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**NELSON R. BUTCHER,**

**Member of the Staff of Official Reporters of the Superior Court of Ontario.  
Canadian Vice-President of the International Shorthand Writers'  
Association.**

BENGOUGH'S  
COSMOPOLITAN  
SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. II.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1881.

No. 5.

TO THE PHONOGRAPHIC FRATERNITY : GREETING.

The whirligig of time has brought about important business changes, and the originator of the WRITER finds himself again in the editorial chair.

During the year which has elapsed there have been numerous and important developments in connection with our profession. Thousands of aspiring youths have taken up the study of shorthand, other thousands have been pushing their way along the road to the goal, while the already large army of practical professional reporters has been increased by many hundreds. No one can look with indifference upon this development; yet no one who philosophically considers its meaning need be fearful as to the ultimate result. Intense activity among learners means that the field is widening, and it is a remarkable fact that there has thus far been no systematic effort to educate the business community as to the advantages of shorthand in their counting-houses. We propose to use the machinery of our Bureau in working up this branch of the case, and have no doubt that we shall be able practically to remove the apprehensions of those who look upon the increase of shorthand writers as a calamity.

The cosmopolitan character of the WRITER will continue to be its distinctive feature, and amid the roar of battle and the clash of arms we shall observe strict impartiality, and strive to maintain good temper among the advocates

of the various systems. As a permanent pledge of our position we have introduced the word "Cosmopolitan" into the re-constructed title-page of the WRITER.

The recent organization of the International Association in Chicago marks a new era in the progress of our profession in America. It will prove to be a bond of fellowship between shorthand writers in Canada and the United States, as well as a powerful agent in keeping the claims of shorthand writers before the governing bodies of both countries. The newly-fledged Shorthand Society of London, England, will add strength to the vast army of shorthand writers in Britain. The resuscitation of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association is an event which will take place, we doubt not, during the coming winter, and the legislation in this prosperous and promising Dominion will be materially affected by it in future, as it was in the early days of the Association. These organizations, by their tests of admission, raise the tone of the members of the profession; by their certificates of membership they furnish to the public a guarantee of the competence of their members; and by means of their machinery they collect important statistics, arguments and information which tend to enlarge the scope of labour.

The outlook for the profession is most encouraging, and the Conductor re-enters upon his labours in strong hope that they may be of service to the whole fraternity.

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

We have much pleasure in presenting with this number a lithographed portrait of Mr. Nelson R. Butcher, a sketch of whose career was published last month. Since then Mr. B. has been elected as Vice-President for Canada of the International Shorthand Writers' Association. The portrait is a very faithful one, and our artist has given his subject full justice, without flattery. The lithographic work, done on our

own premises, is superior to anything that has been offered to the subscribers of the WRITER, and we feel sure its excellence will be fully recognized by our constituents, who, being artists themselves, are competent judges.

We are arranging to present lithographic portraits of authors of popular shorthand systems — Benn Pitman, Graham, Munson, Everett, and others. Suggestions will be thankfully received.

## RATES OF SPEED IN SHORTHAND WRITING.

The several letters which have appeared in the WRITER on this subject have created a lively discussion in our phonographic contemporaries.

Referring to the statement made by Mr. E. E. Horton, that Mr. Thos. Allen Reed "claims as his utmost speed only 185 words per minute," the *Reporter's Magazine* remarks that "as a matter of fact Mr. Reed has never laid claim to any particular speed. The assertion that he claims as his utmost speed 185 words per minute probably arose from a statement he once made that a sermon of an hour's duration which he reported, when counted showed an average of 185 words per minute. That sermon, he said, was the fastest he remembered to have counted."

Another correspondent of the WRITER credited the late Dr. Punshon with a rate "even exceeding 190 words per minute." The editor of the *Reporter's Magazine*, Mr. Ed. J. Nankivell, F. R. H. S., says that he has "often taken Punshon, and can bear witness to the absurdity of such a statement." Dr. Punshon, Mr. Nankivell avers, was too genuine an orator to chatter at that rate. He adds that if the Canadian ideas of rates of speed are all based upon equally trustworthy estimates, his only wonder is that we don't hear of men who have attained a rate of 400 or 500!

Mr. Nankivell evidently thinks that 190 words per minute is pretty tall talk; but what will he say when he reads the statement published in a recent WRITER that Mr. Pray has written technical matter at the rate of 196 words?

And now we have a new fact to add to the literature of this much-debated subject. In the famous "Waubuno" steamship case recently tried in this city, Mr. Alex. H. Crawford, official reporter in the Superior Court, took evidence from half-past one till half past six o'clock of one day, and a computation of the transcript showed that the average rate per minute of the whole five hours was 160 words.

This fact has a very important bearing on the discussion as to speed, on the following grounds: (1) It was a trial of *endurance* as well as speed—and capacity for sustained effort is next to speed in importance to a reporter who has to take notes for several hours. (2) It shows that the rate of speaking which averaged 160 words per minute for five hours must have been frequently much higher than that, allowance being made for delays in calling witnesses, etc.

What have our readers to say about Mr. Crawford's feat?

Newfoundland's Legislative Council has one shorthand reporter, a writer of Gurney's system. The proceedings of the Lower House occupy the services of four reporters, two of whom are Stenographers.

## OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

This is one of the "features" of our establishment, and aspiring shorthand writers make no mistake in registering their applications. Frequently shorthand amanuenses are required in haste, and a glance at our register decides at once the whole matter. The present conductor of the WRITER—who has personal charge also of the Bureau—has put scores of shorthand amateurs in honorable positions at good salaries. His services were given gratuitously and gladly for years; but when the WRITER was started, the applications were so numerous that it was found necessary to organize the Bureau, with a registration fee of one dollar. This secures to the applicant the preference for any suitable position that offers. The candidate who thus secures an appointment pays us a commission of *three per cent.* on his annual salary, in return for printing, advertising, time spent, and personal services. This commission amounts to a little over *one week's salary*, thus: three per cent. on \$400 would be \$12—a trifle over what the successful applicant would receive for his first week's work. We reckon that any shorthand writer would be willing to work a week for a situation that will be worth hundreds of dollars to him. We could show by examples that the securing of a situation through our Bureau is an *event* in the life of any ambitious shorthand writer, and that the importance of such event cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents; but business must be done on business principles, and hence we put the percentage at a figure easily understood and very reasonable. We do not share in the fears of some of our brethren in regard to the future of the "craft." We believe good, trusty, competent, steady, ambitious shorthanders will always, and more and more, be in demand; but if at any time the supply should be greater than the demand, we shall at once put another set of our Bureau machinery in motion to *increase the demand*, never thinking to diminish the supply. Every subscriber to the WRITER (except the aristocratic professionals) should be enrolled on the Bureau Register. The initiatory ceremony is not nearly so complicated as that of any secret society, while the prospective pecuniary benefits are much greater. Our connections with business men, railway officials, newspaper publishers, bankers, lawyers, &c., both in Canada and the States, are so widespread that we should not be afraid to guarantee a situation to every really good shorthand writer who is ready for honest work.

## NOTES, QUERIES, REPLIES, HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Has any reader of the WRITER used Benn Pitman's system in reporting French? If so, what additional vowel sounds were necessary to adapt it to the foreign language?—R. J. S. Q.—Is phonography taught in any of the schools in Canada, and in what schools?—W. T. S. A.—Yes, in the commercial colleges.

Q.—Is there any call for beginners who are only capable of taking down about sixty or seventy words per minute?—W. T. S. A.—No. But young, pushing fellows don't wait for a "call"—they offer their services to publishers as reporters, and to professional stenographers as amanuenses, not asking salary. In such positions they soon work up speed, and in due time the "call" comes, and they step into the elevator and are carried upward.

Q.—Is not Benn Pitman's system used more by phonographers than any other?—W. T. S. A.—It is stated that it is used by three-fourths of the writers in the United States; but it is impossible to give exact statistics. We feel quite safe in saying that Benn is not at the head of the list of popular authors, taking the world over. This is not the fault of the system, but arises from the fact that its author is practically out of the business, and has published no phonographic literature except text-books. Benn's system is used by nearly all the reporters, and by a great many amanuenses, at Washington,—so we are informed by a resident at the capitol.

A correspondent suggests that the International Association should have a solemn initiatory ceremony. Certainly; but perhaps most of the candidates will find it solemn enough when they have to write 750 words in five minutes!

C. W. P. asks how to improve in speed. He used to have a person read to him, but has no reader now, and has gone back. He writes Benn Pitman, has some knowledge of Graham, and can read a good deal of Isaac Pitman. He won't give up Benn, however, unless for a universal system. We advise him to practice at public meetings, and not to be anxious to master the different systems all at once.

On page 54, last month, the first line of the second column should have been at the top of the first column. The printer did not "strike his combinations properly," and so gave a too practical turn to the argument of the article.

Q.—How is it that writers of the different systems must quarrel so among themselves?—E. D. S. A.—There is no reason why they *must*, and as a matter of fact they *don't*. The publications to which you allude do not represent the "writers of different systems." They represent simply the narrow and selfish views of their respective publishers. Go to a convention of "writers" and you will find nothing but harmony and sincere good-fellowship, and it will be impossible for you to tell, from anything said, what "different systems" are represented. If you now wish to alter your question and ask why "publishers of journals representing different systems must quarrel so among themselves," we would remind you that unregenerate human nature is dreadfully selfish and arrogant, and that those who feel that they *must* quarrel are—well rather *musty*.

A young man in Philadelphia went crazy over phonography, and killed his mother.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. T. Wm. Bell writes a lengthy and vigorous reply to "Outsider," in which he affirms that the statement crediting Mr. Thos. Pray, Jr., of Boston, with having written 14,300 words in 73 minutes "comes from a gentleman whose standing in the journalistic world gives to his utterances sufficient weight to render them capable of resisting something more than the puny efforts of 'Outsider's' pea-shooter." Mr. Bell asks "Outsider's" authority for the statement that Mr. Reed's defeat was partly attributable to his inability to write the "Standard." Finally, Mr. B. questions "Outsider's" knowledge of the Scripture when he speaks of David in his *wrath* declaring that all men were liars.

We hope to be enabled, by the hearty cooperation of the fraternity, to introduce valuable improvements in the make-up of the WRITER at the beginning of the coming year. There will be only three issues more in 1881, and suggestions are therefore in order *now*. The proposition of Mr. E. D. Synder in the July number, that the printed matter of the WRITER be doubled for twice the subscription price, is well worth consideration. There is no doubt that double the space could be filled each month with "live" matter; and if the present subscribers are willing to have the price doubled, we have not much fear that future subscribers would see a full two-dollars' worth in a 24-page monthly. Let those now on our list speak out.

In the re-arrangement of our premises, which the demands of our consolidated printing and publishing business rendered necessary, we have not been unmindful of the wants and wishes of our phonographic customers and constituents; and we are happy in being able to offer the use of a room for the meetings of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association, when that organization has sufficiently reascitated to need such accommodation. We are pleased to note that the President is in sympathy with the frequently expressed desire for a real, live Association for Canada. There are a few obstacles to overcome, but they are not such as to discourage. If the professionals are willing to move, the organization can be effected on a workable basis. We pledge voice and pen in behalf of the organization, which should be effected in time for the winter season.

"True ease in writing comes from art, not chance." The poet referred to literary labour, though the sentiment is equally true of shorthand writing. A contributor submits the following as containing in brief form the essential rules for literary composition:—

## CONNECT

Brief essays explaining and extending the principles summarized in this formula are invited. The best one will be published, with the author's name appended.

## NEWS NOTES.

## CANADA.

George Alfred Townsend, the brilliant newspaper correspondent, known as "Gath," visited St. John recently.

One of our subscribers is learning shorthand with the view of teaching in a flourishing Canadian College.

Mr. Chas. C. James, of Napanee, Ontario, is stenographer to the manager of the Creston Bank, Creston, Iowa, and gets a good salary.

Canadian Phonographers are in demand in Chicago, provided they write swiftly and well. But the number of "all round" men these days is small.

The gallery of the House of Commons will be augmented by several new shorthand writers the coming session. A Hamilton man will make his *debut*, we learn. Wonder if it is our former assistant Wodell?

Mr. T. H. Preston, formerly of the Ottawa *Free Press* staff, but now publisher of the *Bruce Telescope*, at Walkerton, has received the appointment of official reporter to the Court of Bruce.

Arthur A. Wyllie, formerly of Bowmanville, now an operator in the Western Union Telegraph Co. at New York, is becoming noted as a rapid operator. He recently despatched 1,600 words in forty minutes.

Mr. Ferrie, formerly assistant private secretary to Mr. Ramsay, general manager of the Canada Life Insurance Company, is now city agent of the Company in Toronto. Mr. Ferrie writes Isaac Pitman's system.

The *Printers' Miscellany* is authority for the statement that Mr. A. B. Walker intends to enter a criminal action against D. L. Scott Browne for alleged libel contained in the December number of the *Phonographic Monthly*. Mr. T. Wm. Bell also darkly hints at revenge for the now famous Xmas box which friend Browne gave Bell last December.

P. R. G. Sjostrom, a Benn Pitman phonographer, has successfully passed an examination and been admitted as a member of the Bar of the Province of Quebec. He is a member of Mr. Gibson's ever-circulator. He had been thinking out the possibility of a phonographic piano, and was pleased with the illustrated article in the June WRITER. Mr. S. is now in Lawrence, Mass.

FRANK WRIGHT, while employed as a clerk in the County Court office in this city, took up Isaac Pitman's system, and after two years study mastered the art, and obtained a position in the establishment of Messrs. Wyld, Brock & Darling. After being there for about six months at \$6 per week, he obtained a position with the Waterous Engine Company of Brantford, where he is now employed, and receives a salary of \$450.

A. B. Walker, LL. B., of St. John, the colored stenographer, was sworn in as an attorney

on July 16. The *Printers' Miscellany* states that he is "the first colored gentleman admitted to the Canadian bar." This is incorrect, a colored barrister named Sutherland having successfully practised in this Province many years ago. But no doubt Mr. Walker is the first colored stenographer who has been honoured with a "call," and as such we congratulate him.

Mr. C. W. Treadwell of St. John, the Official Reporter of the New Brunswick Legislative Council, has published as a supplement to some leading newspapers his shorthand report of the debate on the Bill to abolish the Council. The debate occupied four hours, and the report makes 16 columns. This item comes from the *Printers' Miscellany*, which adds that Mr. Treadwell commenced the study of Graham's Phonography in June, 1880, and was able to report *verbatim* last December.

## UNITED STATES.

There are five phonetic schools in Philadelphia, all teaching Benn and Isaac Pitman. The Y. M. C. A. intend to start a school this winter.

Theo. A. Frey, Teacher of Phonography and Reporter, is Superintendent of the Shorthand Department of Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago.

Geo. F. Francis, formerly with the *Monetary Times*, Toronto, is now enjoying a good position in the Union Brass Manufacturing Co., 103 Ohio St., Chicago.

Mr. Frank B. Wright, who recently went to Cincinnati to accept a position on the local staff of the *Enquirer*, has been promoted to Mr. O. P. Caylor's place, that gentleman having retired to return to the practice of the law.

Mr. J. E. Mumaugh, stenographer in the office of Mr. A. B. Leet, General Freight and Passenger Agent of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, has accepted a similar position with the Omaha Paint and Color Company, Omaha, Neb.

## ENGLAND.

While on this continent the systems taught are most varied, in Great Britain Isaac Pitman holds almost undisputed sway.

Mr. Isaac Pitman will contribute the phonographic department to the "Universal Instructor," a publication like the "Popular Educator," being issued in parts.

Dr. Mackay, who was on the staff of the *Chronicle* when Charles Dickens was one of its parliamentary reporters, says that Dickens was "universally reputed to be the rapidest and most accurate shorthand writer in the Gallery."

A pneumatic tube from the Central News Reporters' box in the gallery of the English House of Commons, to the receiving staff in the writing room adjoining the gallery, enables the reporters to pass out their copy as they write it page by page, without leaving the gallery or rising from their box, and obviates a great deal of the constant passing to and fro of the messen-

ger in front of the "reliefs" who sit on the back seats.

Mr. Isaac Pitman sends out each week from the Phonetic Institute, Bath., 800 pounds of printed matter in phonography and phonotypy. He sells, in England alone, above 100,000 shorthand books per year. Everett, Pocknell, Anderson, and other authors will have to give the British public something very cheap and very reliable before they can make much of an impression upon such a Pitman-loving populace.

Mr. G. H. Davidson, the writer of the Isaac Pitman system, who succeeded in cramming into the space of a postal card the whole of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," half another play and an essay, altogether 32,363 words, died very suddenly. He had been out travelling with a very intimate friend, whose sudden death gave Mr. Davidson's system a shock to which he succumbed in a few days. Mr. D. was the writer of the prize postal cards to which we referred last year, copies of which are on sale at our office, price 25 cents each.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The "International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada" was organized by a large and representative convention of shorthand writers at the Palmer House, Chicago, on the 1st inst. Any shorthand writer who has been actively engaged for three years in the practice of his art or who can write 150 words per minute for five consecutive minutes, is eligible for membership. Applications for membership are to be made to members of the executive committee, who are selected from the various States of the Union and from the Canadian Provinces.

The following are the names of the officers elected to manage the new Association: — *President*: J. L. Bennett, of Chicago; *Vice-President*: Theo. C. Rose, of Ithaca, N. Y.; *Vice-President for Canada*: Nelson R. Butcher, of Toronto; *Secretary*: Dan. Brown, of Chicago; *Assistant Secretary*: Mrs. F. A. Holland, of Chicago.

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Bennett, who delivered the following

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PHONOGRAPHIC PROFESSION: I have been selected to call this Convention to order, and have been designated by the Committee of Arrangements to extend to you the fraternal greetings of your Chicago brethren. There has been too much business laid out for your consideration, for me, at this time, to indulge in any extended remarks even were I so disposed. You represent a profession which while young in years has attained an importance realized by few outside of its ranks and but imperfectly understood by those within. One object of this Convention is to cement those who practice our art into a common brotherhood—a profession. The de-

tails of your action will be left with you. The Committee of Arrangements did not think it wise at this first meeting to more than outline a general programme to guide you. The topics which will be presented will afford ample opportunity for a comparison of views on many matters pertaining to our profession, and with the organization of an international association, you will find your hands full for one day at least. Hoping that this day's work may be of lasting benefit to our profession, I await the pleasure of the Convention.

A Committee on credentials and permanent organization was then appointed, consisting of Messrs. T. C. Rose, of Ithaca, N. Y.; John Bell, of Omaha; Charles T. Brown, of Chicago; Leo Longley, of Cincinnati, and T. J. Daniel, of Jackson, Mich. The Committee afterwards reported the names of the officers whose names are given above.

Mr. John Bell, of Omaha, President of the Nebraska State Stenographers' Association, read a paper upon the

#### "OBJECT OF THE CONVENTION,"

explaining the origin of the project, and stating that it originated in Omaha. It was originally the intention to have the Convention held in Omaha, but they afterward concluded that there would be too much "Westward Ho" about it, and the meeting place was changed to Chicago. The special task of the Association should be to protect competent and worthy members from ignorant and incompetent ones, and an endeavor should be made to secure proper legislation to compass these ends. The standard of the profession should be established, and business men and others be protected from imposition.

Mr. M. M. Bartholomew, of St. Louis, inventor of the "stenograph," explained the advantages and conveniences of that instrument. The machine is nine inches long by eight and a half wide, and weighs three and one-quarter pounds. The writing is done with markers somewhat similar to the type-writer, which are to be pressed by the fingers and thumbs. He claimed that his system was more easily learned, more easily operated, more legible, its writing can be read by any operator, and it can be operated without looking at it. The marks are made upon a paper ribbon, which is wound upon a reel.

Mr. H. H. Unz, of Chicago, read a paper upon "The Perfected Type-writer." He gave a short history of the first invention and subsequent improvement of writing machines. The result can be seen to-day in the type-writer. It seemed strange that for 4,000 years no improvement had been made in methods of writing until within the past few years. The ancients used a stylus. What do we use to-day? To be sure, our pencils are a little better than scratching lines on vellum with a sharp stick. The type-writer is destined to become indispensable to all having quantities of writing to do.

The paper by the same gentleman comparing



the caligraph and type-writer was deferred, as the gentleman having it in charge was not present, and Mr. Unz deemed it unfair to point out defects in that machine while he was unable to answer.

In the evening a banquet was given in the large dining-room of the Palmer House. An excellent *menu* was spread, to which ample justice was done by the members of the Convention, most of whom were accompanied by their wives.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

Ottawa, Aug. 8th, 1881.

EDITOR WRITER:—My attention has been called to a letter from Mr. Pinkney in your July number, in which a desire is expressed for the formation of a Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association. Allow me to inform that gentleman, and your other readers, that a society with that exact title *does* exist, that to it is principally due the inauguration of official Court reporting in the Province of Ontario, that it has a tariff and rules, and that any information in reference to it will be willingly supplied by Mr. E. E. Horton, Official Reporter, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, who is the Secretary, or by myself. The Society has hitherto been composed only of the first rank of shorthand writers, and the principal difficulty has been to get them together except during a Parliamentary Session, and then a very large number are absent from Ottawa. In consequence of this, it has been understood that no general meeting should be called unless important business affecting the craft required it. Thus none has taken place for about three years (speaking from memory), but, if gentlemen interested in the matter would be good enough to communicate with either Mr. Horton or myself, I am sure we would be happy to meet their views if practicable.

Yours truly,

THOS. JOHN RICHARDSON,  
President C. S. W. A.

### FAC SIMILE NOTES.

TORONTO, July 20th, 1881.

To the Editor of the WRITER:

In the May number of the WRITER, Mr. W. M. Hamilton, of London, writes in reference to *fac similes* of reporters' notes, asking the rate of speed at which they were taken. He says:—"Some of the *fac similes* you have published, Mr. Bell's and Mr. Butcher's for instance, are so extremely neat that I cannot think they could have been written at any great speed. \* \* \* As *fac simile* notes, when we do not know at what rate they were taken, give us but a faint idea of the writer's actual notes when he is pushed."

In reply to I this I would say, that in select-

ing a page of my notes for publication as a specimen, it was my intention to show my *ordinary reporting notes*. I have since compared the *fac simile* with pages of my notes taken in court, and still think those in the journal a *fair specimen*.

As to the rate of speed at which they were taken, I cannot say.

While it would be very interesting to know the rate of speed at which the different specimens have been written, it would be a rather difficult thing to ascertain it. I fancy that the only way of testing speed would be from dictation, and that would not answer for *fac similes* notes of real reporting. A reporter should not know at the time of writing that his notes are to be used for such a purpose, and this makes it difficult to ascertain the speed.

As to *fac similes* showing notes when reporters are *hard pressed*, I would ask if that is the intention? I have been under the impression that the notes we have seen from time to time in the WRITER have been taken at an ordinary rate of speed, not at the reporter's highest speed, nor the extreme the other way, but a fair specimen of his writing while doing verbatim reporting in a court or following a speaker. Am I not right? NELSON R. BUTCHER.

Yes.—ED. C. S. W.

### PHONOGRAPHY AND RAILWAYS.

Next in order after the press and the law, there is no institution in which Phonography might be made more serviceable than in the railway service. There is a singular affinity between the two: both form distinct features in the progress of this unprecedentedly progressive age; both were brought to light nearly about the same time, and have been developed side by side; both displaced slow and cumbersome methods of conveyance—the one in a mental and the other in a physical sense; and lastly, the great characteristic of both is expressed in one word—speed.

Hitherto the railway service has played but a small part in the employment of shorthand writing in offices. It has been far behind the law, and scarcely on a level with mercantile houses in this respect. For this fact two sufficient reasons may be adduced: first, the want of a standard and unalterable style of Phonography, and secondly, the difficulty of getting clerks with a knowledge of the system. It is obviously essential that in an organization, the staff of which is being perpetually varied and removed from place to place, there should be, for the successful application of shorthand, not only one system but one standard and recognized style; and Phonography, the only practicable system for extended use, having been in the past in a more or less chronic state of change, a serious obstacle has lain in the way of its general adoption. With regard to the second point, railway clerks, as a rule, are not the most thoughtful and best educated section of their class, which may be partly due to the fact that railway salaries are not of the most

lavish or liberal character, and it is not therefore surprising that clerks in the service who have acquired a knowledge of the art of Phonography form the exception.

During the past two or three years, however, the use of Phonography in the railway service has been rapidly expanding. We believe that the Midland, Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire, and the North Eastern companies have been the principal patrons of the art, every reasonable encouragement having been, and being still, given by these companies to their employees in the offices, to induce them to become acquainted with it. They have gone so far as to provide competent teachers and instruction books gratuitously, and even time in which the lessons are given. These facilities have been confined to the clerks employed at the headquarters of the respective companies, but the movement has indirectly made itself felt all over the lines. What is done at Derby, or Manchester, or York, speedily becomes known throughout the systems of which these places are the centres, and the desire to be on an equality with their brethren at head quarters induces the Provincial (I extend the meaning of the term) clerks to shake off some of their normal lethargy and rise to the occasion. When one member of the staff of a station is known to possess a knowledge of Phonography, a spirit of emulation soon destroys the monopoly.

At present the use of Phonography in the railway service is confined, as in the law and mercantile offices, to the taking down of letters or reports from dictation, which have afterwards to be transcribed into longhand. But we think that it might be applied to the purposes of this branch of industry in a far wider sense. There is now, for all practical purposes, a standard style of Phonography, one in the use of which in correspondence very little or no ambiguity arises, and we see no reason why the correspondence of our railways should not be carried on to a very large extent, if not entirely, by shorthand. Indeed we see no reason why, in course of time, Phonography should not be employed generally in business intercommunication, but there are special arguments in favor of the selection of railways as a field for the experiment. In the first place, taken as a whole, there is no organization with so large a corresponding staff distributed over the country and under one control, as the railway system—for though represented by different companies, the main principles upon which they proceed are regulated and leavened by general laws of the railway government—the Railway Clearing House in London—and therefore there are exceptional facilities for the simultaneous adoption of a new manner of conducting business. Secondly, railway correspondence especially abounds in stereotype phrases of which a number of examples are given in Mr. Pitman's "Railway Phrase Book," and therefore the chances of misinterpretation are minimized. Thirdly, a very appreciable saving of time, and consequently reduction in working expenses—

always so jealously watched a feature in the management of our railways—would follow the change. Some idea of the resulting innovation may be obtained from the fact that there are upwards of twenty thousand clerks engaged in the railway service in the United Kingdom, of whom, at a rough estimate, fifty per cent. are more or less occupied in correspondence. So that two-thirds of the time at present devoted to letter writing would be saved, and the pecuniary gain to the companies can be imagined.

We repeat that we see no serious obstacle in the way of carrying out this idea. Railway communications are, generally speaking, simple and brief, but numerous, and with the ordinary vocalization there need be no more misunderstanding or ambiguity than there is in private phonographic correspondence. In the majority of cases the letters of the railway service are copied upon tissue paper in the ordinary manner, but we do not think that the legibility of the shorthand writing would be interfered with by the process provided that due care were exercised by the copyist. The reduction of the staff entailed would probably be productive of more benefit than harm, as it would have the effect of weeding out the more worthless and illiterate clerks at present employed in the offices and thereby raising the standard and tone of the service to a higher level, and also of discouraging those would-be aspirants to a clean-handed occupation who have only the ability to read and write fairly for their stock-in-trade, from seeking employment in railway offices, and thereby forcing them to fall back upon the work of the artisan, for which they are usually better fitted. Were energetic measures taken to impart knowledge of the art to those at present in the service who are acquainted with Phonography, and a rule made to constitute that knowledge a *sine qua non* to the admission of fresh clerks, the first requirement of the alteration might soon be made. Of course it would be necessary to test the new method upon a small scale in the first instance, say between certain stations and head-quarters, or in one class of correspondence—"claims," "rates," or "generals"—upon one railway, and to accommodate subsequent action to the results; but we strongly commend the experiment to the careful consideration of the essentially shrewd and practical gentlemen who compose the various boards of management of our railways.—*Shorthand Times*.

#### THE REPORTER.

There are certain faculties a reporter must necessarily possess, which, if not natural, can rarely, if ever, be acquired. They may be developed and improved, if present in some degree; but they can scarcely be imparted where the germ itself is altogether wanting. He must possess the faculty of intuitively seizing upon the essential features of any occurrence which he may be entrusted to report, whether it be a single speech, an entire meeting, or some im-

portant public affair extending over days, or even weeks. It would never do for a reporter, either while an affair was in progress, or upon its termination, to be anxiously cogitating within himself as to what he should retain and what he should reject. All this must be settled by the faculty of which we are speaking, and which must attract, as to a focus, the really important points—grouping them in their proper order and within the necessary limits, without loss of time or any special effort being involved in the process. He must also have an intuitive perception of the relative value of words with all their shades of meaning, so that he may be able to employ just that particular word which shall convey to the reader the exact sense and meaning of the original. And with this latter faculty must be combined the gift of facile expression and natural and correct arrangement, for woe unto him if he be under the necessity of writing and rewriting before he can get his composition into something like proper form. A reporter, too, requires a well-balanced mind; a cool head, and an impartial judgment. We do not say a reporter should have no fixed principles, no private opinions of his own, but he must be careful not to allow these opinions to influence his reports. In his degree he should aspire to something like the impartiality of the judge, who, while on the bench, knows nothing of friend or foe, but decides simply upon the merits, and altogether apart from personal considerations. A reporter also requires to be able to concentrate his thoughts upon his work in any circumstances. While others around him are in a state of the wildest enthusiasm, he must be perfectly cool, and absorbed only in his work. An audience, after having been held spell-bound by some celebrated orator, may rise to its feet, and, by vociferous cheering and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, give relief to its feelings; but the reporter must meantime be careful that he loses not one word of that elaborately prepared and masterly peroration; or, if he seek relief, it must be in the stretching of his cramped fingers, and the re-pointing of his pencils in readiness for the next speaker. At the scene of some terrible catastrophe, others may indulge in symptoms of distress; but the reporter must be engaged in taking a survey of all the surroundings, and at the same time making himself acquainted with all the painful and oftentimes sickening details. In times of political excitement and contest the caution, prudence, and judgment of the reporter are frequently put to the severest tests; and it will be well for him in such times if he bear in mind the old maxim, to have long ears and a short tongue.—*Chambers' Journal*.

The report of the New York Stenographer's Association is crowded out. It will keep good till next issue, however.

Isaac Pitman's father learned phonography so as to be able to read it at the age of sixty. He did not wish to die ignorant of his son's invention.

## LITERARY NOTES.

THE STENOGRAPHIC QUARTERLY: official organ of the Everett Shorthand System, conducted by R. W. Colhoun. London: Haughton & Co., 10 Paternoster Row. Toronto: Bengough, Moore & Bengough, 55 & 57 Adelaide Street East. 75 cents per year.

The mission of this magazine,—the first number of which will appear in October, will be to advocate and assist students of Prof. Everett's system. Like the WRITER, eight pages will be letterpress, and eight lithographed notes. The Everett system, the prospectus states, has been before the public little more than four years, but has succeeded on its merits in taking high rank, and is now in common use by practical reporters. In a competition with students of Isaac Pitman's system in January, 1878, in Belfast, the three first places were adjudged to writers of Everett's. We shall look with interest for this new candidate.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC METEOR, DERRY, ENG.

There has been a Meteoric storm, and Mr. Horace Weir leaves the editorial chair, which he has occupied since April. "The cause of the dispute between Proprietor and Editor may be briefly stated as being the discovery by the latter that the former was not a desirable person to work with." Our old friend Weir is nothing if not choice in language; and what could be neater than the above summary of the "onpleasantness"? We are sorry for the *Meteor*, and hope it may survive the two recent changes.

BENGOUGH'S EVER-CIRCULATOR. Benn Pitman's system. Thomas W. Gibson, conductor.

This portfolio has just returned from its second trip, and we have greatly enjoyed its perusal. It has ten members, four of whom are in the United States. They are all enthusiastic, and anxious to learn. The conductor, though a "professional" reporter of varied experience, gladly aids his amateur conferees, giving valuable hints. We have gleaned from this ever-circulator several notes of interest. We congratulate all concerned on this magazine. We strongly recommend this kind of help in learning shorthand. The enthusiasm is kept high by contact with others who write on the same lines. We are arranging plans that will make it very easy to start ever-circulators in all systems. Full particulars in next issue.

The JOURNALIST for August contains a table of signs proposed as the foundation of a universal language. We have not had time to analyse it, but the author, J. P. A. Martin, is more than a theorist, and we expect practical results from his labor.

The third edition of Duployan (French) Shorthand will be published in Detroit.

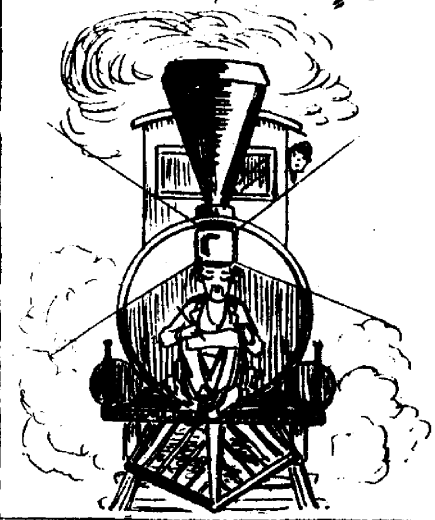
Mr. Barre has adapted Isaac Pitman's system to French, and published a Manual in Paris. Duploye proves a formidable rival to any adaptations.





Handwritten shorthand notes in the left column, consisting of approximately 20 lines of cursive symbols.

Handwritten shorthand notes in the right column, consisting of approximately 20 lines of cursive symbols.





Handwritten shorthand notes on the right side of the page, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines.

Handwritten shorthand notes on the bottom left side of the page, consisting of various symbols and abbreviations arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines.

THE REPORTER.  
(Benn Pitman's System.)

The first column contains a series of shorthand symbols, likely representing the first column of a page of shorthand text. The second column contains a series of shorthand symbols, likely representing the second column of a page of shorthand text. The symbols are arranged in approximately 20 rows, with each row containing a pair of symbols corresponding to a line of text. The symbols are highly stylized and characteristic of Pitman's shorthand system.





OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.  
(Munson's System.)

Handwritten shorthand notes in the left column, including phrases like "Congratulations", "Fat berth", and "Bureau".

Handwritten shorthand notes in the right column, including the number "12" and various shorthand symbols.



1. The first column of shorthand is filled with various symbols and letters, including 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z', and numbers '1' through '9'. Some symbols are more complex, resembling cursive or stylized letters.

The second column of shorthand continues with similar symbols and letters, including 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n', 'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u', 'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z', and numbers '1' through '9'. The symbols are consistent with the first column.

