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BENGOUGH'S
COSMOPOLITAN
SHORTHAND WRITER.

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

VOL. II.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1882.

No. 12.

For the WRITER.]

STENOGRAPHY IN THE QUEBEC LAW COURTS.

It has been truly said that Ontario is the banner province of the Dominion; and it may be as truly said,—especially with regard to law reporting,—that Quebec is the backward province of the Dominion. For years past the Quebec law courts, and especially those in Montreal, have been overrun by incompetent shorthand writers; and, notwithstanding the efforts of the efficient men, matters stenographical are still in anything but a satisfactory condition. The fees were reduced some three years ago from thirty to twenty cents per hundred words; and within the last few months a proposal was made by some members of the bar to reduce them still more; and no wonder, when the best means of obtaining access to the court as a practising stenographer, is not ability, but a commission to the lawyers or law students. This commission dodge has become so potent that lawyers have actually been known recently, in open court, to offer the stenographic work in a case to the man who would agree to give the highest commission on his fees; and in a case of this sort, noticed in the columns of the *Montreal Post* on the 6th April, the commission agreed upon by a stenographer was 25 per cent., as shown by the following extract from the *Post*:—

JOBGING IN STENOGRAPHY.

“Great indignation was manifested this morning among the stenographers in the Court House by a prominent lawyer openly canvassing the stenographers to find one who would take the evidence at the lowest figure. He first offered to give the case to anyone who would give him fifty per cent. of the fees, but finally came down to twenty-five. At this figure he secured a stenographer who does a great deal of “jobbing,” and who is being “boycotted” by the other members of his craft. They allege against him that he is incompetent, and consequently should not receive important cases when the evidence is the principal feature and often the turning point in favor of either side. They add that it is unjust to the client when a lawyer is interested in the amount of evidence taken, as if he is unscrupulous he may lengthen

it in order to receive a good per centage of the stenographic fees.”

EFFORTS TO RAISE THE PROFESSION.

About a year ago a vigorous effort was made by the more efficient men to remedy matters. An association was formed; steps were taken towards obtaining its incorporation under an Act of which the following is a summary:—

By section 1. Jean Toussaint Thompson (law stenographer), James Crankshaw (law student), Stephen A. Abbott (law stenographer), Francis R. Mariean (law student), Arthur P. Miller (law stenographer), J. B. Mouier (law student), Wm. McGoun (law stenographer), Patrick J. O'Brien (law stenographer), Joseph O. Marceau (law student), A. E. Phelan (law stenographer), Joseph Papineau (law stenographer), and Henry S. Stafford (law and general reporter), are incorporated as “The Law Stenographers' Association of the Province of Quebec,” with power to appoint, annually, a board of five examiners to examine stenographers and grant them certificates to practise in the courts, such examinations to be held half-yearly; provided that the incorporates, above named, shall, before the end of August, 1881, be examined by a provisional board, consisting of a prothonotary and two barristers understanding shorthand; and provided that any other persons, besides those above named, shall have the right to be examined in August next, by this provisional board, augmented by the addition of two members of the Association who have passed the examination.

Section 2 provides that every person whomsoever, of good character and general education, shall, on passing the examination, payment of fees, and compliance with by-laws, receive a certificate to practice stenography in the courts.

Section 3 empowers the association to make by-laws, consistent with the Act, for governing the association, electing officers, fixing meetings, regulating examinations, and granting certificates; provided that no lower test of speed shall be fixed than 130 words a minute and no higher than 150 words a minute; the

test to be applied in the way of dictation from ordinary matter for five consecutive minutes.

By section 4, certificates under the Act shall be retained until the holder be convicted of any criminal offence, or until he acts dishonestly or with gross negligence in his duties as a stenographer, or against the interests of the profession, in any of which cases he may have his certificate forfeited or suspended by the board.

By section 5, the certificates are to be sealed with the seal of the association and to be signed by the president and secretary.

By section 6, the secretary must furnish the prothonotaries with lists of certificate holders under the Act.

Section 7 provides that certificated stenographers shall certify the depositions under an oath of office, and that they shall hand the depositions to the prothonotaries, who shall pay the stenographers their fees monthly, and secure same by deposits from the attorneys at the commencement of the evidence in cases, and that the rate of stenographers' fees shall not be changed without the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in council.

By section 8 the prothonotaries must not allow uncertificated persons to practise stenography in the courts; but, under pain of committal for contempt of court, no certificated stenographer shall refuse his services in a case without reasonable cause.

Section 9 inflicts a penalty on any person practising as a law court stenographer unless he has a certificate; and it provides that he shall not recover payment for such stenographic work.

The promoters of the Act gave the usual newspaper and *Official Gazette* notices of intention to apply for the Act; they drew up the Bill above summarized; they framed a petition in support of it, and got such petition signed by the leading Queen's Counsel and barristers of Montreal; and, with a view to strengthening it still further, they endeavored to get the endorsement of the judges. Meanwhile, however, a strong opposition manifests itself. This opposition is brought to bear by the incompetent men and their patrons, augmented by certain so-called stenographers who are employed in certain law offices at small salaries under terms by which a so-called stenographer,—in addition to performing ordinary office work,—acts as a court stenographer in his employer's cases, and, instead of personally taking the stenographic fees earned in such cases, allows them to pass into the coffers of his employer.

These opponents of the movement for improvement went so far as to break in upon the meetings of the newly organized association; and, by virtue of their numbers, they professed to take charge of and control such meetings, and passed resolutions,—subsequently publishing the same,—condemnatory of all attempts to bring about a change. In the midst of all this, certain of the judges, to whom the association's proposals for improvement were submitted, declared themselves neutral in the matter. About the same

time the Montreal Bar were holding meetings in connection with their proposed Act for amending procedure, and, on the understanding that the system of taking evidence by stenography would be dealt with and improved in the new Procedure Act, the Law Stenographers' Association agreed to withdraw their bill for incorporation, at all events for the time being.

During the past winter, the subject of stenography has again come up at some of the meetings held by the Montreal Bar for considering the means of improving the administration of justice in the Province of Quebec; and it is now generally understood that suggestions will be submitted to the Local House during the present session with a view to some improvement. The general impression is that there will be official appointments on some similar basis to that so successfully adopted and carried out in Ontario. If, however, the present session of the Quebec Legislature should pass by without any action being taken in the matter, it will certainly be in order for the Quebec Law Stenographers' Association to press forward their bill for incorporation at the next session.

A BAD BREAK—WITH A LESSON.

A Washington despatch to the *Chicago Tribune* contains an interesting and instructive account of a huge shorthand task undertaken without the requisite preliminary precautions, resulting, as might be expected, in disappointment to both parties to the contract. The despatch says:—

"Another of Speaker Keifer's official acts has had an unfortunate result. Some days ago he removed the official stenographer to committees, Mr. Hayes, who had held that position for a number of years, and appointed a man named Dawson. The matter created a little stir at the time, and it will be remembered the venerable Alexander Stephens introduced a resolution, which is now being considered by the Judiciary Committee, inquiring into the authority of the Speaker to make the removal. Keifer's excuse was that Hayes was the stenographer of the Associated Press, and as such was not the proper person to hold the confidential position of committee stenographer. Dawson was assigned to take the report of the proceedings and testimony in the Shipherd investigation, although there appears to have been some doubt in the minds of members of the committee as to his ability to make a proper report, and it is an open secret that one member (Belmont, of New York) personally employed Mr. Hayes to make a report for his (Belmont's) use, because of fear that Dawson was unequal to the task. This morning the printed report of testimony made from Dawson's notes was submitted to the committee, and was found to be grossly inaccurate—"worse than useless," as one member expressed it. Shipherd first called attention to it, and declined to proceed with his testimony unless it was properly recorded. Rice, Blount, Belmont, and

other members of the committee agreed with Shipherd that the record was practically useless. Dawson, the stenographer, made an explanation. The substance of which was that he was out of practice, and had found it difficult to secure the requisite help in transcribing his notes. In view of the severe criticisms of members of the committee, he declined to act as stenographer any longer, and suggested that his predecessor, Mr. Hayes, be reinstated. This, of course, could not be agreed to, as Hayes was not an officer of the House, and the only thing that could be done was for the committee to adjourn, which they did. The friends of the Speaker claim that he was imposed on in regard to the appointment of Dawson, who was represented to him as a man of first-class ability, and was backed by extraordinary influence. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Dawson, who is an estimable gentleman, and who explained to the committee that he had been for a considerable length of time out of practice, and believed that in the course of a few weeks he should be able to do correct and accurate work. The Chairman expressed himself very kindly toward him.

"At a subsequent session Shipherd begged the indulgence of the committee for the purpose of calling attention to the official reports of the proceedings. He said: "I have been examining this morning the hundred pages or more of printed evidence, as prepared from the notes of the official reporter, and I find many omissions and many glaring inaccuracies. I must protest against the inconsistencies and gross absurdities which I noted in this printed evidence, which has just been received from the Public Printer. I find more than twenty mistakes on a single page."

"Messrs. Rice, Belmont, and others of the committee expressed dissatisfaction at the official reports, and thought some means should be adopted to secure correct reports of the proceedings before the committee.

"Mr. Shipherd stated that upon careful examination each day he found the Associated Press reports as nearly accurate as could be desired, and as it was a matter of some importance, inasmuch as the evidence would be submitted to the House and the country, that the investigation should be reported correctly, he would suggest the propriety of revising the official reports, using the Associated Press reports as a basis.

"The official reporter recently appointed to supersede Mr. Hayes desired to make a statement, and explained that he was out of practice on assuming the duties of official reporter, and had engaged an assistant, who would relieve him during the morning.

"The Chairman inquired if the gentleman whom he had engaged was a reporter, and upon replying in the negative he turned to Hayes, who was present to report the proceedings for the Associated Press, and requested him to make the official report. Hayes declined, for the reason that he was not under oath, and was moreover engaged for the Associated Press."

The above despatch has a pretty strong bias,

which is particularly manifest in the paragraph alluding to the accuracy of the "Associated Press" reports, and we feel quite safe in presuming that the inspiration came from Mr. Hayes, who would naturally be piqued at the appointment of Mr. Dawson. The latter—whose full name is Noble E. Dawson—was private secretary to General Grant in his trip to Mexico, and did considerable reporting in the West in years gone by.

Journalists are prone to moralize upon serious subjects, and write apostrophes upon catastrophes. We have undertaken to point out one lesson to be learned from the above incident. The lesson is for the politicians, and is this:—*Appointments of stenographers should be made entirely regardless of politics.* If the best man happens to be a political "friend," very well; but if he be a political enemy, why should he not be appointed? The profession of stenography does not offer sinecures to party "hacks;" it calls for, and demands, skilled labor, special talents, and peculiar fitness by education. It cannot become a rendezvous for worn-out politicians, like so many other branches of the Civil Service in all countries. Stenographers should not be strong partisans, and never are—at least in this Dominion. If there is anything in the Constitution of the Republic which sanctions or encourages the election of stenographers because of their political leaning, the profession should take steps towards a constitutional amendment.

There are some minor lessons to be learned from the above event. They may be briefly summarized thus:—(1) It is possible for a shorthand writer to get "rusty," therefore he who would compete must repeat. (2) It is well not to go into deep water till you have learned to swim—comfortably. (3) First-class reporting facilities, and skilled assistants, are essential to good work. (4) Let all stenographers be humble, for accidents sometimes happen in the best-regulated families.

SHORTHAND IN CHICAGO.

BY FRANK VEIGH.

If there is a marked peculiarity about the average Chicagoan, it is in his boasting proclivities and his unstinted praise of his native city. He has no hesitation in declaring that Chicago is not only the hub of the west, but in many respects it is the undisputed hub of the universe, with a mass of radiating spokes on which are inscribed "pork," "enterprise," "beer," "music,"—and an additional supremacy in "wickedness," and "mud," might well be claimed. And now comes the Chicago shorthand professor—Dan Brown, as he is familiarly called—and claims a spoke on which he has inscribed "Chicago, the centre of the shorthand world!" A few days ago while in Chicago I climbed up a flight of stairs in the Athenæum building, and found myself in a large room where a number of ladies and gentlemen were busy manipulating the keys in a score or more of typewriters, and exercising a number of sharp-

pointed Fabers. In a cosy little office adjoining the school-room, I had the pleasure of meeting the shorthand firm of Brown & Holland. The Professor, as Mr. Brown calls himself, is a true and earnest disciple of Phonography, and boasts of as much enthusiasm for the art, after nineteen years' experience as a reporter, as when he first began to manufacture pot-hooks and curves *a la* Benn Pitman. Mrs. Holland, his business partner, is an active, bustling little American lady, and bears an enviable reputation as a most accomplished and proficient shorthand writer.

At present there is a decided boom in the art in Chicago, but only really good writers are wanted—not those who have a theoretical knowledge of shorthand and a meagre business education. There is a steady demand for writers, but the salaries are by no means massive. They range from \$50 to \$100 per month. The ladies are fast becoming a numerous, and, of course, highly important element in the profession, the universal use of the type-writer doing away with the trouble they would otherwise experience with their unbusiness-like handwriting.

It is certainly gratifying to see this prosperity in the West, and no true lover of the art will either demur at the assertion of Messrs. Brown and Holland, that Chicago is the bright star in the phonographic heaven, or object to wishing them and all the members of the profession in the West a hearty "God speed."

PHONETICS.

BY PROF. J. H. BROWN, BELLEVILLE.

How shall we best bring about spelling reform? This is a question of vital importance to all who take any interest in phonetics. While I am convinced that the primary aim of orthography should be to analyze sentences into words, words into syllables, and syllables into sounds, that each character should have a fixed sound, and that no sound should have more than one sign to represent it, yet I believe that if we are going to bring about a system of spelling more phonetic than our present one, it must be accomplished by degrees.

To the ardent admirers of a reform in spelling this may appear dilatory; but when we consider the enormous difficulties that present themselves against the advocacy of a sudden and complete revolution in the representation of our language; the converting of the masses of people, who know little of its phonetic principle and care less about it, and convincing them of the desirability of its utility—the adoption of such a course is, I think, impossible. We want to consider the possibility of producing practically effective results in the initiatory step of spelling reform by still retaining the Roman alphabet as a basis of such phonetic construction.

If all the English-speaking people on the earth, or if the English-speaking people of one country, were willing and ready for the inaugu-

ration of phonetic system of spelling, then the introduction of a new and purely phonetic alphabet would be advisable. But we are forced to admit that that time, though devoutly wished for, is not come. I am ready to confer all honor to the pioneers in the cause of spelling reform. The originators and promoters of any reform have difficulties to contend with, unknown to its disciples; but is there not a tendency oftentimes, while handling reforms in their infancy, through over zeal in the cause to attempt too much, and thus endanger or retard the progress of it?

The alphabet used by Mr. Pitman is possibly as good as, if not better than, other alphabets I have seen, but its general appearance is so different from the existing one that few outside of those directly interested in phonetics read it with any degree of fluency or for pleasure. In my opinion *this* has retarded the cause of spelling reform, possibly more than many are aware of. Even if we had a phonetic alphabet in general use, great care would have to be taken that the writing of language would be phonetically correct. In an article in the *Phonetic Journal* before me, the word *little* is written "litel." This certainly is not correct. In speaking the word the tongue does not leave the front part of the upper gum after taking the position for "t" until "l" is sounded, while if "e" or any other vowel were spoken there must be no obstruction of the sound. "*Possible*" is also written "*possibel*," while in the articulation there is no sound of "e." My conviction is that we must adopt a few reforms in the beginning; if possible get our public journals to use them, and we will have laid a foundation for spelling reform. We must get in the thin end of the wedge first—work upon the principle that half a loaf is better than none, and we shall slowly but surely pave a way to the final goal of triumph.

It has been my duty for several years to teach our alphabet phonetically, with its various combinations and peculiarities, to children who have never heard a sound, and no one has experienced the want of harmony, its defects, inconsistencies, and redundancies more than I. The work of teaching the various sounds is accomplished by the aid of *visible speech*. After that is done I introduce the common Roman letters, which they learn to sound simultaneously with their practice of the symbols taught. On account of the very unphonetic character of the alphabet, I make use of a few diacritical marks to distinguish the different sounds of the one letter. Thus in all cases where the sound of "s" is the same as that of "z" it may be represented with a dot as "s," examples--as, has. In all cases where "c" has a soft sound it is written thus c. "Th" voiced is written th a small stroke under it. All silent letters are crossed out. If the writing were on paper the pen would be drawn through such letters as "a" in "meat" and "e" in "some."

These may appear of little consequence, but

having used them constantly for the last two years I am firm in my belief of their utility. Of course objections may be made to them on account of the almost similar appearance to other sounds of the same letter, and thus make it more difficult for small children; but when a pupil can distinguish "p" "q" "d" and "b" from one another, and "u" from "n," they will readily recognize the distinction between the new letters; for the "p" "d" and "b" are the same letter in different positions, and the "u" is "n" turned upside down.

The task of teaching reading by the phonic method can be accomplished in less than half the time compared with the word method, with infinitely more satisfactory articulation, and purer intonation.

"W" AND "Y."

BY R. FIELDER, MONTREAL.

Professor Brown's remarks on "W" and "Y," in the March WRITER, though very interesting, are scarcely so definite as one would wish.

When he speaks of "Y" having *three* sounds, he is evidently thinking of the ordinary alphabet, not the phonetic one. Now, the question he undertook to answer relates to the phonetic alphabet alone.

It would be absurd for me to set up as an authority in such matters, but it seems to me that in the phonetic alphabet "W" represents *two* sounds. When "W" immediately precedes the light or heavy sound of "oo," as in the examples, "swoon," "would," it represents (if I am not in error) a diphthong commencing with the light sound of "oo," as in "foot," and ending with a near approach to the sound of "u" in "but"—say the vanishing sound of "e" in "like." When "W" immediately precedes any other sound than "oo" light or heavy, it represents the simple vowel sound of "oo" light, as a trial will, I think, convince.

"Y" also represents *two* sounds in the phonetic alphabet. When it immediately precedes short "i" or long "e," it—in my opinion, at any rate—represents a diphthong commencing with short "u" and ending with a near approach to "u" in "but"—say the sound of "e" in "like." In all other cases it simply represents the sound of short "i."

Now, if I am right we could dispense with "W" and "Y" in all cases where they do not represent the diphthongs above-mentioned—but that we *should* do so, or that we could dispense with them *altogether*, I am not prepared to say.

"The most successful phonographers are indebted to the use of three tools for their proficiency in shorthand, and I would advise all learners to employ the same. What claws are to a lion, these are to a man in the acquisition of useful knowledge; they are, Study, Practice, and Perseverance.—George Buckley, in *Phonetic Journal*."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

This number completes the second volume of the WRITER. Its course during the past few months has been somewhat erratic in point of time, owing to the exacting and exhausting demands made on time and energy by a rapidly-developing printing, publishing, and artistic business in which the conductor of the WRITER was a partner. A joint-stock company has been recently formed under the name of the "Grip Printing and publishing Co. of Toronto," which has purchased this business, formerly carried on by Bengough, Moore & Bengough, at 57 Adelaide Street, East, excepting the Phonographic Department. The latter has been transferred to us, and will be carried on and developed under the name of "Bengough's Shorthand Bureau," at No. 11 King-Street West. Suitable offices have been secured on this leading thoroughfare, a few yards from its intersection with Yonge-Street—the other principal street of the city. Our head-quarters are within five minutes walk of every banking and wholesale house in the city, while all manufacturing and retail establishments can be readily reached by street cars, constantly passing. Here, amid the bustle of actual life, in the very heart of the metropolis—the shorthand centre of the Dominion—we propose to develop a business which is unique in Canada. Every branch of the shorthand business will have its due share of attention. Books and magazines, representing all systems, will be kept in stock. Instruction in shorthand—from its initiatory steps to the advanced stages of actual reporting—will be given. Contracts will be taken for all kinds of reporting. Type-writing will be taught; new type-writers and calligraphs bought and sold, and old ones sold, exchanged, and loaned for practice. Situations will be procured for shorthanders who can write and correctly transcribe notes dictated at 100 words per minute. Reporters' stationery, type-writing supplies, and every requisite to the profession, will be kept in stock; and last, though by no means least, the COSMOPOLITAN will be issued as regularly, it is hoped, as the months come round. Phonographers will be always welcomed, whether they come on business or for pleasure; and information will be cheerfully given to strangers in regard to the city. Carpet-bags and umbrellas taken care of—and returned. Seats free. No collection. Come and see us.

Prof. Brown's article on Phonetics is, in our opinion, a valuable contribution to the literature of this subject. There is in Canada at the present time an almost utter absence of interest in Phonetics, and he who would attempt a radical revolution of present methods would signally fail, except in exciting active opposition and retarding the movement. That a reform of our orthography is coming, and must come, is as sure, to our thinking, as that shorthand writing will take the place of the old-fashioned long-hand; but the start must be a very humble

one. Prof. Brown's proposition is quite reasonable, and is one that many journals in this country—our own included—would be ready to adopt, if the necessary type could be obtained. Mr. Lindsley, author of "Tackigraphy," uses no new letters, and takes a moderate middle course, which commends itself to those who may be prejudiced against the phonetic letters, which, at the best, are difficult to read.

We fear a "Professor of Phonographic Etiquette" will soon be required, to train young and aspiring shorthand writers how to behave themselves. We have been made acquainted with the details of a case in which an ambitious genius responded to the advertisement of a mercantile firm in this city in a penmanship which, while presumably his own, was written by a friend who had the faculty of handling the pen with much more skill. Not content with this deception, he professed to possess a speed of 125 words per minute, but utterly broke down at 80, unable to take down correctly, and transcribing his notes in a wretched scrawl, embodying gross mis-spelling and a complete jumble of ideas. Another case has come to our ears in which the candidate, professing a speed of 125 words, was quite unable to read his notes, and soon received instructions from the office that he was no longer required. This species of deception is unpardonable. Apart, however, from its moral aspect, it is silly in the extreme. Business men are not such fools as to observe no difference between honest work and pretence, and as soon as the deception is discovered the shorthand writer must leave, and leave with a stain upon his reputation—a stain which he cannot wipe out. Injury is done also to the profession, and business men are apt to pass severe, though unwarranted, judgment upon phonographers in general, on account of their disappointment in particular cases. There are two redeeming features of this unpleasant development: (1) the business men concerned in these cases, and their friends to whose knowledge these cases of deception may come, will be much more guarded and critical in future in the engagement of shorthand writers, and hence the liability of the repetition of similar errors will be reduced to the minimum; and (2) higher salaries than those paid to inexperienced and incompetent phonographers will be paid for good honest work.

"I have to thank your Bureau for the excellent sit. I have here, and hope it may be the means of helping many another young aspirant into lucrative employment."
G. B.

The Leeds telegraphic staff are receiving high honors for having transmitted to the London papers on one night of the Gladstone ovation over half a million of words. One London paper took a special train with a parlor car, for its staff to London, the instant the banquet was over. The entire report was finished on the arrival of the train in London, and a mounted messenger flew with it to the compositors.

NEWS NOTES.

CANADIAN.

Mr. Fred W. Wodell, of the *Hamilton Spectator*, has abandoned single blessedness and gone in for a double share. We congratulate him.

Mr. Geo. L. Thomsone, who was placed, through our Bureau, with Messrs. Rose & Co., barristers, and subsequently with Messrs. Leys, Pearson & Kingsford, has taken a lucrative position in Chicago. We rejoice in his success, and trust he will have plenty of it.

Mr. W. Houston, M. A., who for a number of years has occupied a prominent position on the editorial staff of the *Toronto Globe*, has resigned it to take charge of the *Canada School Journal* and to edit the educational publications of the well-known publishing house of W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto.

Mr. Harold Brown, recently law reporter on the *Mail*, has taken a position as correspondent with Alex. Smith & Sons' Carpet Co., Yonkers, N. Y. The Company employs thirty-six hands, and the establishment is the life of the beautiful little city of Yonkers. Mr. B. is well pleased with his position and prospects.

At the recent convocation of McGill College, Montreal, Mr. James Crankshaw, Secretary of the English Phonetic Society for Canada, received the degree of B. C. L., with honors, being only six points behind the winner of the gold medal. As Mr. Crankshaw was engaged as stenographer almost up to the commencement of convocation, the result is very creditable to him.

Mr. Arbuckle Jardine, for many years stenographer with Wm. Ramsay & Co., wholesale grocers, this city, has gone to Winnipeg to fill a very lucrative berth in a liquor store. Mr. Jardine learned shorthand at the solicitation of Mr. R. K. Burgess, of the above firm, and Mr. Burgess believes that Messrs. Ramsay & Co. were the first firm in Toronto who regularly employed a shorthand writer.

The annual dinner of the Press Gallery came off at Ottawa on the 1st inst., and was, as usual, largely attended and a most enjoyable affair. The speeches showed much ability, wit, and originality. As significant of the democratic tendencies among the gallery men, it may be mentioned that nothing excited more enthusiastic applause than when a speaker expressed his conviction that "we should grow our own Governor-General."

Mr. Yeigh's article on Shorthand in Chicago hints at a development in the direction of type-writing as a substitute for unbusiness-like (though lady-like) longhand. The penmanship taught to youths in the schools and commercial colleges at present will not do for business, and if the method of instruction cannot be completely revolutionized, writing-machines—by whatever names they may be called—must supersede pens for business correspondence.

A deputation from the Ontario Press Association, consisting of Mr. Pense, of the *Kingston Whig*, Mr. Traves, of the *Port Hope Times*, and Mr. Hough of the *Cobourg World*, recently had an interview with Hon. Messrs. O'Connor, Tilley, Campbell, and Bowell, and urged the propriety of abolishing the postage on newspapers within the counties where they are published. The ministers admitted the reasonableness of the request, and the deputation are satisfied that their representations have not been without effect. The revenue collected from newspapers is only \$47,000 in the whole Dominion.

Mr. Seymour R. Eaton, late Commercial Master of Pickering College, and Mr. James R. Lindsay, late teacher of Book-keeping, Arithmetic and Phonography in the British American Business College, Toronto, have established a Business College and English Training School in the City of Winnipeg. They give instruction in the various branches common to such institutions, and also help young men to positions in the North-West. Their fee for tuition in Phonography is \$20 for the session of three months. We commend Messrs. Eaton & Lindsay to the confidence of young men in the North-West. The latter is a writer of *Graham's Phonography*.

The foreman of a Montreal paper is in trouble. In making up his forms he mixed an article, *Catholic Advances in Africa*, with a receipt for making tomato catsup, and has been dodging the editorial shotgun ever since. As published, the article reads: "The Roman Catholics claim to be making material advances in Africa, particularly in Algeria, where they have 185,000 adherents, and a missionary society for Central Africa. During the past three years they have obtained a firm footing in the interior of the Continent, and have sent forth several missionaries into the equatorial regions. They are accustomed to begin their work by buying heathen children and educating them. The easiest and best way to prepare them is to first wipe them with a clean towel; then place them in dripping-pans and bake them till they are tender. Then you will have no difficulty in rubbing them through a sieve, and will save them by not being obliged to cut them in slices and cook for several hours."

The Montreal *Witness* has the following reference to the difficulties between the legal and stenographic professions in that city:—"A few days since the prothonotaries published for the benefit of the stenographers practising in the civil courts, a code of rules to govern them in future. The preamble of this enactment stated that whereas sundry complaints had been received from the judges of delays in receiving the evidence from the stenographers, in future the rules following will prevail. One of these rules was that no stenographer should take evidence for longer than half a day at a time, and that he should not again write in the Court until these notes had been transcribed. The stenographers were divided up and three French

and three English appointed for each division of the Court for this term, the order named to be observed. This morning the first case under the new arrangement came up. A stenographer employed in the office of one of the lawyers in the case took the stenographer's chair near the witness box, and when told to make way for the stenographer appointed, declined. Mr. Duhamel, Q. C., then pointed out that the stenographer was a law student in his office and received no salary. He desired to give him the benefit of taking the evidence in the firm's cases. Mr. MacMaster also claimed that the rules were illegal, for the law provided that the Prothonotary could only appoint a stenographer when the lawyers disagreed on the choice of one. His Honor then allowed the stenographer the counsel appointed to take the evidence. The question has created a good deal of interest both among the lawyers and stenographers."

BRITISH.

A hideously indecent expression was interpolated in the London *Times* report of a recent speech by Sir Wm. Harcourt. The matter was made worse by a subsequent apology and a statement that the management of the *Times* hoped to bring the guilty parties to justice. This increased the morbid curiosity of the prurient, and copies of the issue referred to were sold for £1 each. It is said that twenty compositors and two proof-readers were discharged from the *Times* office. The low weekly papers reprinted the report verbatim, and these papers were sold by thousands in the streets.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The progress of shorthand in this country is simply *nil*. There are no stenographers employed, and therefore no salaries paid. We have not as yet risen to the importance of shorthand in this Pacific Province. I am not aware of even an amateur of the art except your humble servant, D. R.

AMERICAN.

Mr. H. L. Lantz, from Manhattan, Kansas, has accepted the position as stenographer to E. Wilder, Treasurer of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., Topeka, Kan. Mr. Lantz is a young steno. of much promise.

Saml. Gardenhire resigns his position as steno. to the Governor of Kansas, and goes into the more lucrative (?) practice of law. His position as steno. to the Governor is to be filled by our friend Mr. F. O. Popenoe, formerly of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., who well deserves the honor implied in the change. Congratulations.

"A destructive fire broke out in the stenograph department of the *Inquirer* Publishing Co's building, in Lancaster, Pa., on the 26th Jan. The fire quickly spread through the entire building, and it was completely destroyed." — *Printer's Miscellany*. What in the world does this paragraph really mean? What is contained in the "stenograph" department of a publishing house that is so inflammable? Had the

stenographers red hair, or were they writing so fast that day as to cause sparks to fly from their pens? We don't understand it; perhaps some ingenious friend will suggest a solution of the riddle.

LITERARY NOTES.

The *Notre Dame Scholastic*, of Notre Dame, Ind., one of the liveliest and most ably conducted college papers in America, has donned a handsome new dress.

Mr. Thos. Anderson's *History of Shorthand*, with a review of its present condition and prospects in Europe and America, has been issued in England. The work is very comprehensive in its scope, and must prove a very valuable addition to the library of every stenographer who takes an interest in the literature of the art-science.

Owing to illness, and other causes, the *Printers' Miscellany* fell behind in its date of publication, and Editor Finlay is issuing double numbers in order to gain time. The Feb.-Mch. number contains an interesting summary of the newspaper History of Quebec, translated for the *Miscellany* from the French by permission of the author, Horace Fetu.

AN HONEST CONFESSION.

MONTREAL, 8TH MARCH, 1882.

Editor COSMOPOLITAN:—When I undertake to teach our beautiful art (which I very seldom do), I make a point of giving my pupil all the good advice I can—even if I steal it. I was under the impression that, whenever I did steal, I always acknowledged the theft, like an honest man, but, by the February number of your valuable magazine, I find I am a greater humbug than I suspected.

It is true you did not receive the contribution "Fast speakers and How to Keep up with them" directly from me; but the friend who did hand it to you was evidently under the impression that it was my composition. I remember copying it from a magazine published some years ago, and in re-copying it for my friend, and slightly altering one or two sentences, I suppose I must have omitted to acknowledge the source whence it came.

It contains excellent advice for young aspirants to stenographic fame—a few printer's errors notwithstanding—and you did well to reproduce it; but "Honor to whom honor is due." I deserve great credit for stealing it, but that is about all I had to do with it.

Yours respectfully,
R. FIELDER.

A San Francisco journalist claims to have written one column per day for the last eighteen years. This amount of manuscript would make about 50,000,000 ems, printer's measurement, and would fill 1,500 octavo pages of solid nonpareil.

STENOGRAPHIC BLUNDERS.

There is some good reading in the report of the New York State Stenographers' Association for 1881. From a paper on "Blunders," by F. J. Morgan, of Syracuse, we extract the following as ludicrous instances of stenographic interpretation and transcriptions therefrom:

Gross receipts—Grocery seats. The mother's prayer—The matters prior. He was a little fellow—He was a little full. They captured two parrot guns—They captured two pirate guns. The woman was baking bread—The woman was begging bread. I found the horse in that pasture—I found the horse in that posture. Counsel offered paper in evidence—Counsel brought pauper in evidence. Arthur Waite, the chalk-talk evangelist—Arthur Waite, the Choctaw evangelist. The showers were not sufficient to meet the wants of millmen—wants of milkmen. In the intervening time he said nothing—in the entire evening time he said nothing. I came with my brothers, Horace and Henry—I came with my brother's horse and Henry. A medical witness, speaking of the illness of a lady patient, said: "She appeared to be somewhat unstrung and nervous." The transcriber made him say, "She appeared to be somewhat kneesprung and nervous." A minister, preaching a sermon on the death of a gentleman named Samuel, quoted: "And buds and blossoms in the dust." He was delighted to read in the next issue of the paper: "And buds and blows Sam in the dust." An attorney asked a female witness how she came to be employed by plaintiff, and she answered: "I saw a sign in the window, 'Female clerks wanted here.'" The blundering reporter rendered it: "Family color warranted here." An orator referred to the different religious sects or denominations "going for one another" throughout the country, and said: "Here we have one sect persecuting another," and was so reported, but the transcriber rendered it: "Here we have one sick person feeding another," and so it appeared in the morning papers.

Several years ago an eminent lawyer hired one of these professors to take testimony in an important case. The transcribed minutes astonished him. A "patent," upon which much depended in the suit, was converted into a "potentate"; a "solid frame" was turned into an "isolated farm"; the "furnaces of this country" were set down as "Fenians of this country"; "clerks and bartenders" were made into "clocks and barometers"; and the question, "Were you in the habit of visiting the house?" was written, "Were you in the habit of fastening the hose?" [Mr. Morgan should, in justice to the stenographers, have pointed out that such "blunders" as the first one—"grocery seats" for "gross receipts," are partly the fault of the dictator.]

Editor Samuel J. Medill, the backbone of the *Chicago Tribune*, lives in an elegant flat on the North Side.

FIGURE ABBREVIATIONS.

BY THOMAS ALLAN REED, IN THE REPORTER'S MAGAZINE.

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| 5-   | 500   | 5  | 5000    |
| 15-  | 1500  | 54 | 54000   |
| 726- | 72600 | 1- | 100,000 |
|      |       | 5- | 500,000 |

16- 1,600,000

Handwritten shorthand notes and symbols, including '6020' and '24000'.

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| 1.  | £1   | 20% | £20,000    |
| 10. | £10  | 3-  | £30,000    |
| 5-  | £500 | 12- | £1,200,000 |

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LEAVES FROM REPORTERS' NOTE BOOKS.

FAC-SIMILE OF REPORTING NOTES OF THOS. J. RICHARDSON, EX-CONTRACTOR, "HANSARD" DEBATES, HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA.

a y . ) w e s h ' u s  
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