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# THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A bi-Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William W. Orr,

[Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor.]—Hon. Tho's H. Benton.]

Publisher.

VOLUME III.

OSHAWA, C. W., SEPTEMBER, 1861.

NUMBER V.

## The British American Phonetic Association.

Below we give the names of the Phonographers of Canada who have become members of the British American Phonetic Association, together with some who have not yet sent in their names as members, but who, no doubt, would have done so if they had deemed it of sufficient importance to have attended to the matter. The list embraces all the names heretofore published in the past volumes of the *Pioneer* in connection with the Association. It will be seen that we have dropped the system of classification by figures heretofore used, because to place very many of the members who are now good Phonographers, in the classes in which they reported themselves two years ago when they had just begun to study, would convey a wrong impression of their present standing. Besides, experience has proved that the classification adopted two years ago was not just the thing. Many members asked to be placed in class 2 because they feared if they were put in class 1 they might be besieged with letters from students, asking difficult questions and soliciting the correction of exercises. But we venture to say that no student of phonography in Canada has been troubled in the slightest degree with letters from fellow students, because scarcely any have been sent. Each student has his "Manual" "Hand Book" or "Companion" before him, containing all the information which he needs for the time being, and hence he does not take the trouble to apply to a neighbor for what he has in his own possession. It is very proper, however, that beginners should send exercises for correction to older students, and we hope that the publication of so large a number of names of good phonographers resident in every section of the Province, will have the effect of causing a good many of such letters to pass through the mail. We shall print an extra quantity of paper this month, so as to send a copy of the *Pioneer* containing the list of names to all new students of phonography, as well as to those who may hereafter resolve to become such, and we recommend all who receive it to write, as soon as they are able

to do so in the simplest manner, to some one or more of those phonographers whose names appear in the list with an asterisk (\*) prefixed, enclosing a sheet of double ruled paper with a phonographic writing exercise written upon every alternate line, leaving the intermediate lines for corrections. We hope this piece of advice will be followed by every beginner in phonography who reads it, and if it is, there will be many more good phonographers in Canada a year hence than there will be if it is not followed. But none of our *Star* phonographers need fear of being troubled with too many exercises to correct, even if all beginners apply to some one of them for assistance. The exercises generally, as we know from experience, will be brief, and some of them will need scarcely any correcting. The expense for postage will be nil, for young students will, as a matter of course, enclose stamps for the return letter, or not feel disappointed at not getting an answer when they neglect to do so.

Finally we hope the publication of this list of names will lead to the cultivation of a closer acquaintance between the phonographers of Canada, by means of correspondence. Phonographers should write often one to another, and so keep each others' minds stirred up by way of remembrance to a lively appreciation of phonetic truth. There is scarcely anything so interesting to a phonographer as the perusal of a phonographic letter from a fellow student of the art, and nothing in phonographic dress which he will try harder to decipher, if it happens to be written in too advanced a style for him.—He will not give it up until he reads it, if he has to carry it in his pocket until he studies all the way through the Companion or Hand Book. There is also a fellow feeling between phonographers binding them together in bonds more strong than those of Odd Fellow or Mason, and the more they correspond with each other, the stronger will the bond become. It is sufficient for a phonographer to learn that a stranger whom he meets is a phonographer to call forth towards that individual a feeling of respect and love which a knowledge of no branch of study taught in even our Provincial University could awaken, and no better introduction

for a stranger to a phonographer resident in any part of the world, no matter what his position in society, need be wished for, than simply the penciling of address and business in the comparatively unknown characters of phonography.

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# PHONETIC PIONEER.

WILLIAM CURRIER, Shoemaker, corner of Borkley and Lynton-sts., Toronto.

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CHARLES SIMPSON, Newmarket.

## RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

\* JAMES STEWART, Teacher, St. James, Fort Garry.

\* We have put an asterisk before the name of every phonographer whom we know to be capable of writing or reading the Reporting Style of phonography. There may be, in the list, many others who are well read in the Reporting Style, but not having heard from many members of the society for some months past, we are unable to say how much progress they have made. We should like to hear from every phonographer in Canada every month or two, whether he has an order for books, &c., to send, or not. We are always delighted to note the progress made by our pupils—for such we consider all who have learned the art from books purchased at the Canadian Phonetic Depot—and we can do this better, and more satisfactorily, by reading over a brief phonographic letter from them, than by any amount of description in longhand. Of course, we are glad to hear from phonographers every week when they enclose bills or stamps for books advertised in our catalogue.

For the information of those who have the Hand-Book and Readers, and use Graham's improvements, we would remark that almost all the above *Star* phonographers have those works. Those who have not yet got them ought to procure them, and probably will do so in the course of this or next month.

PHONOGRAPHY IN SCHOOLS.—J. B. Holmes, Esq., Principal of the Leeds County Grammar School, located at Farmersville, C. W., says:—"Phonography is becoming a most important branch of study in this Institution. We have a class of fifteen; they are delighted with the study, and are, of course, making rapid progress. It is to be hoped that phonography will soon be more generally taught, not only in our higher institutions, but also in our common schools, in order that the thousands who are attending them may have the best facilities for acquiring this most beautiful, rapid, labor-saving system of writing, which is alike useful to the farmer, mechanic, student and professional man.

A Phonographer who has passed his forty-eighth year, and who has lately commenced the study of Phonography, says he

has passed many happy hours in its study, and finds it is "just the thing to put away care." Will our city and country friends make a note of this for the benefit of their "long-faced" neighbors.

## Is Phonography What it Professes to be.

From the *Phonetic Magazine*.

Mr. T. Sloc, of Quincy, Ill., encloses us a leading article cut from the *Philadelphia Evening Post*, respecting which he writes:—"Some time ago I inserted an article on Phonography in the *Herald* of this city, for which I selected a portion of your circular, and the appeal you there make in behalf of Phonography. This I believe has called forth a response, somewhat singularly, from the *Philadelphia Evening Post*, and as you may not have seen the article in question, I take the liberty to enclose it to you."

"PHONOGRAPHY.—We see the following in one of our cotemporaries—a rather interested party, however—as to the importance of the study of Phonography:—

'Learn Phonography, if you would possess a brief, philosophic, and entirely legible short hand. Learn Phonography, if you would secure the subtle thoughts that flow into your own mind, or that you think worth preserving, while listening to the spoken thoughts of others. Learn Phonography, if you would be relieved from the drudgery of the present longhand, by which you are compelled to spend from six to ten hours in writing what can be spoken in one. Learn Phonography, if you are a Physician, and would preserve a record of all your cases, so that from your accumulated experience you may help to evolve the laws of life, health, and disease. Learn Phonography, if you are a Minister, for it will save you five-sixths of the time you at present employ in writing your notes, or elaborating your sermons in full. Learn Phonography, if you are a Lawyer, for it will enable you to secure the fleeting words on which may depend the fortune, life, or honor of your client.— Learn Phonography, if you are a Student, and would secure and thus fully profit by the instructions that is daily offered to you in lectures, and by the oral instructions of your teachers. Learn Phonography, if you have to rely upon yourself and the private study of books for the acquisition of knowledge. You will do more in one year with Phonography, than in two years without it.'

Now, we would like to know from some one who has learned Phonography, and who has no pecuniary interest in the matter, either as a publisher or a teacher, whether the science really be as useful to students, physicians, ministers and literary men in general, as the writer of the above would have us believe. Of course, every one knows

its usefulness to reporters; but is it really and truly of the general practical value above described? Will the minister who is able to write Phonography, write his sermons in shorthand, or in the common longhand—submitting to the "drudgery" of the latter for the sake of greater plainness and superior accuracy? Will the Lawyer employ his Phonographic shorthand for the recording of the testimony in courts of justice; or the student make his notes of his studies in this short and easy way? In one word, is the use of Phonography for the general purposes of men of letters, found to be as great a gain as in reporting speeches and debates?

If it is, according to the verdict of students, lawyers and ministers, who can speak from experience on the subject, then it is important that every young man destined for any of the professions, should learn Phonography; for the saving of time, to the lawyer and minister especially, would be very great. The mere physical toil of writing a sermon of an hour's length, is very great indeed: and if five-sixths of it can be saved, it would well repay the trouble and expence of mastering shorthand. But we have our doubts upon this point—doubts upon the equal availability of the shorthand copy when it is completed. Many a professional man is puzzled to read even his own common writing; and to read his own shorthand, we fear, in many cases, would prove an impossibility.—A lawyer might give a pretty good guess at what his Phonographic notes said the witness had said, but guesses, in such cases, are not very satisfactory. And the minister, we fear, would often stumble over the exact language of his sermon. But these are merely surmises on our part. We know little of the subject practically, and, therefore, would like to hear from uninterested men who do."

The Editor of the *Philadelphia Post* most likely judges of Phonography by his acquaintance with ordinary shorthand, and what it does, and what it fails to do. His disbelief in the seemingly presumptuous claims of Phonography, may therefore be entirely reasonable. That Phonography is the briefest system of writing ever devised, is shown by the fact that it has completely superseded—as far as learning is concerned—every system of shorthand based upon the *a, b, c*, alphabet, and that nineteen out of twenty of the practical shorthand writers in this country and England, under thirty years of age, use Phonography. Those who continue to use any of the old systems of shorthand for the purpose of reporting, learned their system before the advent of Phonography, and it is more advantageous to them to practice a familiar, though imperfect system, than to change to an unfamiliar one, however superior its claims. That Phonography is an entirely legible, and therefore reliable sys-

tem of writing, is proved by thousands who use it for every purpose for which writing is required. Not a day passes in which we do not receive letters from all parts of the country, and from all classes and conditions confirmatory of this. These letters we do not publish because they have ceased to be novelties. Occasionally we deviate from this rule. The extract from the letter of Judge Jilson in this month's Magazine, and the extract from the Laporte Crisis in the last number are cases in point.

The words we are now writing, and which in five minutes will probably be in type, are being written at the rate of at least eighty words per minute, yet they will be set up by a compositor who six weeks ago scarcely knew a letter in the Phonographic alphabet, but who now seems to set from Phonographic copy as readily, and with as few errors, as if he were supplied with fair and legible long-hand.

JUDGE J. JILSON, Kososha, Wis., writes:—"I cannot well do without your Phonographic Magazine, it has become a sort of necessity to me, indeed, I am a great lover of the art, and practice it considerably in my legal business, especially in taking testimony, where I find it of the greatest importance. Though not a rapid reporter, I can nevertheless take down verbatim any speaker who does not exceed 75 or 100 words per minute, and I can generally manage to take down all the essential parts of the most rapid speeches. I have never yet used double ruled paper in my practice. Do you consider it an important aid to the reporter? If it would have the tendency to increase my speed in writing, I would certainly adopt it. So far as the reading of my own notes are concerned, I never had any trouble upon that score, I was able to read anything I had written, no matter how carelessly done. The suggestive resources of Phonography seem to be infinite. Almost every day I find some shorter way of expressing a word that is so suggestive, that I wonder that I had never discovered it before. The resources of the *f* and *r* hook are truly astounding. I have used these hooks from the time they were first suggested, and when your August Magazine came out I was surprised to see how many varieties of its use your practice had suggested that had already occurred to my own mind. Shall we ever find the bottom of this wonderful art, when we can say no further improvements can be made in its adaptation to the English language."

Double line paper is to the practical Phonographer what the right tool is to the workman. A good workman can do fair work with almost any tool, and so the practiced Phonographer, who knows exactly what he has to write, can make his marks in nearly the right position, and of the proper size,

with little to guide the eye and hand. With a guide he does his work with somewhat greater accuracy, and with much greater ease.

### Phonography in Schools.

The following is from Dr. Charles Woodward, Professor of mathematics and the natural sciences, at Euphemia Hall, Marengo, Ill.

"I know of no study in which students take more interest than in Phonography. Most of my best scholars are engaged in the study. Phonography and Mental Arithmetic are more particularly adapted for expanding and quickening the powers of the mind than any others of the whole routine of study used in our schools. It seems strange that so much theoretical philosophy is taught with so little benefit arising therefrom of a practical nature. We understand the anatomy and physiology of the vocal organs, and the physical laws of the atmosphere to mathematical accuracy, yet custom has such influence over the mass of mankind that they adhere to error in spite of the plainest facts. We believe Phonography to be physiologically, physically, and mathematically correct in both theory and practice. I have no difficulty in convincing most persons of this truth, but I experience much difficulty in inducing them to begin the practice of the art. I find, however, that those who do practise it wonder how any man ever can be so stupid as to drag after himself such a budget of error as he finds in the romanic style. I discover too, that it is only those who search eagerly after philosophical truth who examine and cultivate the art of Phonography. To me, as rudely as I write it, Phonography is of immense advantage in many respects, and one in particular. In analyzing sentences in grammar, I require my scholars who can write Phonography, to place the sentences on a black-board. The advantage consists in this: It brings the sentences into a small compass. A black-board twelve feet long will barely accommodate sentences written in long-hand, while one three or four feet in length, will answer for the same written in shorthand."

**OCCUPIED LIFE.**—As far as our experience goes, no one who has ever seriously engaged in the furtherance of the Phonetic reform has been permitted to spend an idle life. In the English *Phonographer* for September, Isaac Pitman says, in a foot note: "This No. of the *Phonographer*, the writing of which is finished 26th Oct., is nearly two months behind its time. [A most unusual circumstance that side of the water.] The delay has been caused by the increasing labors which the progress of the Phonetic reform brings upon the editor, and principally by his having during these two months, to

bestow a considerable amount of time on the proof sheets of a second edition of the Phonetic Bible, of which five sheets are printed. In reply to numerous inquiries for a Phonetic Shorthand Bible, we can only say that we do not expect to see one under ten years."

### Rapid Writing.

Isaac Pitman's *Phonetic Journal* contains the following fact. "Mr. Andrews, a young Phonographer of Glasgow has written 271 per minute. He gained this speed, over 100 words per minute, in about ten months by three hours daily practice, and by writing through the Phrase Book twenty times. Mr. Andrews writes respecting his attainment, "I tried this feat on four occasions only, and the number of words written on each occasion were, at the third reading, 266, 266, 270, 271. In reading over the notes, the mistakes discovered never exceeded five. The subjects chosen were lectures and sermons."

### CATALOGUE.

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