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THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1881.

No. 4.

Editorial and Contributed.

MR. N. R. BUTCHER.

MR. Nelson R. Butcher was born in the year 1858, and has therefore reached the age of 23 years. He first began the study of shorthand about six years ago at London, Ontario, beginning with "Webster's Teacher," a small book revised by Mr. A. J. Graham, whose works he subsequently took up and has used ever since. From that time forward he has shown special aptitude for the art, and has with diligent study reached the goal of his ambition, being now one of the official reporters of the Superior Court of Ontario. Mr. Butcher's first position as shorthand writer was in the office of Messrs. Matson & Law, Land Agents, Toronto, where he was employed for over nine months as corresponsent, &c. He left to take the position of corresponsent in the law office of Messrs. Blake, Kerr, Boyd & Cassels of this city, a place which he successfully filled for over three years. During his stay in the latter office he was frequently called upon to do court reporting, having at various times accompanied the Hon. Ex-Vice-Chancellor Blake and Hon. Mr. Spragge, Chief Justice of Ontario, and taken particulars of cases for them. He left this firm to take the position of official court reporter, which he now holds. He is the youngest reporter on the staff. While at Barrie recently Mr. Butcher was called upon to read a lengthy portion of his notes, and for the readiness with which he did so, received the compliments of the presiding judge, which speaks well for the system he writes. Mr. Butcher has reported some very important speeches, notably those of the Hon. Edward Blake, Vice-Chancellor Blake, and Rev. Dr. McKay, the English delegate to the Wesleyan Conference, a speech which was the subject of much comment. He has from time to time contributed articles to this journal. He uses the "Remington Type Writer." Mr. Butcher is a staunch supporter of the Graham system, which he thinks is better adapted to actual verbatim reporting than any other now in use.

We have to acknowledge the kindness of our friends in responding to our request for news paragraphs. We hope, however, to hear from many more of them, and that as frequently as possible.

TROUBLES IN THE CAMP.

The *Phonographic Meteor* for July, informs its readers that it has withdrawn D. L. Scott-Browne's advertisement from its pages. In making this announcement the editor speaks of Browne as being a quack doctor, who does little else for the profession than advertising his own sweet self. Thos. DeQuincy, the writer says, mentions a man who had such an abnormal opinion of himself and his own right to apothecize, that he seldom uttered that puissant pronoun "I" without gravely raising his hat. The *Meteor* man wonders whether that egotistical individual was Mr. D. L. Scott-Browne. The article is embellished with a picture of a quack doctor whose *gin-ial* countenance, we hope, is not offered as a *fac simile* of the editor of the *Phonographic Monthly*.

Our neighbor Browne, we incline to think, is destined to fill the chair of quack doctorship, for we find another note recorded in his favor in the current number of the *Printer's Miscellany*, where he is styled "The Phonographic Quack of the Nineteenth Century." The article, a decidedly vigorous one, is headed, "A Stalwart of the Stalwarts," and the writer calls upon Mr. Browne to step forward "like a little man" and plead guilty to the charge of having attempted to assassinate Standard Phonography by publishing, in his Christmas number, a *fac simile* of forged reporting notes; representing the same to be from the *Miscellany* man's pencil and offered a ten year's subscription to any person or persons who should succeed in making a correct transcription of what Browne termed "Illegible Standard Phonography."

The *Miscellany* man very kindly intimates his willingness to forgive his assailant, should he make the necessary *amende honorable* within any reasonable time, and we sincerely hope that the latter gentleman will accept the terms and thereby help himself as much as possible out of the very unenviable position he must now find himself placed in before the phonographic profession.

In the name of everything that is phonographic let us have harmony. When we look back over our young life in the phonographic world and think of the jolly times we have had and are now having; of the good things that our friends and brother editors are now saying

about us, we cannot but turn our thoughts also in the opposite direction and, letting them wander along the path of roses we have yet to travel, contrast the happiness, which, five or more years in the to-be future is waiting to be ours, with the misery and wretchedness that to-day dwell in the sanctums of too many so-called independent shorthand magazines of five or more years standing, not forgetting to assure the public of their presence by reporting themselves mostly through the columns reserved for editorials.

Our art is yet in its infancy and requires all the nourishment that can be given it by each and every shorthand journalist that now is or is to be. Therefore, brethren, we beseech you to remove at once and forever the gall from your ink pots, and put in the place thereof, unskimmed milk and virgin honey.

MR. PINKNEY'S NOTES.

The following is a transcript of Mr. Pinkney's reporting notes, given in the July number:—

"So far as legislation is concerned, the manufacture of salt does not come within the scope of the authority under which the commissioners have been acting, and, for obvious reasons, they have been extremely desirous in no case to travel beyond the limits of the powers confined to them or to interfere with interests with which they have had no legitimate concern. But salt enters so largely into the business of the agriculturist, either for dairying purposes or as a fertilizer of the soil, that it stands in a somewhat different position from other manufacturing industries.

In undertaking an inquiry into the uses of salt in connection with agriculture, the Commissioners had especially in view to ascertain whether there were any obstacle to the use of the native product, and whether, if such existed, they originated in any inherent defect or inferiority in point of quality, or in causes that were within the control of the manufacturer.

The subject was brought very prominently to their notice by a member of the Commission—Mr. Richard Gibson—who, as already mentioned, visited Great Britain in the course of last summer. When at Liverpool, Mr. Gibson inspected the establishment of some dealers doing a considerable business in American and Canadian products. Pointing to a quantity of butter in the warehouse, one of the partners remarked, "You must use fine English salt. Your American and Canadian will not do if you wish a share of this trade." It may be remarked that the speaker was not an Englishman, but an American, and therefore was not likely to be possessed with any English prejudices in favor of English salt.

It is never pleasant to give public utterance to unpalatable facts, especially when, by so doing, large interests may presumably be injuriously affected, but, after all, the outspoken truth is in the end most to the advantage of everybody, and in no case has that axiom proved more true than in the instance referred to.

In the first place, it raised the question in the minds of the Commissioners whether Canadian butter was prejudiced by Canadian salt being used in its manufacture; and, in the next, it suggested to them that, if an injustice were being done to a great Canadian industry, they would not incur censure or blame even if they travelled a little beyond the limits of their programme in order to ascertain how such a prejudice could be removed.

Nor was this the only reason why such an investigation was desirable. A communication was received by the Commissioners from Messrs. Wm. Davies & Co., of Toronto, in which it was alleged that their firm, the largest porkpackers probably in Canada, and already mentioned in connection with the trade in hogs, had been compelled to relinquish the use of Canadian salt in consequence of a sliminess in appearance upon the bacon which they had shipped to Europe."

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE KENT COUNTY (N.B.) HOUSE OF LORDS —
SESSION OF 1881—HON. D. D. LANDRY RE-
PORTED PHONO-PHONETICALLY.



MEESTER WARDAN:—(Mr. Warden) I refer to Meester Joanson (Mr. Johnston) abot ze explanations he want abot ze office ov ze fields driver. I declare meself indeed ze dooties ov ze fields driver ez to tak a hogs who ez allowed to run himself at large in any parishes, or stallions (laughter), or bools, or anyzings lak dat, drive et into ze poun' an' keep safe, an' find ze mans which et belong; which ez ze dooties ov ze fields driver. I think Meester Joanson ought to know himself very well indeed. (Laughter.)

I am very mooch surprise, I declare, indeed, to know dat Meester Joanson do not know himself ze dooties ov ze fields driver. I think we know very well indeed. I think we know ze dooties ov ze fields driver ov every parishes, because when a man is ignorant he do know. (Laughter.) When a persons finds some cattles or beasts at large, ov course his dooty ez to go on ze fields driver. The man himself take charge ov dat beast ov any kind. Well, den, all ze dooties ov ze fields driver ez to take charge an' put ze beasts, ze cattle, ze sheeps, ze geese, an' ze goose (great laughter), an' take charge ov him if he lak' to. (Broad guage grins.) Dat ez ze dooty ov ze fields driver, I think so, an' I think dat Meester Joanson ought to know ze dooty very well. He should not call upon more explanations. He is a Justice ov the Peace, an' et ez a long time he ez used to dis work. (Applause and cries of *encore*.)

There is a fourthly as well as a thirdly in the sequel to that "great feat in reporting," and it is this:—Cannot that Boston lady's name be rescued from oblivion? If not already engaged, what an excellent *better*-half she would make to a young reporter who has enough ado to take Queen's English.

KEY TO MR. DABNEY'S REPORTING NOTES.

Graham's System.

(From a sermon by Rev. John Wood, in the Congregational Church, Ottawa, July 16th, 1881.)

We ought to take the testimony of those who have first of all had experience by the ways of sin, and then had experience of the way of righteousness and the faith in God. These are the parties to tell us what they think in regard to Christian life. Many persons judge of Christianity, not by the testimony of those who have experienced it, not by this book, but by their own vain imaginations. They look at Christianity through their own depraved heart—the heart that cannot look without prejudice against the service of God—and they look at Christianity through that colored medium, and they form their opinion of it instead of coming to a personal experience of it, and then forming their judgment in regard to it. And how, then, can they know whether the way of righteousness is a good way or not. "If any man will do the will of my Father, he shall know of the doctrine." If any man will experience—will commit himself to the service of God, he shall know whether this is as we testify.

The "new version" is a boon to the itinerant Professor who writes the Lord's Prayer with the fewest number of strokes,—he saves fourteen words by it.

Who was the first phonographer? Some will say Isaac Pitman, some will say A. J. Graham. But no, gentlemen, it was Mr. Benn Pitman, though there's no denying he got the points from his elder brother.

Mr. John Rookus, formerly compositor in the *Daily Eagle* office, has accepted a situation as stenographer to A. M. Nichols, General Freight Agent of the C. & W. M. R. R., Grand Rapids, Mich., Vice L. S. Graves who has been promoted to the position of Assistant Car Recorder for the same company, with office at Holland.

W. S. Jordan, the well known Spanish student, has left Topeka, Ks., for Denver, Col., where he has been appointed to the position of private secretary to Superintendent Cushing of the Denver and Rio Grande Road. Mr. Jordan has acceptably filled a similar position in the land department of the Santa Fe, and his presence will be greatly missed in the social circles of Topeka.

Selected.

SYSTEMS OF SHORTHAND.

Charles Spiro, of New York, is the author of a new system of phonography. He was a Munson writer, and finding so many difficulties in the practice of the system in reporting, arising from the use of so many arbitrary characters, numerous word signs, etc., etc., he set about devising a system that should embody the following features: No shading; connective vowels; consonant and vowel stems alike capable of receiving all the initial and final hook modifications; no arbitrary characters or exceptions; the line position only for all words—the whole so simple that he has presented it in "only six short lessons, one of which is a reading lesson," and he thinks that a child of ten or twelve years could "undertake its study with every assurance of success." Some of its features are certainly desirable—indispensable to a system of shorthand that shall become universal. Every new system labors under the disadvantage of being *new*, very few, taking up the study of shorthand for professional or practical use, being willing to try an untried method. It is natural to prefer the footsteps of the majority, unless one has some means of knowing positively of a better way. Let Mr. Spiro give his new system as thoro' and severe a test as Benn Pitman's Phonography has received, and if it meets every emergency and "fills the bill" in every respect, let us hear about it, and we will give it a fair showing. Price \$1. Mr. Spiro's work can be had of D. L. Scott-Browne, 23 Clinton Place, New York City.

The first edition of Arends' system of shorthand appeared in Germany in 1860; and, as the author assures us, was the fruit of many years' labor. Before its appearance it was first reviewed by Alexander von Humboldt, who informed the author that he believed that his plan was better considered and more practicable than those of the leading European systems. At its introduction it had to undergo many hard struggles with the then established systems of Europe. Yet in spite of all hostile efforts, it flourished and spread all over Europe. It was taken up by the different nations of Europe, and at the present time has been adapted to the French, Spanish, Hungarian, Danish, English, Greek and Latin languages. The rapid growth and demand for Arends' system in Germany is shown by the fact that it is now in its 13th edition, and that, according to a rough estimate, the number of its followers has been fixed at twenty thousand. It must be understood that there is no similarity between Arends' system and the system now in use in the English language. To illustrate this fact, let us point out the following differences between his system and these latter: The word is given with its full vowel sound; vowel and consonant connections are made in the same manner; vowels are indicated by an upward stroke, and are therefore light, and consonants are written by down strokes, and therefore heavy; there is no similarity whatever between the consonant signs, and even slanting to the right or left does not interfere with their legibility; there is only one line to

write on. It will be observed from these outlines that there is no similarity between this system and the English systems.

Hardinge's phonography is designed for those whose patience has been exhausted with the old methods of stenography. The particular features of this system, which the author claims make it an exact *verbatim* phonography, are: It is *unshaded*; the pen is seldom taken off in the formation of a word; uses no superfluous dots or marks; sentences may be contracted when an orator is speaking with unusual rapidity. These requisites have been altogether overlooked in all the works on phonography, says the author.

CONCERNING PENMANSHIP.

BY THE REV. JOHN MAY, M. A.

EVERYBODY is familiar with the fact that our common schools thirty or forty years ago were sadly deficient in the matter of penmanship. A considerable part of the school curriculum was allowed to elapse before the pupil was permitted to undertake the formation of a single letter of the alphabet. When the proper time arrived, *i.e.*, when he had attained the age of nine or ten, suddenly he was confronted with half a quire of foolscap, on which he was invited to fashion parallel downstrokes and pot-hooks. Having duly graduated in the "hook" department, he was promoted to "large hand," "round hand," and "small hand." The alphabet was utilized from *a to z*. "A man's manners commonly form his fortune." "Beware of the allurements of wantonness." "Command you may your mind from play." After the half quire and the whole alphabet had been turned to account in this manner, the country "store" supplied a fresh half quire, and once more the devoted youth laboriously recorded the solemn fact that "A man's manners commonly form his fortune," and that it is within the range of possibility, by some ethical or other effort, to keep the mind from the performance of its chief health-giving function.

I advocate the practice of writing from the first day at school. The letter *A* ought to be learned in and by making it. The pen or pencil ought to be the chief instrument of drill and culture in school,—always in hand. The substance of the history and reading lessons ought to be regularly required from classes both orally and in writing. In this way extempore and written composition are best taught. Everything from first to last ought to be done on slate or paper, *except arithmetic*. Were this principle universally acted on, such a phenomenon as an awkward writer would soon be as rare as now it is common. I am no advocate of ornate penmanship. In certain callings it has its value. Good figures are sometimes indispensable. But a flourishing hand, even when at its best, is no evidence of culture or scholarship—rather the reverse. *A good scholar never writes a commercial hand.* Many of the best scholars write

even an almost illegible hand—a mere scrawl. This, though frequently a concomitant of good scholarship, is no absolute proof of it; and there is no reason at all why both good and bad scholars should not write a plain legible hand.

In the primary stages great care should be taken to prevent children from falling into a scrawling method. All children affect a *small hand*. This is their ambition. "A little child about six years of age told me with pride the other day that she could write as well as the schoolmistress; and 'so small that Mr. May could hardly see it.'" In the earlier stages the fuller, rounder, plumper the hand, the better. You cannot go wrong in this direction. The decreasing hand should come with increasing years. The grand object to be aimed at is *legibility*, combined with fluency. Of two men who write an equally good hand, the one who can write two pages whilst the other is writing one is just twice as good a writer as the other. It is said that a man's character can be seen from his handwriting; but I believe that this notion has no more foundation in fact than most of the other stupid "laws" received as gospel by that brainless animal called "the public,"—an animal that would allow itself to be affrighted by a Grimmer, or cajoled by the unparalleled atmospherical assurance of a Vennor.

A VERBATIM REPORT.

WRITES Mr. Proctor, from Sydney, New South Wales:—"Some amusing illustrations of the feeling which induces many indifferent public speakers to regard with distaste the abridgment of their speeches have been written to show what nonsense might be expected if *verbatim* reports were to be published. I do not know, however, that a speech has ever been accurately reproduced precisely as delivered until now, when the reporters in the Legislative Council, moved by the attacks made upon them in a discussion on Hansard, thus literally and exactly reproduced the remarks of Mr. Hay, one of their chief assailants. (The report may not be so utterly ludicrous as some of the American burlesques, but it has the advantage of being strictly what it purports to be, a *verbatim* report):

"The reporters—ought not to—the reporters ought not to be the ones to judge of what is important—not to say what should be left out—but—the members can only judge what is important—. As I—as my speeches—as the reports—as what I say is reported sometimes, no one—nobody can tell—no one can understand from the reports—what it is—what I mean. So—it strikes me—it has struck me certain matters—things that appear of importance—are sometimes left out—omitted. The reporters—the papers—points are reported—I mean what the paper thinks of interest—is reported. I can't compliment the reporters." It can hardly be denied that by taking him—hum—at his—ha—word, they have—ha—hum—given Mr. Hay—ha—a—hum—a *quid pro quo*."—*London Gentleman's Magazine.*

THE STENOGRAPH.

(From Browne's Monthly.)

THE Stenograph is a little mechanism designed to take the place now occupied by Pitman and his now almost countless progeny. It is the invention of Mr. M. M. Bartholomew, an old shorthand reporter, for many years official stenographer of St. Clare county, Ill., and adjacent counties, but who is so sanguine of the success of his machine, that he has resigned his court practice and taken quarters in a commercial college at St. Louis, where he is training operators on it.

In appearance the Stenograph very much resembles an old-time "paper" (telegraph) instrument. It consists of ten keys, four for each hand, one key for the thumbs, and a spacing key, mounted on a square surface less than a foot in length and about eight inches in width. The writing, or printing, is produced by the single alternate or combined depression of these five keys (the four on the left hand being but duplicates of the four on the right hand, and the thumb key being used by either thumb), which depression causes a marker, or blunt needle, on the opposite end of the key, to strike upwards against an ink ribbon, printing a dot, or a series of dots, varying, of course, with the combination employed, across an endless paper ribbon of half an inch in width. The manipulation of the keys causes both the ink and the paper ribbon to move; while a depression of the spacing keys moves the paper a double distance. With case and all, the Stenograph weighs upwards of three pounds.

Briefly stated, Mr. Bartholomew claims: that the machine is capable of printing over 600 letters per minute; that, in consequence, it will equal, if not surpass, the most rapid pen stenographer; that it is absolutely legible, there being but one character for each letter; that it makes use of about 50 word-signs, and has less than half a dozen rules for its practical operation; that it can be learned in less than half the time required in the study of phonography; that different operators can read each other's notes; that, the fingers of the reporter being constantly in position on the keys, he can follow the speaker with his eyes as well as his fingers, and can copy a document without removing his eyes from the book or paper from which the extract is being made; that it is practically noiseless, and can be used in the dark; that he himself has reached 130 words per minute, and that his pupils have averaged 50 words per minute after a month's practice.

Three vital questions present themselves to the mind of the profession as they read the above description and the various claims urged by Mr. Bartholomew in behalf of his invention: First, will the Stenograph interfere with the stenographic profession? Second,—with the student—shall he give up his Pitman, or whatever system he may have selected? Third,—with the would-be student—which is the better system, Pitman or Bartholomew?

The first of these queries is readiest answered. It being manifest that the end of all stenography is *verbatim* reporting, the means employed to attain that end will make no essential difference.

As to the second, we have no hesitation in saying that we advise no one to give up his textbook—not on any narrow, prejudiced view of the matter (for we regard Mr. Bartholomew's machine as simply another system of shorthand, and as such he enters the field as a competitor with every other author), but for the reason, first, that the machine has been in use but a few months. This is not, of course, an insuperable objection. Secondly, because neither the inventor, who would quite naturally bend all his energies to increase his speed, nor his most proficient operator, have passed the speed of 130 words per minute. This also may be obviated in time, if there be some lady (outside of New York) who will run the machine at a speed of 307 words. But, finally and chiefly, because we do not believe that there will ever be a machine designed and constructed, worked by single, alternate, or combined depression of separate keys for separate letters, with the addition of half a hundred word-signs, that can equal the rapidity of phonographic line-strokes. We have not gone into the mathematical niceties of this question, have not figured out how many times the fingers can depress a key with sufficient force to make an impression on paper, nor how many times more rapidly the third and first fingers can strike their allotted keys than the second fourth, and *vice-versa*; but what we affirm is this: that no letter which requires the depression of more than one key can be written as rapidly as with a single switch of the pen; that no word which requires the depression of more than one key, or one combination of keys, can equal the speed of the pen. The claim of increased legibility will not be borne out by the facts. It is quite true that if the operator strikes his combinations accurately, he will be able to read them, or anyone else; is not this also true of phonography, or, in fine, of any kind of writing? But if this operator is caused to follow "the lightning Judge" for half an hour in a "sea-sycurrence" case, will he not forget his combination, and let his fingers wander as aimlessly over his keys as the phonographer does his pen when he is writing for "recreation"?

As to the third, much of the statement contained in our last answer will apply to this query, with this addition: that if the student will venture on an uncertain path, on the various promises held out to him by Mr. Bartholomew, he makes such choice at his peril.

For office-work, such as correspondence, dictations, and the like, this machine may find a place. We understand it has been in use in one large business house in St. Louis, but we do not believe that it will ever equal the speed of Underhill, Holland, Murphy, Ritchie, and a dozen others of our stenographers who have made America famous for its stenographic ex-

ensis who does not strive for and expect to reach the speed of these stalwarts? Will he begrudge the expenditure of an extra year or two years, if he can be assured that the question of such speed is one of time and practice, while with the Stenograph he has no certainty that he would ever be able to reach a greater speed than that of an amanuensis.

As an author of a new system of shorthand writing, we welcome Mr. Bartholomew to the field: but we are not prepared to endorse his invention as the coming mode of perpetuating rapid speech. If we have erred in our judgment of the value of his machine, or if he demonstrates by actual test that he can keep pace with our professional stenographers, there will be none so ready as ourselves to set Mr. Bartholomew right before the public.

[A sketch of the Stenograph appears in the lithographed portion of this number.—EDITH WRITER.]

CHINESE NEWSPAPERS.



HERE are two Chinese papers in San Francisco, both weekly. In company with interpreter Howe, a visit was recently paid to both offices. The *Oriental Wah Kee*, No. 800 Washington St., was first visited. The *Wah Kee* establishment was found in charge of its proprietor, publisher, editor, pressman, compositor, bookkeeper, reporter, and office boy, Yee Jenn, who was discovered seated at a table in his sanctum, busily engaged in forming characters on a slip of paper. A small fine brush, not much larger than an ordinary pen-holder, was dipped in a peculiar black ink, and the writing, or printing, performed with great dexterity and accuracy. In answer to questions, Yee Jenn stated to the interpreter that he was fifty years old, that he had been in the country about seven years, and that he first began publishing the *Wah Kee* nearly six years ago. He had no previous experience as a journalist, and prior to beginning his newspaper had in operation a job printing office, which he yet maintained. Of the 35,000 characters in the Chinese language he could make about 8,000. As he had never been able to import type from China, all the characters in his paper were formed by hand. The *Wah Kee* had 1,000 subscribers, some circulation in China, and was issued at ten cents per copy, or \$5 a year. He got much of his matter from exchanges; what appeared in local English papers interesting to his readers was translated by an English-knowing Chinese friend. Although seven years in the country, Yee Jenn had no knowledge of the language, and he said that only about two hundred of the Chinese residing in this city were able to read and understand English. The latest number of the *Wah Kee* was presented to the writer by Yee Jenn. It was a four page sheet, and had five columns to a page, the first page, excepting the publisher's announcements, being occupied by advertisements, mainly

excellence. And where is the student or amanuensis double-columned. The publisher's announcements comprised the name of the paper, in five big characters, to be read from left to right, in a horizontal line at the head of the page, a notice in a vertical line, to be read from the top down, and at the right of the title, that the paper was published in the fourth month of the seventh year of the reign of His Imperial Majesty, Quong Si, Emperor; a notice at the left of the title, in a vertical line of the date and volume of the paper, and a large notice in vertical lines to the left of the last named, which was the prospectus of the publisher. The name of the paper, its date, and place of publication were given in English under the Chinese title. The title of each long article and of each advertisement was given in a single horizontal line at the commencement of the reading matter, which was printed in vertical lines, and to be read beginning at the top of the right hand column in each article. The news matter of the *Wah Kee*, commencing at the right hand column of the fourth page, was four columns of local news succeeded by a column of ads., then a department containing news from Peking, followed by another containing news from Canton, next an editorial against the use of opium, and then a presentation of the news from the various countries, after which came advertisements, an advertisement of a Chinese doctor occupying the place of honor.

The press-room, the composing-room, counting office, and editorial and reportorial rooms of the *Wah Kee*, and the parlor, dining-room, kitchen, pantry, and sleeping apartment of its proprietor, Yee Jenn, were formerly one small room, about 12 x 15. That room was subjected to a partitioning process by the Mongolian publisher, and made into three, two small ones of about equal size, one for sleeping, the other for editing, and the larger one for containing the press and adjuncts. As the writer was gazing about, peering into Yee Jenn's tiny bed-chamber, staring at his press, so antique and clumsy, and jumbling over some musty Chinese exchanges, he was aware the interpreter was being told something quite interesting by the good-natured and accommodating Yee Jenn. The narrative was this:—Last Tuesday a Chinaman was passing one of the markets in this city and happened to see a large fish, a sturgeon, which had just been brought in and was yet alive. The Chinaman, by inherent wisdom, or perhaps by inspiration, discovered that his mother's soul was in the fish. After some dickering he bought the fish, which weighed 300 pounds, paying \$15 therefor, and procuring a wagon, transported it to the bay, where he engaged a boat, placed the fish thereon and had it rowed far out into the bay and put it back into the water. He couldn't bear the thought of having the soul of his mother devoured by San Francisco barbarians.

The manner in which the *Wah Kee* is published can not fail to be entertaining. The press consists of a large slab or bed of yellowish-

white stone. By turning a wheel a frame faced with stiff leather, over which are several sheets of thick carboard is pressed down upon the bed. The matter to go on one side of the paper is printed by hand on a sheet which is laid on the stone and borne down uniformly. The sheet is then lifted up and the hundreds of characters forming its face are seen to be duplicated upon the stone. At the appropriate time a sheet of paper is laid on the frame noted, the wheel is turned, the frame is pressed down against the bed, and in a moment or so lifted by a back turn of the wheel, and the sheet is discovered printed. A water-moistened sponge is passed over the bed or form, another sheet is subjected to the same process, and so on until the whole edition is worked off. After the papers are all printed the ink is all washed off the bed by the application of a chemical, and another supply of characters is substituted. The process is, in fact, that of lithography.

The office of the other Chinese publication, the "Chinese-English newspaper," (*Tong Fan San Bo*), No. 281 Washington street, was next visited. The paper was found to be about the same size, printed in the same way, at the same price, and in about the same style of establishment as the *Wah Kee*. Mun Lee, the proprietor, reporter, office boy, etc., was employed in smoking a water pipe. "Ha la," (How do you do?) said the writer. "He gong fan wah?" (Do you speak English?) Mun Kee responded, in very good English. He stated that he was about thirty-eight years old, had been in this country fourteen years and had published his

paper, which now had 750 subscribers, for almost five years. He could form about 7000 characters, and it required him two days of ten hours each to work off a complete edition of his paper. The rate for advertising in his paper is \$12 per column. Instead of the title being on the first page, like the other, it was on the fourth; otherwise the papers resembled each other. Mun Kee, also, had no previous experience as a journalist, and had started as a job printer. He stated that neither of the papers had a policy, religious or political, and that the Chinese were great readers. As to the future of the Chinese on this coast and at home, he said that before many years the race would be on an equality with all others, and would be welcomed in all lands. A civilizing process is at work, he said, which is bound to result in breaking down all race distinctions and in merging all races into one common family, socially and religiously, if not politically. He foresaw a glorious future for the Chinese on this coast, the climate and other conditions being highly favourable. He verified the statement recently made to the writer by S. S. Smith, of the Pacific, long a resident in China, that, prior to the treaty of last year, all the Chinese in this country, excepting officials, were escapes, or in the same category were as the slaves that escaped from their masters in the south in ante-bellum times. "Chang ah" (good-bye), said the writer. "Good day," pleasantly responded the intelligent and wide-awake Mun Kee.—*San Francisco Post*.

Communications.

THE ASSOCIATION QUESTION.

To the Editor of the WRITER :

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Pinkney's letter, I beg to say that I shall be glad to attend any meeting called for the purpose of considering the advisability of establishing a Shorthand Writers' Association.

Might I suggest that the subject could be most effectively discussed at a preliminary gathering of practical men.

Yours truly,

G. B. BRADLEY,
Chief, Official Reporting Staff,
House of Commons.

To the Editor of the WRITER :

I think that a Shorthand Writers' Association would be of considerable benefit at the present time, and in answer to Mr. Yeigh's letter suggesting the feasibility of such an organization, I hasten to show my approval by stating that I am ready to join such an association at any time. I think we should at all events take advantage of the kindness of the publishers of the WRITER in offering the use of their office for a meeting for the discussion of the subject.

There have been several unsuccessful attempts to organize an association of the kind in this city by the younger reporters, and I shall have no faith in the success of the present undertaking, unless it is taken in hand by some of the older members of the craft. To represent the official reporters, I take pleasure in calling on the chief and the older members, viz.: Messrs. Crawford, Horton, Henderson and Tyson. They would give some tone to the affair. It needs experienced men to start an association, but once it is in good working order the younger members can relieve them of the work connected with it.

Is Mr. Yeigh joking when he says, "let the highest grade of membership be for reporters who write 260 words per minute and upwards." Where are they?

NELSON R. BUTCHER.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of the WRITER :

DEAR SIR,—It has occurred to me to ask, on behalf of myself and of many others who think with me upon the subject to which I am about to refer, if our profession is entirely lacking in the professional etiquette which exercises so

potent an influence upon the conduct of members of other professions? My question has special allusion to the practice, which so frequently and so obviously "sticks out" of some of our magazines, of shorthand writers and would be journalists writing elaborate biographical puffs of themselves, and indulging in such nauseating self-glorification that if written of them by even another's pen it ought to sicken those possessed of a particle of modesty or self-respect. This degrading practice has long been common on "the other side," though it has only been indulged in to any extent by the veriest of amateurs, who either were hopeless of attaining in any other way the notoriety for which they thirsted, or lacked the patience to acquire it by more legitimate means. Canadian shorthand writers, I am glad to say, have hitherto shown too much good sense and self-respect to descend to such self-beslobbering, and whenever the disposition has manifested itself among us it has only been by weeds of foreign growth. Now the appearance of this practise here is, to my mind, one strong reason among others why shorthand writers should unite in a purely Canadian organization—one which ought to be so broad and so homogenous that it may take cognizance, not merely of rates, tariffs and the like, but of the professional conduct of its members. I believe it is a fact that some men—known to themselves at least as very distinguished journalists, scions of aristocratic stock and stenographic Admirable Crichtons—have actually paid for the administration to themselves of this self-prepared "taffy"—this "cheap and nasty" gratification of morbid vanity. If this is a fact, Mr. Editor, don't you think the whole question is one which might profitably be discussed in your columns?

Yours truly, STENOGRAPH.

GOING TOO FAST!

To the Editor of the WRITER:

DEAR SIR,—On being asked once by a city clergyman to estimate his speed, I carefully took his measure and set him down at 140, but he smiled and informed me that he never exceeded 125 by the hour, as he had taken pains to ascertain. Nor would he believe that the 'cloth' in general much exceeded that figure. However that may be, many of our best reporters, including those of Congress, find it necessary to maintain an average speed of 150, taking one speaker with another, fluctuating, in all likelihood, from 125 to 175, or over. What some of these gentlemen might do on a test case, we have no means of knowing. But here comes Mr. Thos. Pray, jr., with an average, on a long stretch, of 196 words per minute, giving him a range, it may be, of 171 to 221 words. I am trying to be fair, sir. It is clear that no 125 words of lawyer or witness would meet the requirements—not even for ten minutes, or who on earth could talk fast enough to let him catch up? As regards speed, Mr. Pray stands in the same relation to the majority of our best reporters that those gentlemen do to their

amanuenses. That was a most remarkable achievement and, so far as I know stands unrivalled. And in Graham's system, too. What says Mr. D. L. S—b? Not only so, but Mr. Pray attributes Mr. Read's supposed defeat partly at least to that gentleman's inability to write the "Standard;" and, though that bright idea may cause a merry ripple all along the line, yet there's no getting over the fact that the swiftest known writer in the world is "a valiant *Standard*-bearer."

The "baker's dozen" story will bear "boiling down" to little or nothing. That, I fear, is the kind of talk that made King David declare in his wrath that *all* men were liars. He might well have added—merely by way of rounding out the sentence—that reporters were no exception. We have all done too much in that line in the past. Let us now settle down to facts and stop watches.

Yours truly,
OUTSIDER.

Cantonsville, Md., Aug. 10.

THE COMING CONVENTION.

To the Editor of the WRITER:

The International Shorthand Writers' Convention will meet at the Palmer House, Chicago, on Thursday September 1st, 1881, at 9 a. m. All shorthand writers in the United States and Canada are earnestly invited to attend. Arrangements are also being made for a banquet on the evening of the 1st, at which there will be a rare feast of toasts and responses. The object of the convention is to effect an organization to advance the interest of shorthand in the United States and Canada.

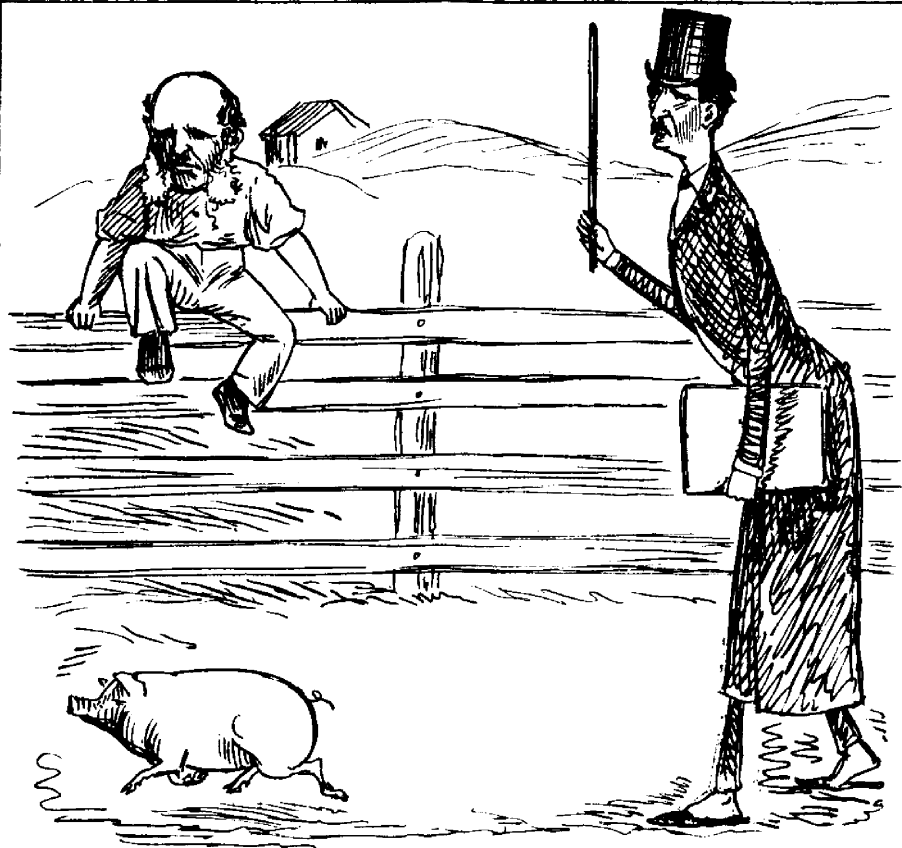
The following are some of the questions that have been asked us concerning the convention and organization:—

"In what way can a general organization benefit the Law Stenographers?" "Will the large and increasing army of shorthand writers engaged as amanuenses, be profited by organization, and can such an organization in any way affect the demand for, and pay of amanuenses?" "Will the subject of a universal system of shorthand receive consideration, and is it practicable?" "Can a convention or organization assist in establishing practicable schools for teaching shorthand?" "What should be the standard of admission to membership in the organization, and should there be a graded membership?"

Correspondence in relation to these, or any other matters of interest to convention or organization, will be gladly received and considered. The committee having charge of arrangements for the convention, wish to know as early as possible, the names and addresses of all shorthand writers who expect to attend the convention. Arrangements are being made with the various railroad lines leading to Chicago, to give reduced rates to shorthand writers attending the convention.

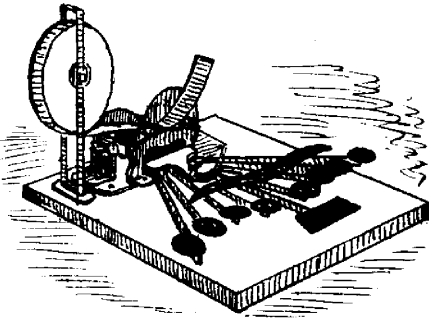
Communications on the subject may be addressed to

DAN. BROWN,
50 Dearborn St., Chicago.



VERBATIM REPORT OF SPEECH BY HON. D. D. LANDRY OF
NEW BRUNSWICK.

Handwritten shorthand notes on a ruled page, representing the verbatim report of a speech. The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style, consisting of various symbols, lines, and curves, organized into several lines across the page.



THE STENOGRAPH.
(Graham's Corresponding Style.)

Handwritten shorthand notes in the left column, consisting of various symbols and strokes on a ruled background.

Handwritten shorthand notes in the right column, continuing the practice of symbols and strokes on a ruled background.

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Handwritten shorthand notes in two columns, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations on a ruled background.



A HUMOROUS NOTICE.

(Munson's System.)

The first part of the page contains several lines of handwritten shorthand notes in Munson's System, which are illegible due to their cursive and compressed nature.

The second part of the page contains several lines of handwritten shorthand notes in Munson's System, which are illegible due to their cursive and compressed nature.

N.B.

