from dictation before engaging in the work greatly relieves and gives confidence, especially if the strange outlines to be met with have in a measure been anticipated by the dictation-reading. Daily practice from dictation, even by the most experienced phonographers, is of great benefit where the day has not been spent in actual work at note-taking. If the notes are always read over, in addition, some one holding the original, it is surprising with how much more ease the actual note-tak-

ing goes on a few hours afterwards. Reference to, and practice from some phonographic work, is of benefit even to old reporters. Those in the business who have not tried these plans, will be agreeably and profitably surprised by a practical observance for a month or so.

With all the advantages of phonography, and the great progress made in it for real and valuable purposes, improvements are yet possible, not only in outline of daily recurring words, but speed and legibility. Some outlines made rapidly, (no difference in what system,) it must be confessed, are not what they ought to be to ensure ease of transcription. There are times when the most rapid systems known fail in execution. It is pardonable—perhaps—for some to say that they can read phonography with the same ease they can long-hand; but on actual test there is not one who can maintain that declaration true under all circumstances. Even in the easiest work, there is sometimes necessity for hesitation; and there are kinds of work where, in transcription, if the person averages half the ordinary speed he does well. Admitting that in testimony often one can run along for an hour as rapidly as the testimony was given, there will be hitches now and then; and with not a few there will be mistakes, too. Sometimes the mistakes are slight; but some old and long-experienced phonographers have been guilty (even in their palmy days) of rather mortifying ones. If there were an experience meeting here to-day on the subject of errors, and honest confessions made, and the whole truth told, many a seemingly fair day's record to the public eye might be found to have been not altogether clear of short omissions, or the peculiar art of supply, or possibly some cunning guess-work. With the most expert stenographers this is not so common as those of short experience might infer from their own peculiar troubles in the same direction; but they do occur with all in the course of a year's practice and some years more than others. We are not infallible, nor is the expert stenographer a bungler nor does he work as by chance. He has to deal with all sorts of men, with all sorts of thought and expression, and with every con-

ceivable idiosyncrasy. Some mutter their words; others jump part way through a sentence, and never finish it; others lead along through a labyrinth of words until they are lost; then wind up with something that sounds well, and satisfies their audience, forgetting or caring not for the entanglement which the stenographer has to unravel and make intelligible for print. Then how many ungrammatical sentences—how many that are doubled up until when winnowed one-half, there is yet one-half too much. It is a marvel to the hardest-worked of the profession, when the announcement is made of a stenographer becoming insane, that the one is not augmented to a dozen.

Adequate compensation for services is an interesting subject to every practical worker in the stenographic field. How shall we be properly paid? And how shall the income be made continuous? First, if we work for the public, the community ought to be informed of the difficult nature of our calling. That can be done best through the press. A few minutes' conversation with the editors of the promising periodicals of the community will sometimes accomplish the result. It will be more certainly accomplished if a readable and interesting article is written on the subject by the stenographer himself, and its publication secured. Where the press are enlightened, and favorably moved, the public are also. Three points can be profitably impressed: (1) the saving of time and money to the ratepayers; (2) the importance of every man coming into court having justice done him by a full and accurate record of what takes place; (3) rapidity with which the business can be disposed of. There can be more uniformity of rates throughout the United States by careful and thorough organization on the part of the competent followers of the profession, with a just standard for membership, and actual test on the three points laid down by this Association before entering, and no waiving of any of them. It would not injure the profession to add a fourth qualification—a good moral character; for our families are sometimes reached by our fellowships in the stenographic art as well as we. Further than this, the experience and wisdom resulting from a thorough organization would enable the members to go, step by step, until all that should be justly and equitably sought had been accomplished. Much more might be said on this branch, but to cover the ground would require a separate address, if not two or three.

The number of stenographers in the United States and Canada is given at nearly sixteen hundred by the publisher of one of our widest circulated phonographic periodicals. The number is continually and rapidly increasing. How many of these are competent for actual work, no one seems to have ventured a declaration; but the editor and publisher, who fixes the total number at nearly sixteen hundred, added in the same conversation that he did not believe of the whole number there were more than

twenty-five who could do every description of miscellaneous verbatim reporting in a strictly first-class manner. Is he right, or is he wrong? If right, is it not time that a higher plane were sought by the great mass of the profession? If wrong, who will attempt at this time,—and make the attempt good,—to prove that there are a greater number than twenty-five entirely competent for any kind of verbatim work that may be desired or required at the hands of a stenographic shorthand writer?

But it is time for the conclusion. To raise our standard among men we should all put forth every effort to be as perfect in our work as it is possible for human being to be; if any errors are our own, we should be frank and honest enough to confess them. We ought to remember that errors can occur, but to work as though we had no right or excuse to make them. Our work should not only be well, but neatly done; little things as well as large are to be watched. We have no express commission to be more forward or egotistical than other people; but we have the right to be placed as high up in the scale of avocations and professions as any on the face of the earth. Our calling is as honorable as that of any other, and with true dignity and manhood we should maintain what we are entitled to. It does not injure us to be always polite and courteous to high and low, and to bear our trials good-naturedly. While giving to those who are incompetent and unprofessional their true places, we can act toward them in such a way as not to be little ourselves in the eyes of those who do not understand the business, or those who are incompetent and unprofessional. But before deciding as to either of the latter, prejudice and injustice may be averted by remembering there are two sides to be heard, and in many instances the last heard are found to be nearest right, if not entirely so. Kind and considerate treatment of everybody, as far as possible, will win in the end. Can we not hasten the dawning of that desirable day, at least in the minds of all who require our services?

Finally, our position in the estimation of our fellow-men is what we make it ourselves. Aiming high for honorable professional attainments, and to meet the wants in our spheres of action, we will be surer to reach a higher plane than if we aim not at all, or only for the lure that the diligent following of our profession yields.

The Secretary of the London Shorthand Writers' Association, Mr. Pocknell, is about to publish a new system of shorthand, which he claims will possess great advantages as to legibility and simplicity. A new system that will combine the two qualities Mr. Pocknell claims for his system will certainly be hailed with delight, for we must admit there is abundant room for improvement in all the styles now in use.

## SOME AMERICAN PHONOGRAPHERS.



WE give below the first instalment of a series of short biographical sketches of prominent and leading phonographers of New York State, all of whom are members of the N. Y. S. Stenographer's Association. We will insert a further number in the January issue of the WRITER:—

**C. G. TINSLEY**, of Syracuse, N. Y., was born in Madison County, N. Y., in 1843, and has consequently been an inhabitant of mother earth for thirty-seven years; had a common school and printing office education; worked at the case seven years; was in the U. S. Navy in 1864-65; then learned shorthand (Graham's system); now has charge, with his partner, Mr. F. J. Morgan, of the reporting in the fifth Judicial District, composed of six counties in N. Y. State, and also does much miscellaneous reporting. Mr. Tinsley was elected President of the N. Y. State Stenographer's Association at its last annual convention. See portrait.

**W. O. WYCKOFF**.—Born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., 1835; worked on a farm till 1856, when he went West and pre-empted some land in Minnesota; returned to Ithaca in 1858 and studied law and Phonography; commenced with Benn Pitman's system and afterwards changed to Graham's; in 1861 volunteered as a private in 32nd N. Y. Volunteers; was promoted to the rank of captain; remained in command of a company from the first Bull Run to Antietam; was mustered out in June, 1863; returned to Ithaca and commenced the practice of law. In 1866 was appointed stenographer of the Supreme Court; in 1871 was transferred to the sixth judicial district, composed of ten counties, and still continues in that position.

**DANIEL C. McEWEN**.—Was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in 1843; received a common school education; began studying Pitman's phonography at the age of fifteen; served two years as an amanuensis, and in 1864 went to New York and engaged in law reporting under the auspices of Edward F. Underhill; after the close of the war he started law and was subsequently admitted to the bar; in 1866, while acting as a reporter for the New York World he "swung round the circle" with President Johnson; in 1867 he acted on the editorial staff of the N. Y. Tribune; in 1869 he became official stenographer to the New York Supreme Court, second Judicial District, a post which he still continues to hold.

**TARO. C. ROSE**.—Born in Tompkins Co., N. Y.; received a common school education; learned the trade of carriage ironer; entered the service of Uncle Sam as a private in the 77th N. Y. Volunteers, and served nearly three years; after the war he resumed his trade, which he followed for four years, during which time he mastered Graham's Phonography; in 1870 entered the employ of W. O. Wyckoff, of Ithaca,

N. Y., as a-sistant stenographer to the Supreme Court of the sixth Judicial District, which position he still holds. Mr. Rose's reporting has been almost exclusively confined to law reporting and during his ten year's practice has had a wide experience and has reported many important trials.

**S. C. RODGERS**, of Troy, N. Y., is 36 years old; was born in Lyons, N. Y.; is a printer by trade and is also a lawyer; is in his sixteenth year of stenographic experience; uses Graham's system, but very much lengthened; employs three assistants; first connected with the U. S. Secret Service Department and U. S. Courts about two years; located in Troy in 1868; elected Assembly Stenographer in 1875 over James E. Munson, of New York; has reported largely in Vermont for the past eight years; is now official reporter of two circuits in Vermont; also controls the County Court reporting of several Counties in New York State.

**CHARLES B. POST**.—Born in Sangertees, N. Y., in 1852; graduated from Sheffield Hall in 1868; for several years occupied a position in an iron warehouse; becoming disappointed in his aim, he adopted the profession of shorthand writing, and is now an assistant stenographer of the third Judicial District of N. Y.; has studied and become a fluent talker in Spanish, Italian, German and Hungarian.

**HUDSON C. TANNER**.—Born in Lysander, N. Y., in 1841; is chief stenographer to the N. Y. State Senate; was educated at Jordan Academy; commenced with Graham's system and subsequently used a mixture of different systems with his own; was appointed stenographer to the Supreme Court, fifth Judicial District, in 1863; held that office until 1872, when he resigned to devote his services to legislative reporting.

**HARVEY HUSTED**.—Was born in Westchester Co., N. Y., in 1854; graduated at the Irving Institute in 1873; after which while acting as book-keeper, he took up the study of Graham's system and mastered it after about two years of persistent study; was appointed County Court stenographer in 1876, and since then the Court of Sessions, and Supreme and Surrogate Courts in addition.

**WORDEN E. PAYNE**.—Born at Sackets Harbour, N. Y., Sept 6th, 1852; received a common school education; writes a system of shorthand based upon Graham's; at present is the official stenographer of the N. Y. Assembly, which position he is holding for the seventh time. He is a member of the firm of Payne & Ruso, Stenographers, Albany, N. Y.; is Vice President of the N. Y. S. S. A.

**JAMES M. RUSO**.—Born at Albany, N. Y., in 1855; received an academical education; writes Benn Pitman's system; has been engaged in general reporting for four years, and has reported several important civil and criminal trials; is a member of the firm of Payne & Ruso, and is also an attorney and counselor-at-law of the Supreme Court of N. Y. State.

H. C. LAMBERT.—Aged 21: learned Graham's system at the age of 13, and has for the past six years been employed by Tinsley & Morgan, of Syracuse.

F. J. MORGAN.—Is 31 years old; was born and has always lived in Syracuse; received an academic education; learned Graham's system in 1870; went into partnership with C. G. Tinsley in 1872, and they have since been the official stenographers for the fifth Judicial Court.

## REPORTING IN THE LAW COURTS.

BY GEORGE EYEL.

**T**HE adoption by the Law Society of Ontario of a system of short-hand reporting in the Superior Courts of the Province has thus far been regarded as little more than an experiment; but the system has proved so successful notwithstanding its imperfections, that its gradual extension to other courts may be confidently expected; while a return to the slow, cumbrous, and old-fashioned method of recording evidence which preceded it is an alternative that can scarcely be desired by the most conservative member of the legal profession. The saving of the time of the judges, counsel, witnesses, jurors and court officers, and the immense consequent saving in the actual cost in the administration of justice; the economizing of judicial labor, and the greater accuracy which the use of shorthand ensures in the recording of evidence are advantages which have been so clearly demonstrated in favor of the system that they have evoked for it from judges and others—some of whom at first either openly opposed or dubiously tolerated the change—the most unqualified expressions of approval. But while its advantages have been made manifest during the short period it has been in operation, its imperfections, though chiefly confined to matters of detail, are of sufficient importance to merit attention. The lawyer asks a long question, or rather lays down a series of affirmative propositions involving considerations of time, place, minute details of conversations and the succession of circumstances, and winds up by categorically interrogating the witness as to the truth or falsity of the narrative. The court stenographer, while the question is proceeding, is probably sharpening his pencil; but so soon as the witness begins his reply, he immediately sets to work as best he may, mentally to construct and manually to record a narrative which shall be, barring perjury, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Meanwhile, his learned friend who, like time and tide waits for no man, is firing at the distracted witness another section of the testimony given in direct examination, more or less amplified from a fertile imagination, involving another set of circumstances, and to the reporter, another process of dove-tailing questions and answers; and the mind of the unfortunate

stenographer, to say nothing of his pencil, is going through the very multiplex operation of "taking" it all in narrative form for the information and guidance of counsel and the full court in term! The matter is more serious than may appear at the first glance; for not merely questions of property or of civil rights, but questions of life or death may depend upon the accuracy with which the reporter is able to record testimony under circumstances which render absolute accuracy almost an impossibility. The truth is that a thoroughly efficient system of official shorthand reporting implies not merely the taking but the transcription of the evidence in the form of question and answer, by reporters who are competent for the work. The testimony in parliamentary investigations, which are usually of far less immediate and serious moment to the individual and society, is invariably so reported; so, too, is the evidence in the law courts of the United States. But in order to have this done, it is incumbent on counsel when examining witnesses to see that they do not violate the conditions under which alone such a result is possible. The work of the reporter must be recognized as a part of the work of the court; counsel should conduct examinations with an eye to all questions as well as all the answers being taken down, and the limits of stenography as a means of recording spoken language should be observed.

## THE USE OF SHORTHAND.

**T**HERE is one reason above all others why young persons should learn shorthand, and that reason is that in a very few years every individual who cannot read and write shorthand will be behind the times. The progress of phonography during the past few years has been such that we may safely predict that the use of longhand in our own every-day correspondence will become the exception and not the rule in a comparatively short time. Many people are prevented from learning shorthand by the erroneous idea that it is a system of writing adapted only to the wants of the professional reporter. There could not be a greater mistake than this. It is true the old systems of shorthand were used only by professional reporters. These old systems were based generally on the Roman alphabet, and followed that alphabet, right or wrong, in all its erratic whims. The consequence was that these systems were for the most part so imperfect that reporters were unable to read one another's notes. Not so with phonography. This is a system of writing based on purely scientific principles and is as well adapted to the wants of the man of literature, the man of science and the letter-writer as it is to the reporter, while it is as legible as ordinary longhand. Phonography does look a little complicated to those who know nothing of it, but it is an established fact that any person of average intelligence can master it."—*Phonetic Journal*.

## THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR'S PRAYER.

"When the circuit of years is broken,  
 And the local life grown weak,  
 May we find there a heaven of peace  
 In the office that all men seek.  
 When the crosses of earth fade away,  
 And the grounds and escapes are no more,  
 May we not be afraid to report to our chief,  
 When we cut in at eternity's shore,  
 When the ledger of life has been closed,  
 And life's balance-sheet handed in,  
 Pray God that no error be charged  
 In the auditor's column of sin,  
 And when the fatal death's message is received,  
 And Jesus calls us to say,  
 How the office he gave us was managed,  
 May our answer in all truth be O. K.

## KEY TO THEO. C. ROSE'S REPORTING NOTES.

(SEE PAGE 132.)

**U**HE Court: Gentlemen of the Jury. This action is brought by the plaintiff as the executrix of the last will and testament of James Russell, deceased, to recover the amount which he had bid upon the sale of certain premises situated in the town of Roxbury, in this county, under a sale made on the foreclosure of a mortgage, held and owned by the plaintiffs testator in his lifetime. The defense in this action is, that the bid was made under and in pursuance of an agreement by the defendant with the plaintiff, wherein the defendant was not to be required to pay the sum bid by him or any part thereof, until it should be determined that the mortgage sought to be foreclosed by the plaintiff was a valid lien on said premises, and that he would get a good title by a purchase under it, and that the mortgage was determined to be invalid, and not a lien upon the premises, and that he was not therefore liable to pay the sum thus bid by him. The plaintiff claims, and claims to establish on this trial, that she and the defendant made an agreement before the sale was made under this foreclosure proceeding, whereby the defendant agreed to purchase this bond and mortgage of her, or to bid the premises off under it, for the amount of the mortgage held by her, and to pay her the amount of such mortgage and interest; that this sum was to be paid by giving her a note signed by himself and by certain sureties, for the sum of \$1,000.00, and the balance to be paid to her in cash, when such sales should be made. She also claims that in pursuance of this agreement, the defendant in this action did bid off the premises for the sum of about \$1,500.00, and that he has paid upon this bid the sum of \$100.00 and that there is now due and unpaid the balance which at this date amounts with interest to the sum \$1,650.71, and this amount she seeks to recover in this action. Now, this is the agreement substantially as it is testified to by the plaintiff in this action, and this what she claims to be a true statement of the transaction between her and the defendant in this action, and she asks you to find from the evidence in this case, that this is a true

statement of the facts in regard to this transaction, and that she shall recover a verdict at your hands, she absolutely denying that the version of this transaction, which was given by the defendant is true, absolutely denying that the contract between her and the defendant in this action was a conditional one as claimed and testified to by the defendant. Now, this is the claim which the plaintiff makes, and it is from this evidence and upon this theory she seeks to recover a verdict at your hands in this case. The defendant, however, gives a very different version of this transaction. He claims that he never made any absolute agreement, either to bid off these premises upon which this mortgage was given, or to purchase the mortgage of the plaintiff. But that the arrangement which was made between him—and the only one which was made between him and the plaintiff, in relation to this matter, was a conditional one, and that the bid which he made was in pursuance of this additional agreement, and that he made no bid except in pursuance of that agreement. He also claims that prior to this sale that there was as claimed by the plaintiff in this action, an agreement between him and the plaintiff to this effect.

## THE AMENDE HONORABLE.

**U**HE editor of an American paper makes an apology in the following elaborate style:—"There is a fly in our office, one which is distinguished from its brethren by its pertinacity and untiring energy. Other flies were disposed of by whisking a paper at them, but this fly we cannot manage. We don't like to kill flies. There is something so confiding about them that it seems like a breach of respectability to kill them. That fly tumbles into our ink-stand, crawls out, and dries its little feet by walking over our paper as we write. The compositor has hard work to decipher our copy sometimes. In this connection we would make a slight correction. In the last number of our paper we called Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ 'an unprincipled demagogue.' We should have said 'a high-toned patriot.' It was all the fault of that fly. The brother of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ came into our office this morning with a new and substantial looking cane, and reminded us of the misprint."

## A PERTINACIOUS REPORTER.

**A**N account has just been written by Mrs. BLACKBURN of the accident which happened at the opening of Stevenson's Liverpool and Manchester Railway, 1830, by which a distinguished M. P. lost his life. Mrs. B. nursed the injured man, and was admonished not to allow any stranger enter the sick room. She says: "One class of people who did not share in the kind thoughtfulness of almost everyone else was that of the newspaper reporters. While the poor man lay

dying, a messenger came as if from the Duke of Wellington, and tried to force his way into the sick room, but I discovered that he was a reporter dressed in the old yeomanry uniform.  
—*The Journalist.*

### STENOGRAPHY IN FRANCE.

**U**HE Eighth General Assembly of the French Stenographic Institute was held last month in Paris, and formed the closing session of the first International Stenographic Congress held in France. After the

minutes of the preceding Congress had been read, the resolutions discussed and drawn up by the various commissions were adopted in order to be transmitted to the Minister of Public Instruction. A paper was read by M. CLEMENT, on "the progress of the Association." Since its foundation in 1872, it has awarded 2015 diplomas of stenography and supported the establishment of forty journals printed in stenography published in France, Belgium, Spain and Africa. The session was closed by the inauguration of a bust of M. Duploye, the author of the leading French system of shorthand.—*The Journalist.*

## Communications.



### FAST REPORTERS.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8th, 1880.

To the Editor of the SHORTHAND WRITER:

SIR,—In the November number of the WRITER, Mr. E. E. Horton says that "Mr. T. A. Reed, of London, England, the fastest shorthand writer in the world, claims as his utmost speed only 185 words a minute." Either Mr. Reed is very much faster than he thinks, or he has a reputation better than he deserves. I am personally acquainted with some half-dozen reporters who reach 200 words a minute, and one, Mr. James Holland, of St. Louis, whose speed I have often had the opportunity of testing, who far exceeds that rate. Mr. James Holland is a phenomenal reporter. In a recent one minute test in St. Louis, he wrote 281 words of hard matter (from Proctor's lectures on Astronomy) and read his notes fluently. My informant, Mr. George Brown, of St. Louis, himself an exceptionally fine reporter, was one of those present at the time and witnessed the trial. Mr. Brown can, himself, write over 200 words a minute, or at least could nine years ago when he and I were on the staff of the *St. Louis Republican*, and he has since (he informs me) increased his speed. I have also seen John J. McElhone, of Washington, and the Murphy brothers writing with equal rapidity. Mr. McElhone told me last winter that he has written 240 words in a minute. Mr. Eugene Davis, of New York, formerly of Montreal, is another fine reporter who, I am satisfied, can take 200 words a minute, and reports French more readily and accurately than ordinary reporters can report English. I could also mention the name of Andrew Devine, of Washington, formerly of Ottawa, who also exceeds the maximum speed of the "fastest shorthand writer in the world." Mr. William Colebrooke, of Chicago, formerly a colleague of Mr. Horton and myself on the *Globe* staff, frequently reported Punshon's lectures and sermons *verbatim*, and Mr. Horton knows the speed which that means—a rate often exceeding 190 words a minute, and always diffi-

cult matter from the unusual words employed by the "the Methodist Pope." I think I have given evidence which will convince your readers that Mr. Horton's claim for Mr. Reed is hardly tenable.

With the other statements contained in Mr. Horton's letter, I heartily agree. He deserves the thanks of the profession for having called public attention to the subject.

I am &c., Fraternally yours,  
GEO. C. HOLLAND.

### A LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE.

LONDON, ONT., Nov. 28, 1880.

To the Editor of the WRITER:—

Would you kindly allow me space in your valuable journal to relate my experience in connection with the mystic art of Phonography, believing such to be instructive as well as interesting to others who are wrestling with hooks and lines. About four months ago a friend of mine showed me a copy of Isaac Pitman's "Teacher." I purchased one, and commenced to study it in earnest, and what I expected would be a tedious task has become a pleasant study. At the end of three months I could write fifty words per minute. I now take down all I can of the sermons I hear on Sundays, and while of course it is not a verbatim report, yet I find myself improving rapidly. I think it excellent practice for an aspiring reporter, for it enables him to form a more correct idea of the manner in which he should report a speaker than by the usual way of having a reader. My mode of procedure from the outset was to read all my notes and transcribe them into long-hand again. I would advise every reader to adopt the same plan. I believe the study of this valuable art is conducive to the improvement of other branches of our education, especially composition, while it also quickens our thinking faculties and strengthens our powers of memory.

I am, yours truly,

ASPIRANT.



## THE THIRD POSITION.

BUDA, ILL., Nov. 26. 1880.

To The Editor of the WRITER:—

In a former number of the WRITER, it is suggested that a reporter need not always adhere strictly to the rules laid down in the "Manual," if he could benefit himself by varying from them. Doubtless, he might derive much benefit, if he varied in regard to the positions for horizontal consonants, using the three positions instead of two, as laid down by ISAAC PITMAN, writing the third *under* the line. It would give him greater facility in reading his notes, distinguishing more clearly the third place vowels from the second. For instance, in the first position *m* with the *n* hook represents "Man," in the second "men" and in the third (written below the line) "mean." At a glance he can tell what vowel is indicated. It is true that he would have to carry the pencil below the line and lose some time, which to the young reporter is very precious, but his loss would be more than counterbalanced by the greater facility in deciphering his notes.

Yours truly,

A. E. FITCH.

## NEWS FROM BOSTON.

Mr. G. Allen writing from Boston, Mass., says:—"If the interest in the *Ars Artium* manifested recently by the Bostonians (and indeed New England in general) increases as it has within the last year, the most sanguine hopes of its most enthusiastic admirers cannot fall short of being realized. Besides being overwhelmed with almost an incredible amount of correspondence from interested inquirers, our first men have felt the tidal wave and have called on all the lists of our Reporting Bureaus and some of our students who have taken only a partial course to fill choice positions. The legislative outlook in regard to stenography, we are assured by the best authorities, indicates a very favorable change, and Massachusetts may show her sister states that her archives for containing laws to perpetuate her judicial proceedings are no longer replete with conspicuous vacuity."

In the London papers an advertisement has appeared from the Comptroller of Her Majesty's stationery office, inviting tenders for the year's waste paper, estimated at 1,500 tons.

## Phonographic Gossip.

## CANADIAN.

A shorthand reporter is to be appointed for the Wellington County Court.

EYVEL.—At Sarnia, on Friday, November 19th, the wife of Mr. Geo. Eyvel, of a son.

Mr. S. T. Bastedo has been appointed Private Secretary to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario.

The Great Western Railway Company employs sixteen shorthand writers, and the Grand Trunk thirty.

Mr. James Fahey, late of the Stratford Herald, has accepted a position on the editorial staff of the Toronto Mail.

Mr. A. J. Graham, formerly a Toronto artist has taken the management of the Canadian Illustrated News, published at Montreal.

Mr. DANIEL SAWYER, an Ottawa stenographer, manages the Phonetic Institute in connection with the Ottawa Business College.

Mr. Harry Kinlock, private secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald, has obtained three months' leave of absence in order to recruit his health.

Mr. George E. Lumsden, formerly editor of the Hamilton Times, has been appointed Assistant Provincial Secretary of the Province of Ontario.

Mr. George J. Bell, late of the G. W. R. Mileage office, London, has been appointed shorthand writer to Mr. Edgar, General Passenger Agent, Hamilton.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. E. H. Fogarty, who was for many years shorthand reporter on the staff of the Fort Hope Times, but now editor of the Cobourg Sentinel-Star, is doing well. Mr. Fogarty is an accomplished phonographer, and a faithful disciple of James E. Munson.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, held at Ottawa last week, the following were elected provisional officers:—J. B. McCready, St. John Telegraph, President; Carroll Ryan, Free Press, Ottawa, Vice-President; J. Lumsden, Mail, Secretary; Executive Committee, T. J. Bell, Hamilton Spectator; M. Duhamel, Courier du Montreal; J. T. Hawke, Globe, T. H. Preston, Free Press, Ottawa; and — Gibbons, Citizen, Ottawa.

Mr. Archibald Forbes, the war correspondent, was dined by the reporters and editors of Montreal lately. Forty-five were present, and several interesting speeches relative to journalism were made. Mr. Forbes considered that by well and truly reporting events that transpired, the journalist can elevate his position above the high point it has already attained.

The Toronto morning papers have perfected their parliamentary staffs for the opening of the Dominion parliament. The Mail's staff is composed of Messrs. ARTHUR WALLIS and JOHN LUMSDEN, and the Globe's of Mr. A. C. CAMPBELL, Mr. H. M. MATTHEWSON, and, it is said, Mr. T. J. RICHARDSON, recently the Hansard contractor.

## AMERICAN.

New York has thirty-two official law reporters.

Shorthand is taught in colleges at Quincy and Lebanon, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa.

General Garfield keeps two stenographers busy answering his immense correspondence.

Mr. Charles Flowers, a Detroit attorney, is an accomplished shorthand writer. He is a Grahamite.

It is estimated there are sixteen hundred professional shorthand writers in the United States and Canada.

Isaac England, of the New York *Tribune* office, says: "When a compositor I have frequently set page after page from phonographic copy."

M. J. Stoll, who published the defunct *Phonetic Magazine*, is now in the service of the Buckeye Agricultural Works at Springfield, Ohio.

The number of shorthand writers permanently employed by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R. R., is 19; by the Chicago and Northwestern, 16; by the N. Y., L. E. and W., 15; Union Pacific, 10; Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, 8; L. S. and M. S., 6; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, 6.

C. J. Hudson, William D. Bridge, G. G. Baker and Mr. McLean reported the proceedings of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, held at Cincinnati. Mr. Baker was Benn Pitman's private secretary for five years.

The Congressional Library at Washington contains over 400,000 volumes, and is receiving on an average about 2,000 volumes per month.

In addition to the above, the law department contains 40 000 volumes. There are sixty works on shorthand to be found, one of which traces the growth of the art in England from 1602. It describes no less than seventy-four systems.

## ENGLISH AND FOREIGN.

A Shorthand Writer's Association has been formed at Dundee.

A Shorthand Association has been formed at Cobourg, Victoria.

Shorthand is taught at the Y. M. C. A. and Institute, Liverpool. A class of 180 was lately formed.

Henry Pitman conducted a large shorthand class at Manchester. Mr. Pitman has been teaching shorthand for thirty years.

Mr. Hurst, the editor of the *Phonograph*, has a large shorthand class at the Sheffield Church of England Educational Institute.

Edinburgh has a "Scottish Phonographer's Association," and Glasgow a "Shorthand Writer's Association." Both societies are flourishing.

The London *Telegraph* has a daily circulation of 200,000 copies; the *News* 125,000; the *Standard*, 175,000; the *Times*, 185,000. The *Times* is valued at £5,000,000, the *Standard* at £2,000,000, the *News* at £1,000,000, and the *Telegraph* at £1,000,000. The advertising patronage of the *Times* is greater than that of the other three combined, while the *Standard* surpasses the other two in this particular.

**Editorial Notes.**

Mr. H. A. Langford, of Detroit, called on us recently. Mr. L. is the stenographer to the Assistant Freight Agent of the M. C. Railway.

We anticipate the Hansard phonographers will have a plethora of work to perform during the Parliamentary session now going on in Ottawa, which bids fair to continue well on into January.

A recent issue of the *Phonetic Journal* contains specimens of twenty-seven orthographic schemes that are under the consideration of the English Spelling Reform Association. By the way, the *Journal* is paying far more attention to the Spelling Reform than to Phonography, its columns being almost destitute of shorthand news.

The November number of the *Shorthand Review*, published at Cleveland, Ohio, is to hand. It contains a portrait and sketch of W. E. Scovil, (the son of the Rev. Mr. Scovil, author of a system of shorthand,) and an interesting variety of phonographic matter. Mr. Willard Fracker, one of the former editors of the *Review*, has removed to Washington. His place has been taken by Mr. J. S. Dean, who will assist Mr. F. J. Wolfe in producing the *Review*.

The current numbers of our English exchanges are to hand, and as usual the majority of them have devoted a large portion of their space to editorial mud-slinging, in which they air their petty bickerings and jealousies. The *Phonographic Monthly's* "Pea-shooter" pegs away at the *Phonograph*; the "Looker on" in the *Review* makes miscellaneous assaults on all his brethren, while the *Meteor* man retaliates, and thus the bloody work continues. To us this antagonism presents no redeeming features, but lowers the estimate we might form of our English contemporaries, and we are convinced that it is as unnecessary as it is disgusting. *Propos* of these magazines, we are astonished to find so few containing anything interesting to phonographers. The *Meteor* but very seldom gives place to shorthand compositions; the *Phonographer's Herald* presents usually but three or four articles, only one of which refers to phonography; the *Cabinet* is absolutely void of any such matter; the *Trumpet* is composed of a number of newspaper clippings. There are exceptions, however, and the *Journalist*, the *Phonographic Monthly* and the *Review* present a monthly bill of fare that is refreshing and interesting to read.



FATHER CHRISTMAS PREPARING OUR COSMOPOLITAN PUDDING.

THE USE OF SHORTHAND.

WRITTEN IN BENN PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

WRITTEN IN BENN PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

*[Handwritten shorthand text in the left column, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations.]*

*[Handwritten shorthand text in the right column, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations.]*



AMBIDEXTERITY.

**PRACTICAL STENOGRAPHY.**  
 WRITTEN IN GRAHAM'S SYSTEM.

The first column of shorthand is filled with approximately 25 lines of text written in a cursive shorthand style. The characters are compact and connected, typical of the early shorthand systems. The text is dense and fills the entire column from top to bottom.

The second column of shorthand is also filled with approximately 25 lines of text in the same shorthand style. This column continues the text from the first column, maintaining the same dense, cursive shorthand format.



C. G. TINSLEY,  
SHORTHAND WRITER, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

LITERARY LINKS.

WRITTEN IN MUNSON'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten text in Munson's shorthand system, consisting of approximately 12 lines of cursive shorthand on ruled lines.

Handwritten text in Pitman's shorthand system, consisting of approximately 12 lines of cursive shorthand on ruled lines.

THE ENGLISH REPORTER'S GALLERY.

WRITTEN IN ISAAC PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten text in Pitman's shorthand system, consisting of approximately 12 lines of cursive shorthand on ruled lines.



THE EDITOR'S FLY.

**METHOD OF COUNSELS IN TRIALS.**  
 WRITTEN IN MUNSON'S SYSTEM.

A fly is a pest which is very annoying to the editor of a newspaper. It is a small insect which is very common in the summer months. It is a pest which is very annoying to the editor of a newspaper. It is a small insect which is very common in the summer months. It is a pest which is very annoying to the editor of a newspaper. It is a small insect which is very common in the summer months.

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**WRITING MUSIC IN SHORTHAND.**

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*Applicant.*—Do you want a shorthand reporter?  
*Funny Editor.*—No, I've got one here.

**REPORTING IN THE LAW COURTS.**  
 WRITTEN IN BENN PITMAN'S SYSTEM.

Handwritten shorthand text in the left column, consisting of approximately 15 lines of dense, cursive shorthand characters.

Handwritten shorthand text in the right column, consisting of approximately 15 lines of dense, cursive shorthand characters.

**THE SPELLING REFORM.**

Handwritten shorthand text in the right column, starting with the word 'catalog' and continuing with approximately 10 lines of dense, cursive shorthand characters.







