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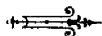
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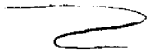
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Joseph Wild



THE CANADIAN

ILLUSTRATED

SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1881.

No. 11.

Editorial and Contributed.

OVER-CROWDING THE RANKS.

IN the February number of the WRITER there appeared a letter from "Protectionist," in which he expressed alarm at the rapidly increasing number of shorthand writers and fears that employers will reduce salaries when they find they can get 75 words per minute men at \$35 per month. We have young men in Canada who write this speed and will work at lower rates, yet our first-class writers have no fear of being supereded; they feel that the young aspirant has the same rugged steps to climb that they have with patient assiduity surmounted, and that his only method of getting a footing is to offer his services at a nominal figure and fight his way inch by inch until he has reached the same vantage ground, when they know full well he will estimate his services, as he does now, at their proper value. There is, and always will be, ample room at the top.

THE CANADIAN "HANSARD."

THE GREATEST OFFICIAL REPORT IN THE WORLD.

Such is the Opinion of the House of Commons—A Herculean Task—The Difficulties Caused by the Use of Two Languages Overcome—Contrasts with Other Parliamentary Reports—Triumph of Canadian Skill.

THE following is a very condensed report of the debate on the present system of official reporting in the House of Commons by permanent reporters who are officers of the House. The discussion took place on February 17th:—

Mr. ROSS said:—The task of reporting in English and French is a herculean task. It is something that has never been achieved in any Legislature in the world before, either as to quantity, excellence or rapidity of execution. The experiment we are now practising is a new one. I think it has met with a marvellous success.

Mr. CHARLTON.—I presume that some hon. gentlemen may not be aware that the report of the debates of this House, which is now being

issued, is the most voluminous of that of any legislative body at the present time. I believe that the *Hansard* staff of the English House of Commons employs a staff of eighteen reporters, though it is not as voluminous as ours. The amount of the work which the reporters of this House perform is very much greater according to the number employed, than is performed by the staff of the United States Congress, or, in fact, of any other legislative body that I am aware of. I think, taking into account the amount of work which is done, and the pressure which has been placed upon the reporters during the heavy debates which have taken place this session, we must conclude that the work has been extremely well done.

Mr. BLAKE said the reporting had been satisfactory, but the proof-reading was defective.

Mr. JONES.—I say with regard to the whole work, that the speeches made in this Chamber are wonderfully well reported, that everything about the report is well done.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell) and Mr. MILLS offered some practical suggestions as to the further improvement of the work by strengthening the staff and securing accurate proof-reading.

Mr. PLUMB.—I have no doubt that every member who addresses the House has found a great deal of satisfaction in the prompt manner in which his speeches have appeared in the *Hansard* within a few hours, and he has found also that the reporting is, in the main, exceedingly satisfactory. I understand that during the great stress that was thrown upon the staff during the long debates we have had, and the more than usual amount of business they had thrown upon them at the outset, they have been greatly overworked. My own impression is that if this thing is worth doing well, that the best talent should be employed for the purpose, that it should be properly remunerated, and that we should not attempt to get too much work out of these gentlemen who are doing us an excellent service. I have reason to suppose that the staff is very much overworked. I have reason to believe that it would be very much better if the House should enlarge it somewhat. I do not think there is any one in the House who would like to go back to the old system of not having the official reporters on the floor of the House. I, for one, wish to bear my testimony to the thoroughness and promptness with

which, as a whole, the reports have been made. Since I rose to speak, I have handed to me a memorandum which is exactly in the direction in which I have ventured to make these few remarks. This memorandum, I think I may take the liberty of saying, has been handed to me by the chief of the staff, since I have been on my feet:—

"All that is required to perfect the report is to slightly strengthen the staff. That is all we ask. Let the Committee do this, and corrections will be reduced to almost nothing. Members will then have no trouble, and the extra cost will almost be saved in printer's corrections." That is my judgment, and I hope it will meet with the approval of the House, and that liberty will be granted to the Committee to so strengthen the staff so as to bring about what is suggested here by the very excellent superintendent of the staff, Mr. Bradley, than whom there is no better or more efficient man that I know of engaged in the practice of stenography.

Mr. HUNTINGTON.—We are so peculiarly situated that, as has been well said, the labors of the *Hansard* staff are greater and more efficient than elsewhere. The reporting being in the two languages, the labor is very great.

OUR EVER-CIRCULATOR.

We have received a number of communications from readers desiring to have the Ever-Circulator sent them. In many cases they have neglected to say what system they write. This is absolutely necessary, as we propose issuing one in each system. When this request is complied with, No. 1 will be issued.

PROFIT OF SHORTHAND WRITING.

ABOUT thirty years since I learned Pitman's System of Phonography. Twenty-five years ago I began an ever-circulator. Shorthand Writers then were very few, scarcely anybody pretended to teach it. The ever-circulator was at that time quite a godsend to many aspiring youths. Some of the oldest and best reporters will remember me as a sort of phonographic father. The state of things changed for the better, the facilities and advantages are now complete and generous. The colleges, schools and periodicals render it easy and the compensation makes it worth while one learning shorthand.

A few years ago I learned Graham's system and now I write a mixture of Graham's and Pitman's. I have studied several other systems but upon the whole I find Pitman's as good as any. The fact is any system depends very largely upon the person learning. A person needs to be a good penman in order to be an expert in phonography. The science of shorthand depends very much on practice. The science part anybody of ordinary brain may get, but the art part is very different and I think almost impossible for some.

To be a good verbatim reporter a person

wants to be a machine for the time being. He wants to be able to abstract himself from all surroundings—simply letting the sound of the speaker pass through his mind and so honestly record the same. It should be nothing to him whether the speaker is talking sense or nonsense, that he has nothing to do with. This inability to become a machine when needed is the reason why many can never report verbatim.

On the other hand if a person is called upon to report a speech topically then he needs to have a good mind, to be clear headed, qualified to be discriminating, and selective. He needs to know something of the subject about which the speaker is speaking. Topical reporting I regard as being far more difficult than verbatim. A reporter who has been accustomed to report political speeches in a condensed way, makes a poor effort in reporting a sermon at first. He does not understand the doctrines and definitions of Theology, hence his condensations are incongruent. The place and person have much to do with a reporter's ease of writing. One has to learn to hear in every place and to get accustomed to the speaker's voice and manner.

Phonography, like electricity and other discoveries, is being spread out over the needs and supplies of society. Without the telegraph one can hardly conceive how it would be possible to get along, especially in the running of railways. So it is equally as difficult to conceive how the press could be maintained without a knowledge of shorthand.

I am pleased to note the improvements and facilities in phonography. It surely must be a help, and a delight to all shorthand writers, to have such channels for communication as *THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER* and other journals. Wishing well to the reporting fraternity. I remain yours kindly.

JOSEPH WILD.

THE NEW COURT REPORTERS.

THE system of shorthand reporting in the Superior Courts of this Province has got beyond the experimental stage, and the recent changes made by the Government will go far to place it upon a lasting and satisfactory foundation. The principal fault in the working of the system was found in the fact that the permanent staff was not sufficiently large to overtake all the work, and consequently "extra" reporters had to be engaged every spring and autumn for the half-yearly sittings. The difficulty in obtaining first-class reporters at a moment's notice, and the frequent changes in their *personnel* made it evident that such a state of things was too precarious to be allowed to continue with safety. Accordingly the Government have increased the permanent staff by four additional reporters, making now eight for all the Courts, including Chancery. The new appointees are not, however, to be upon the same footing as regards salary, &c., as the original staff, and their time

will not be occupied further than by the assizes in the spring and fall. It is thought that this arrangement will do away with the necessity of employing extra help at any time, while it will very greatly increase the stability and efficiency of the system as a whole. The staff will now consist of Messrs. A. H. Crawford, E. E. Horton, R. Tyson and A. J. Henderson, of whom it has so far been composed, together with Messrs. Wallace Maclean, N. R. Butcher, J. Monahan and F. V. E. Dickson, the late appointees.

Mr. Maclean, who is a Canadian by birth, has been employed as one of the "extra" reporters almost ever since the time shorthand reporting was introduced into the Ontario Courts, and has besides had considerable newspaper experience. He writes Isaac Pitman's style. Mr. Maclean is a graduate of Toronto University.

Mr. Butcher is 23 years of age, Canadian by birth, former resident of London, Ont., where he learned shorthand; came to Toronto four years ago and commenced the practice of phonography in an Insurance and Loan office, which he left to enter the employ of Messrs. Blake, Kerr, Boyd & Cassels, where he has been for the past three years. He is a Grahamite.

Mr. Monahan is a native of Ireland, in which country he learned Isaac Pitman's style. On coming to this country, however, he discarded it in favor of Benn's, which he now writes. Mr. Monahan has been for some time employed as "extra" law reporter.

Mr. Dickson is a native of Canada, and a disciple of Benn Pitman. He also has had considerable experience in Court reporting.

PATRIOTIC STENOGRAPHERS.



THE pluck and patriotism of the Irish stenographers is well illustrated in the following paragraph, which, though a trifle out of date, will prove interesting to our readers. It is clipped from newspaper correspondence on the subject of the Irish trials:—

One of the most important links in the prosecution which up to the present was missing is the stenographic report of proceedings at the weekly meetings in the league offices, Dublin, without which it would be very difficult to sustain many of the indictments against the accused. All the Dublin reporters have invariably refused to furnish reports, but it is now revealed that the editor of the *Express*, an anti-league paper, has been preserving his reporter's copy of the proceedings since February and will hand it over to the Government. Four of the *Express* reporters have been subpoenaed. They say that they have destroyed their original notes, and will not, therefore, swear to the absolute accuracy of the reports. One *Express* reporter refused \$400 to report a meeting where a government stenographer was unavailable.

Selected.



THE CHICAGO TIMES ON STENOGRAPHY

THE art of stenography is one in which there is great need of improvement. At present it may be classified with the occult arts. No stenographer can be relied upon to read the notes taken by another. No stenographer can be relied upon to decipher his own notes with consciously unerring accuracy. It is of record in important cases that witnesses declared they had not said the words attributed to them by the shorthand writer, and it was impossible to determine whether the error should be credited to a weak recollection on the part of the witness, or to honest misunderstanding on the part of the stenographer, or to his erroneous interpretation of the hieroglyphics which appeared on his note-book. It is easy to see that contingencies might arise in which the most innocent error in the notes should do gross and irreparable wrong to one or the other party in an action; and so long as the present system of marks prevails it is difficult to perceive how these dangers are to be wholly avoided.

Nor are the stenographers held to the least responsibility. They may be honest; they may be scoundrels. They may be above the reproach

of a bribe; they may seek it; their general reputation is, however, excellent, and the instances in which the professional integrity of a shorthand writer has been successively called in question are conspicuously few. But, for maintenance of their reputation and their own protection against calumny, they should unite in any scheme which would insure greater accuracy in their notes, and would bring each writer's note-book perfectly within the comprehension of every other writer. This would necessitate a uniform system of marks and combinations. What system among all now in use is superior to the others, *The Times* will not undertake to say. Good work is, of course, done by all systems which are scientifically complete. But it is high time that the stenographers united in a determination to achieve a uniform system for universal employment in the United States. The obstacles are more apparent than substantial. A conference of representatives who are known to each other as experts could not fail to remove the numerous but trivial differences, which, small as they are constitute a Chinese wall, shutting out the writers of one school from the books of the others. Having reached uniformity, another step should be taken.

Professional and business men are constantly annoyed by amateur stenographers, who, having paid a large price for instruction in the art, are thoroughly incapable of practising it efficiently. The community should be saved from such imposition. Law schools are under the supervision of the state. Medical colleges are not qualified to open their doors to students without license. No person is permitted to begin the practice of law without a diploma from a law school recognized by the law, or, in lieu of it, without examination before duly-qualified experts. The same rule holds concerning the profession of medicine, and the compounding of prescriptions, and the extracting of teeth. It is not clear why the stenographer, upon whose capacity and integrity the gravest interests often depend, should not also be brought within the pale of the law. It is obviously the true good of stenography to seek that responsibility. The institutions in which the art is taught are often conducted by people little better than adventurers, for it is well known that many advertised "professors" of stenography are utterly incapable of making a trustworthy report of the slowest speech ever spoken at a funeral. They carry on the avocation of "professors" as a means of earning the livelihood they could not hope to acquire as experts. This class of charlatans should be driven into some other field where they would enjoy less opportunity for mischief at the expense of the entire community.

Only such schools of stenography as are managed by known experts should be licensed: only the diploma of such schools should entitle a stenographer to employment; or, in the absence of a diploma, no shorthand writer should be tolerated in making legal records who has not passed examination before a properly-constituted board of examiners. There are not in the country to-day nearly enough really trustworthy stenographers. There is an army of pretending stenographers who are infesting the offices of newspapers, lawyers, and merchants, and who are incapable of doing the simplest work of their craft in a perfectly reliable manner. The sooner they are gotten rid of, the better. No time should be lost in effecting a beginning toward a uniformity in notes. When that has been accomplished, the other reform will be easily brought about.

AUTHORSHIP.

(From the *Literari Lader*.)



TO many young men literature has great attractions. The desire to write an article, or a book, which shall be talked about is strong in everyone with a taste for literature; and under certain conditions it is a very laudable desire. It is additionally praiseworthy when the object is to communicate knowledge, or to promote the welfare of humanity. The impulse to write is unquestionably wide spread, and some questionable means have been taken to gratify the ambition

of those who desire to see themselves in print. An Association calling itself "The Literary Production Committee" was recently advertised, and those who desire to enter the pleasing field of literature without encountering those stumbling-blocks to genius and progress—"neglect and prejudice," were told that they would find in that Committee "a guide, philosopher, and friend." The principal objects of the Committee were stated to be:—1. The careful perusal by one or more members of every MS. submitted; 2. Advice as to construction of plot and style of diction; 3. Correction and revision by competent authors of standard reputation; 4. The introduction of suitable contributions to the editors of the leading magazines and journals; 5. The publication of such works as the Committee thought would pay. Ladies and gentlemen were invited to become honorary members of the Committee to pay three guineas entrance fee and subscribe two guineas. The "advantages" of becoming honorary members were stated to be: 1. That all MS. forwarded by members will be read, and advice and revision given free of charge; 2. Their contributions will have priority of consideration and publication; 3. A copy of every work published by the Committee will be forwarded, gratis; 4. All stationery, music, books, publications, will be procured for members at cost price. The Committee evidently did not receive many applications for membership, for they abolished the entrance fee, and reduced the subscription to one guinea.

Another Association of a similar nature is styled, "The British Literary Association," and its object is stated to be: To facilitate the publication of high-class literature by assisting authors (members) with monetary advances from the funds of the Association for the publication of their works. To all applicants for admission a membership form is forwarded, and a request to return it to the President with a fee of two guineas!

We do not assert that in all Associations are swindles, but we do advise caution in dealing with them, and especially with Committees; for one man may have a conscience, but a Committee rarely has. Writing in *Social Notes*, one who has fallen a victim to a specially-worded fraud, said:—

"Some years ago I purchased shares in a magazine which was brought out as a proprietary magazine. It appeared to be a *bona fide* concern, was well got up, had the usual staff of directors, managing director, auditors, etc., and I am bound to say that the letter of agreement, and the liabilities of shareholders strictly limited to their shares, was carried out, at least as far as I was individually concerned. The company started with a flourish of trumpets, with the promise of an unusually large percentage for the shareholders, and with many good but utterly unattainable objects in view. The shares had to be paid partially on application, partially on allotment, and the remainder by calls made at not less than fourteen days' notice. I paid my shares up as arranged, had my

MSS. accepted, with promise of so much payment per printed page on application. The magazine duly appeared for a few months, but it was too evidently doomed, as the veriest tyro could see. The managing director died, and the magazine collapsed. No redress could be obtained; neither, though I wrote many letters, could I get my MSS.,—which, needless to relate, were never inserted, much less paid for—returned. The only thing to be done was to look as pleasant as possible under the circumstances, to say with Shakespeare, "Write me down an ass," and to abjure for the future all tempting baits of a like nature."

Doubtless many others have shared a similar fate. This, at least, is true, that nobody ever climbed the ladder of literature by means of Associations of this nature. Where it has been climbed, it has been done by means of genuine periodicals and magazines, and mostly by the aid of friends. The republic of letters, as it has been called, demands from nearly all aspirants as many introductions as a raw, country rustic requires before he can be admitted into aristocratic society. Instead of a cordial welcome, a young literary aspirant is generally refused admittance. But this should not discourage him. Were he to read the biographies of our greatest writers, he would find parallel cases. No editor would insert their articles; no publisher would publish their books; but they persevered until their object was achieved. To show what humble beginnings some of our great authors and journalists had, we will give a few illustrations.

Mr. George Augustus Sala's first contribution appeared in the *Family Herald*, and he says that he was so fresh and green that he actually did not know that he was entitled to be paid for it, and never asked for the money. Mr. T. Littleton Holt, who died recently at an advanced age, was the first to give Mr. Sala regular employment on the staff of *Chat* and to introduce him to gentlemen of the press. Mr. Sala writes: "I ultimately became editor of *Chat* myself, at the magnificent salary of £1 per week. Ah! those were my happy days." But elsewhere Mr. Sala is reported to have said that Charles Dickens was his master, and that but for his friendship and encouragement, he should never have been a journalist, or an author. Mr. Sala says, "The first five-pound note I ever earned from literature came from his kind hand. He urged me to enter the lists of journalism, and watched with interest my progress," and Forster says, in his "Life of Dickens: "

"Of all the writers before unknown, and whom his journal helped to make familiar to the wide world of readers, he had the strongest personal interest in Mr. Sala, and placed at once in the highest rank his capabilities of help in such an enterprise."

Mr. Sala's paper appeared in September, 1851, and in the same month of the following year, Forster said that Dickens wrote in reference to another article:

"He was twenty guineas in advance, by-the-by, and I told Wills (Wills was sub-editor of *Household Words*) delicately to make him a present of it. I found him a very conscientious fellow. * * * He looks sharply at the alterations in his articles, I observe; and takes the hint next time."

Dickens was certainly very kind to the contributors to his journals, and he introduced many to the world. He declared that he himself was indebted to no one for his introduction to literature, and denied that the contributions of popular writers alone were accepted by magazines. He said:

"I have heard a great deal about literary sets and coterie, and coteries and barriers; about keeping this man up and that man down; about sworn disciples and sworn unbelievers, and mutual admiration societies, and I know not what other dragons in the upward path. I began to tread it when I was very young, without influence, without money, without companion, introducer, or adviser, and I am bound to put in evidence that I never lighted on these dragons yet."

The fact of his not having met them may account for his denial of favoritism on the part of editors. But even he had a beginning. For twelve months he forwarded "Sketches by Boz" to the *Monthly Magazine*, which were accepted, but not paid for. Dickens did not, however, approve of working for nothing. He thought that if his sketches were worth inserting they were worth paying for, and therefore wrote to the editor that as he (Dickens) had hitherto given his contributions, he would be glad of any remuneration, and that otherwise he should be obliged to discontinue them, because he was going to be married, and would require more money. The magazine was then undergoing a change in the editorship, and Dickens' application was handed to the new editor, Mr. James Grant, who had expressed a wish to secure a continuation of "Sketches by Boz." An inquiry by the editor as to the terms on which Dickens would furnish him with similar sketches for an indefinite period, brought back an answer that he had just entered into an arrangement with Messrs Chapman & Hall to write a monthly serial, which would occupy much of his spare time from his duties as a reporter; he could not, therefore, undertake to furnish the proposed sketches for less than eight guineas per sheet of sixteen pages, which was at the rate of half-a-guinea per page. In little more than six months from that time his popularity was such, Mr. Grant said, that he could have had one hundred guineas per sheet from any of the leading periodicals of the day.

It is not often that editors treat beginners as Charles Dickens treated them; at any rate, few instances are recorded, and they are referred to as exceptional. Thackeray seems to have been a good natured editor, a quality which his biographer thinks one of the worst an editor could possess. He was very generous to Thomas Davidson, a Scotch poet and preacher of great promise, who died young. When a student of

Edinburgh University, he took the second place in a prize poem competition. The appreciation of the work of their fellow student's performance was so enthusiastic on the part of Davidson's friends, that one of them, without the knowledge of the author, sent it to Thackeray.

Davidson's astonishment was unfeigned when the proof-sheet was sent to him for correction. The poem appeared in the December number of *Cornhill*, 1860, with an illustrative engraving, and occupying a place of honor. The gratification of the young author in seeing his verses so worthily introduced to public notice was soon followed by the honest pride of having earned his first literary honorarium. A welcome remittance of ten guineas was sent to him, and was valued, not only because it was no mean addition to the slender income of a student, but because it was a substantial token of the estimate in which the unsought contribution of an unknown writer was held by the distinguished editor.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



THE following which is a Key to page 159, February number of the WRITER, is probably the finest grandiloquent paraphrase in existence. Observe how the author avoids tautology—always reiterating the same idea, but never repeating the same language. Even the simple name of John is expressed in English, French, German and Russian, while the poor cow, dog, cat and rat are rolled over and over through the complicated verbosity. The whole picture is the work of scholarship and patient genius. It was written by Anon—that modest but immortal author who has written some of the very best things in every language:

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.

Behold the mansion reared by daedal Jack,
See the malt stored in many a plethoric sack,
In the proud cirque of Ivan's bivouac.
Mark how the rat's felonious fangs invade,
The golden stores in John's pavilion laid.
Anon, with velvet foot and Tarquin strides,
Subtle Grimalkin to his quarry glides—
Grimalkin grim, that slew the fierce rodent
Whose tooth insidious Johann's sackcloth rent,
Lo! now the deep-mouthed canine's foe's assault,
That vexed the avenger of the stolen malt,
Stored in the hallowed precincts of the hall
That rose complete at Jack's creative call.
Here stalks impetuous cow with crumpled horn
Where the exacerbating hound was torn
Who bayed the feline slaughter beast that slew
The rat predacious whose keen fangs ran through
The textile fibres that involved the grain
That lay in Hans' inviolate domain.
Here stalks forlorn the damsel crowned with rue
Lactiferous spoils from vaccine dug, who drew
Of that commutative beast whose tortuous horn
Tossed to the clouds in fierce vindictive scorn,
The harrowing hound whose braggart bark and stir
Arched the lithe spine reared the tuidignant fur
Of puss, that with vermicidal claw
Struck the weird rat in whose insatiate maw
Lay reeking malt that erst in Ivan's courts we saw.
Robed in senescent garb that seemed in sooth
Too long a prey to Chronos iron tooth,
Behold the man whose amorous lips incline,
Full with young Eros' osculative sign,

To the torn maiden whose lac-albic hands
Drew laba-lactia wealth from lacteal glands
Of the immortal bovine, by whose horn,
Distort, to realm ethereal was borne
The beast caulean, vexer of that sly
Ulysses quadrupedal who may die
The old mordacious rat that dared devour
Antecedaneous ale in John's domestic bower.

Lo! here with hirsute honors dotted succint
Of saponaceous locks, the priest who linked
In Hymen's golden lands the torn unthrift
Whose means exiguous stared from many a rift
Even as he kissed the virgin all forlorn
Who milked the cow with the implicated horn,
Who in fine wrath the canine torturer sk ed
That dared to vex the insidious muricide
Who let the auroral effluence through the pelt
Of the sly rat that robbed the palace Jack had built.

The loud, cantankerous shanghai comes at last
Whose shouts aroused the shorn ecclesiast,
Who sealed the vow of Hymen's sacrament
To him who robed in garments indigent,
Exosculates the damsel lacrymose.
The emulorator of that horned brute morose
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that killed
The rat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack
built.

PILLARS OF THE PRESS.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.



HERE is no living man of all the numerous army of writers who have contributed to bring the newspaper to the powerful position it now occupies, who is more deserving of being looked upon as a foremost pillar of that institution than George Augustus Henry Sala. Of all the men of genius and ability who have assisted in building up the "fourth estate," few have exercised such a continuous influence for its elevation and improvement. Although not quite successful in every department of literary labor he has entered, there can be no doubt that his absolute mastery of the Anglo-Saxon speech, his brilliant descriptive powers, his bright and genial humour, his ceaseless and untiring vivacity, and those occasional touches of tender pathos with which he possesses the power to reach the hearts of all whose hearts it is possible to touch by any human means, have all combined to make him a prince of journalists, a *rara avis* among writers for the press.

An Englishman born of Italian parents, he adds the lively imagination of the land of his ancestors to much of the sound common sense of the land of his birth. He was a member of that band of writers whom Dickens gathered round him in the early days of *Household Words*, and no small portion of his success would seem to be owing to his having caught something of the spirit that animated the great mind which created the ontcast Joe, and the vivacious Sam Weller. That the work of the follower should fall immeasurably below that of the master is only natural, but still in Mr. Sala's writings may be found many gems of humorous writing which such humorists as Charles Dickens and Mark Twain might well be proud to own. "The Conversion of Col. Quag," "Travel in Search of Beef," and the "Fifty Cent Dinner" are cases in point, and in the recently published volume,

"Twice Round the Clock," many sketches will be found which—to coin a word—might well be spoken of a Dickenson.

The civil war in America furnished scope for Mr. Sala to display abilities in a field in which he has met but few real rivals. As special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in America during the war between the North and South, he gained a reputation which has scarcely impaired to this day, and in the Franco-German war, in which he also acted as special correspondent to his old employees, he proved that he was as worthy as ever to represent "the largest circulation in the world."

It has been frequently urged that the writings of George Augustus Sala are mostly mere word pictures which owed their popularity to the fact that they appeal largely to the emotional tendencies of those who read them; but this is in reality only another way of saying that our journalist thoroughly understands his business. Many an important piece of knowledge may be

impressed upon the memory when presented in a dress which commends itself to our fancy as well as to our reason. The hard and dry facts chronicled in Blue Books and official dispatches might never be read by the majority of Englishmen were there no men like the subject of the present sketch. Under the magic touch of Mr. Sala the most uninviting subjects become pleasant objects to study. The most formidable statistics, positively repellant in their original uncompromising battalions in columns, become attractive when dissected and resolved into the realities they represent. It is the journalists business to do this. To wrap truth in all the attractiveness of fiction, and to convey knowledge in such a manner that the pupil knows not that he is being taught. This has been the work of George Augustus Sala, and if the journalists of the future succeed as well in similar work there will be little fear of degeneration in that press upon which Englishmen so highly pride themselves.—*Phonographic Monthly*.

Editorial Notes.

J. M. Dickson, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, is now residing in Cherokee, Iowa.

A correspondent wishes to know who has the largest shorthand library in Canada, the number of books contained therein and the number of systems represented? If any of our readers can give the required information we shall be glad to give it publicity in these columns.

Mr. Alex. J. Messervey, a shorthand writer of Quebec, succeeded in winning the following prizes at the recent annual races of the "Waverly Snow Shoe Club" of that city. One hundred yards, 2nd prize, gold and silver medal; half mile, 1st prize, silver cup, time 3 min., 23 sec.; one mile steeple chase, 1st prize, silver medal.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF SHORTHAND WRITERS.—We draw the attention of our readers to an announcement on second page of cover, of a convention to be held in Chicago, Sep. 8th, next. Correspondence is solicited from shorthand writers. We shall keep our readers posted as to the progress that is being made and hope that all will take a lively interest so that the meeting may be as practically useful as its promoters anticipate.

The Literary Ladder, by A. Arthur Reade, is a neat little volume, printed in semi-phonotype by Isaac Pitman, Bath, Eng. As the name implies the aim of the volume is to assist literary aspirants up the coveted heights. This is done by a series of well arranged articles, abounding in extract and anecdote of men who have reached the upper rungs, after patient hand-over hand struggles. It will be read with interest by the general reader and especially so by the youth who sighs for literary fame. On another page will be found the first article—"Authorship"—from this welcome guest. London: S.W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. Price 1s., cloth 1s. 6d.

Mr. George J. Bell, late of the Great Western Railway mileage office, London, has been appointed shorthand writer to Mr. Edgar, General Passenger Agent, Hamilton.

Taken altogether, it is possible that in no other case in Canada has so much shorthand work been done as on the Biddulph trial recently concluded at London. Irrespective of the newspapers, the official work by Mr. R. Tyson has been very heavy.

Mr. J. L. Payne, of the London *Free Press*, acted as official shorthand reporter at the recent three day's convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association at Stratford. The result will be a 350 page pamphlet containing the addresses and discussions in full, which the Association believe will be of great value to the dairy interests in the west.

An inquisitive reporter at London arrived at the following rates of speaking by the counsel and judges engaged on the Biddulph murder trials:—Judge Armour, 137; Judge Cameron, 132; Mr. E. Irving, Q. C., 129; Mr. Hugh MacMahon, Q. C., 121; Mr. W. R. Meredith, Q. C., 126 to 184. The figures were obtained after a number of two minute tests at various points in the addresses.

The Rev. Dr. Wild, who contributes an article in this month's *WRITER* entitled, "The Profits of Shorthand Writing," and whose faithful picture forms our frotispiece, is now pastor of Bond Street Congregational Church, Toronto. His popularity has grown so rapidly that, although here but a few months, a person, to make sure of a sitting, must be on hand at least half an hour before the service commences. We believe the managers are speaking of admitting by ticket after April 1st; they have been compelled to this course to protect pew-holders. The Dr.'s former charge was in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Communications.

"PROTECTIONIST" ANSWERED.

LONDON, 16th March, 1880.

To the Editor of the SHORTHAND WRITER :

DEAR SIR.—I am a student of Phonography, and read your journal with great interest, having received many practical lessons by reading the various articles contributed to it by experienced men, but I must certainly take objection to a letter in your last by one signing himself "Protectionist," as I cannot understand his object any further than that of discouraging those who are already struggling to attain a point of usefulness in this valuable art. He says that students who write 75 words per minute exclude better men from their rightful positions; if this statement is to be credited, shorthand should not claim the value as is attributed to it, when mere amateurs can satisfactorily fill the positions that are designated by him, professional positions. Now, in my estimation the shorthand amanuensis is a distinct branch of the business apart from the reporting, &c., for many reasons. In the first place the speed is not required, it not being necessary for business men generally to go beyond 100 words per minute in their dictation, and even a less rate is found very admissible and of great value to many; in the second place, an amanuensis having to write from dictation does not require to be such an expert with the language as a professional reporter must necessarily be. Viewing it from this standpoint then, does it seem reasonable that we students, when having acquired sufficient of the art to fill such a position, should be excluded from its use, practically, until we have attained to a speed far beyond its requirements.

I say we must first be amateurs and do amateurs' work before taking our stand amongst the profession.

All the protection we require, and we have it now, is the perseverance, study, and other essential elements that are required to master it, whether with or without an instructor; all have the fullest right to enjoy its benefits, the main object being to satisfy our employers in the capacity we have undertaken. If "Protectionist" is a professional, for I would infer from his letter that he is, it is then not much to the credit of the value of the art, or else to his ability, that he should in this way be clamoring for protection, it lowers the scale of its usefulness to the outside world. I have been studying now 7 months and can take down at the rate of 75 words per minute, but I have studied very diligently to reach that in that time, and hope soon to enjoy its fruits provided I am not one of the "doubtful ones" that our friend speaks of.

Hoping the seed that he thought was going to be so beneficial to the fraternity will have lost its vitality.

I remain, yours very respectfully,
ASPIRANT.

MR. G. R. BISHOP EXPLAINS.

No. 39 Wall St., New York, Feb. 24, 1881.

Finding on p. 11, of *Browne's Phonographic Monthly* for Jan., 1881, what purports to be an abstract of remarks made by me at the meeting of the N. Y. City Law Stenographer's Association, held on Dec. 30, 1880, which abstract not only seriously misrepresents both my language and my meaning, but injuriously reflects on the writing and ability to readily read their writing, of Stenographers whom I highly esteem not only for their proficiency as Stenographers but for their personal qualities, I feel impelled, especially on account of the wrong which the publication, uncorrected, might do to these gentlemen, to call the attention of Stenographers, and of any others whom it may interest, to the following which is a copy of a letter I have this day mailed to the publisher of the *Monthly*. I assume that the document will explain itself:

Very resp'y,
Geo. R. Bishop.

[Copy of Letter.]

No. 39 Wall St., N. Y., Feb'y 24, 1881.

MR. BROWNE :

DEAR SIR:—I have just seen a copy of the *Monthly* for January ult. My remarks, in calling up the new President at our meeting at 130 Broadway, seem to have got badly distorted in their progress from oral utterance to your pages. The list of words given as possible readings of the sign for *snifter* contains only two of the 15 or 20 that I gave, all the rest being words that I neither mentioned nor thought of; and my reference to some difficulties that might be encountered by an unskilled es-ayer of the forms which Mr. Graham says the "advanced reporter" may with safety use, has been turned into a serious reflection on the legibility of the phonography written by Mr. Graham, and those who adopt his modifications of Pitman. In the face of the fact that probably the readiest reader of stenographic notes among the best known law stenographers of the City is the one who writes the Graham system (so called) most closely, adhering to it with scarcely a deviation, I should not have made, and did not make, any such statement, or imply any such meaning, as what purports (at p. 11) to be an abstract of my remarks, indicates. You will certainly see the propriety of correcting the error.

Yours, &c.,
(Signed.) Geo. R. Bishop.



DAN BROWN CALLING IN THE MEMBERS.

CHICAGO "TIMES" ON STENOGRAPHY.

Written in Munson's System. Key, page 167.

The following is a sample of shorthand written in Munson's System, consisting of two columns of text on a ruled background. The shorthand is a cursive, shorthand form of the English text above it.

AUTHORSHIP.

(From the *Literary Ladder*.)

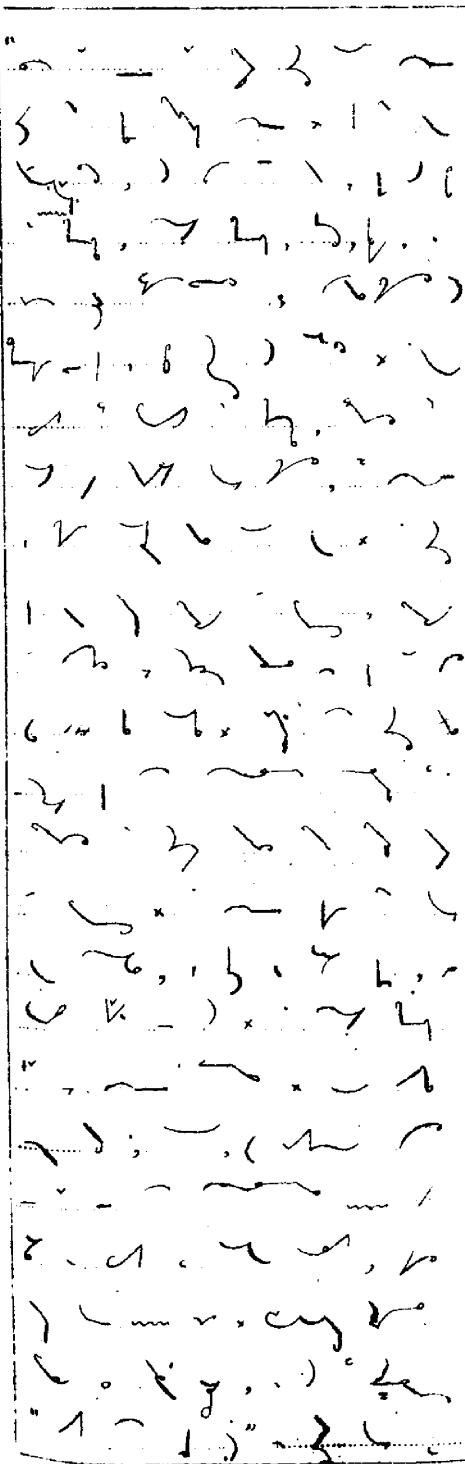
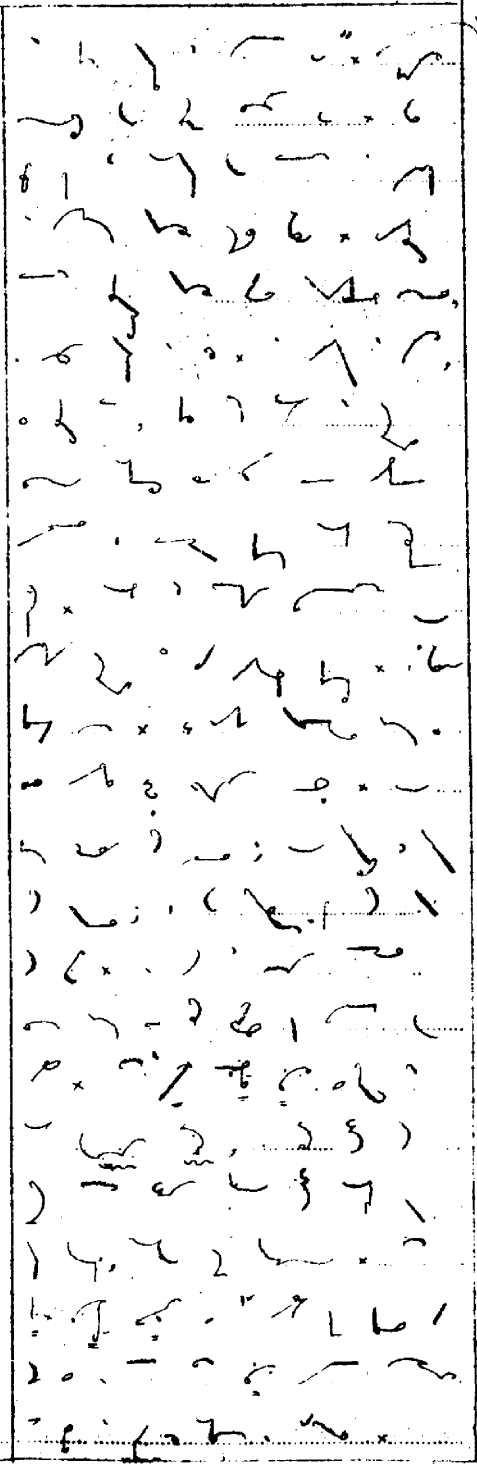
Written in Benn Pitman's System.

Key, page 168.

The first column contains a series of shorthand symbols, likely representing the word "AUTHORSHIP". The symbols are arranged in approximately 20 rows, with some symbols appearing to be combinations of letters and numbers (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20).

The second column contains a series of shorthand symbols, likely representing the word "SOCIAL NOTES". The symbols are arranged in approximately 20 rows, with some symbols appearing to be combinations of letters and numbers (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20).

Social Notes

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THE NEW COURT REPORTERS.
 Written in Isaac Pitman's System. Key, page 166.

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