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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL AND CONTRIBUTED—	
The Advantages of Shorthand	17
Legible Shorthand	17
Important Notice	17
The Michela Stenographic Machine—Phonographic Advantages	18
Stenography in Olden Times—The Cherokee Alphabet—A Trial of Endurance—Key to Mr. Carey's Notes	19
SELECTED—	
Hand Writing—What is Practical Education ..	20
A Valiant "Standard" Bearer	21
EDITORIAL NOTES—Kansas Notes	22-23
COMMUNICATIONS—	24
ARTICLES IN SHORTHAND—	
Phonography in the Olden Time (<i>Illus.</i>) ..	25
The Michela Phonographic Machine (<i>Illus.</i>) ..	26
A Merchant's Opinion (<i>Illus.</i>)	27
The Cherokee Alphabet (<i>Illus.</i>)	27
Sermon by Bishop Walsh	28-19
The Advantages of Shorthand	29-30
What is Education? (<i>Illus.</i>)	30-31
A Selection	31
Fac-simile Notes of Mr. J. Carey (<i>Illus.</i>) ..	32

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED SHORTHAND WRITER.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1881.

No. 2.

Editorial and Contributed.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SHORTHAND.

BY W. MALLOY.

THE advance of civilization and the development of the different kinds of industry which engage the attention of the people of this as well as other countries are continually demanding new methods and appliances for saving time and labor. With the increase in population, and the increase in the volume of business which is yearly going on, it is evident that the old methods of writing do not answer all the purposes of this fast age. While the telegraph is used to transmit whole pages of newspaper matter, the shorthand writer is required to write with analogous dispatch. Nor is the use of shorthand now confined to newspaper enterprise as formerly, but is rapidly becoming popularised and adopted by large corporations such as railways, banks and loan companies in their offices, by law courts in recording the evidence taken in proceedings taken before them, by mercantile men in their counting room, and by professional men in their offices. The advantage thereby gained is not confined to the mere saving of the time of the writer, but equally affects many things dependent on the writing. For instance, in the proceedings in our law courts time is saved alike by the Judges presiding, by the counsel employed, and by the writers in attendance. The lawyer need not draft his pleadings but may dictate them to a shorthand writer who can take down in less than one tenth of the time in which the pleader himself could draft it in long-hand. The railway manager, the banker, the merchant and the manufacturer may equally dictate to their clerks and employees, and thus save valuable time and expedite business. While we give the above as examples, we do not mean to intimate that its advantages are confined to any particular spheres of usefulness. On the contrary there is scarcely any department of public or private business in which it may not be employed with advantage. And as time rolls on the advantages of this beautiful art will become more and more fully appreciated. About twenty years ago the number of persons to be met with who could write shorthand were exceedingly few. Now its advantages are so apparent that it is being taught by many private

tutors and in most private schools, and we hope soon to see it introduced as a branch of general education in our common public schools. In learning this art we would advise all to learn well whatever system they adopt. Although celerity in writing is one of the objects to be aimed at, yet legibility should be equally kept in view, for if what is written cannot be read, or read only with difficulty, it is evident that little advantage can be derived from the system.

LEGIBLE SHORTHAND.

THE above is the title of a new system of shorthand lately invented and issued by Edward Pocknell, Esq., of London, Eng., Hon. Sec. to the London Shorthand Writers' Association. Mr. Pocknell has embodied the particulars of his new system in a neatly bound work of nearly a hundred pages, which contains a full exposition and description of its principles and features, accompanied by a multiplicity of appropriate exercises. In glancing over "Legible Shorthand" we find it contains no less than five inventions, five improvements and seven claimed advantages over current systems. Its claims may be summarised as follows:—A complete simple-stroke alphabet, with two attendant curves to each stroke; a method of showing or indicating the place of every medial vowel, and a final mute vowel without writing them; an improved method of indicating by the use of curved characters, initial and final vowels without writing them; the use of the principle of "position" by applying it to classes of words; new method of abbreviation; absence of exceptions to rules, and the large number of logograms which may be used. This is certainly an elaborate claim for a new system, and we can only add that if it be found superior to the existing systems and true to its prospectus, the author deserves the thanks of every phonographer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the New York Stenographers Association will be held in Buffalo on August 23rd and 24th. A highly pleasant and edifying time is expected.

THE MICHELA STENOGRAPHIC MACHINE.

FROM the *Magazine Fur Stenographie*, of Berlin, we translate the following interesting account of the Michela Stenographic Machine to which we alluded briefly in a recent number of the WRITER:—

The apparatus is enclosed in a small case 40 c.m. long, 25 c.m. wide and 5 c.m. high, and is fixed on three feet which are fastened to the lower part, and are easily removed.

To secure speech each syllable must be reproduced with one touch. To this end the ten fingers of the performer are applied on the keyboard, which resembles that of a piano and has likewise black and white keys. As each finger can at the same time touch two keys, a white and a black, without moving the hand, it is obvious that the performer makes with each movement of the hand over twenty signs. Each uttered syllable is reproduced by a touch of from one to ten keys, according to the length of the syllable. The keys touched work through levers upon a line of pins which are placed in the middle of the apparatus vertically before a strip of paper which rolls itself up alongside the line of keys. The pins, which are moved upward by the keys, touch a strip of paper and press marks upon it which are distinguished one from another by form and position. The impress of these marks is effected either dry or with ink. In the latter case a second strip of paper, which is penetrated by ink, is employed, which unrolls itself with the first strip of paper and passes between the pins and the strip of paper which is destined to receive the marks, and touches those places with ink which are marked by the pins. After each movement the keys which have been played upon, or touched, work in rising upon a small toothed wheel which moves forward a tooth, and by means of a roller passes the strip of paper further on. The syllables are thus written, one underneath the other, and are read as is common writing.

With the apparatus by Gensoul, which was formerly used, for a sentence one-and-a-half lines, a strip of one metre in length or more was required, but with this machine by a strip of only one decimetre a pretty long sentence can be secured. The reading presents no difficulty whatever; fourteen days are sufficient to get proficiency therein. At a trial in Paris of this machine a lady (Miss Guillio), who played the apparatus, understood French very imperfectly. The trial commenced with a speech on railways by Mr. Michela, which was delivered very rapidly. This was rendered by Miss Guillio without difficulty at once. Afterwards Mr. Pierre read a page of the Official reports of the Chamber of Deputies, after which President Gambetta made accompanying remarks in Latin. At last the President himself spoke and tried to cause an interruption from the public, but he did not succeed on account of the general attentiveness of the hearers. Miss Guillio, in spite of her slight knowledge of the language, rendered the

dictates with remarkable correctness. As she did not understand many words of the language, she read badly and divided the board, and caused from the beginning and ending of the divided words remarkably comical syllabic combinations, but the exactness was notwithstanding complete, and the trial was the more successful, as the intelligence of the lady in no wise could have replaced omissions in the writing. At the present time the practical question of introducing this machine into Parliament is under consideration. Whether sufficient performers can be secured to give the matter study remains to be seen. An illustration of the apparatus is given on page 26.

PHONOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES.

(A TORONTO MERCHANT.)

SO rapid has been the progress of phonography since its birth that to-day it is used in every part of the civilised world. And why should it not be so? That it is so is amply proven by the interest manifested in it by all nations. From the ice-bound regions of the north to the sunny south, from the glowing east to the ruddy west, and no matter where you wish to travel you will find the beautiful art in constant use. While we naturally bestow our thankfulness and gratitude upon Mr. Isaac Pitman, "the inventor or father of phonography," as he is sometimes called, yet a great deal is due, and justly so, to Mr. Andrew J. Graham, James E. Munson, Benn Pitman, Scovil and many other pioneers who have labored hard to bring phonography up to its present state of perfection. By phonography it is possible to report the most rapid speakers. Were it not for that the particulars of our parliamentary proceedings and debates would be very meagre and uninteresting. The reporter goes to the Parliament, takes down the speech or speeches, and immediately wends his way to the telegraph office and despatches it at once to the newspaper, and the next morning the people can read in full all that has taken place on the previous day. Now, without the aid of shorthand it would be impossible to do this. In olden times, according to Mr. Pitman, the newspaper was issued at uncertain intervals, no doubt due to the delay occasioned in obtaining reports for publication. But phonography does not confine itself wholly to the Editor's sanctum. It is used extensively in our law offices, railway offices, wholesale establishments and other places of business where writing forms a great part of the business. The clergyman in his library, the author in his study, the teacher at school, all know its value. The lawyer, merchant or secretary can dictate his letters to a correspondent, who in turn writes them out in longhand to be signed, and then they are ready for the mail. In this way many letters are answered which would otherwise be overlooked. I say then for this reason that it is invaluable to the merchant, and all who have occasion to use it.

STENOGRAPHY IN OLDEN TIME.

STENOGRAPHY is on the eve of being superseded by the invention of the pianotachygraph. Its history is little known and is very curious. We may first remark that modern nations are much behindhand in the practice of stenography. David, in fact, says in one of his Psalms, *Lingua mea calamus scribæ velociter scribentis* ("My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.") The Hebrews, therefore, knew the art of writing as rapidly as one could speak. But it was at Athens and Rome especially that stenography was practised. Xenophon employed an abbreviated alphabet to write the speeches of Socrates, whose works he edited. This was 178 years before Jesus Christ. The Romans, who, with the spoils of Greece, carried the arts and usages of Greece into Italy, brought back that kind of writing and vulgarized it among all classes of the population. Under the Consulate of Cicero may be seen the first traces of stenography. The great orator was himself very expert in the art, and took a pleasure in teaching it to a freed slave named Tiron, who wrote down his pleadings.

Soon stenographic signs were alone used in writing in Rome. Seneca, Brutus, and Julius Cæsar, and many other illustrious men employed it. One day Cicero wrote from habit in Tironian signs to his friend Atticus, who could not understand the letter. The great orator then offered to teach him stenography, and he learned it in a very short time. Augustus gave lessons in stenography to his grandsons. The old stenographic method was preserved in France until the eleventh century, and letters from Louis le Deuonnaire, son of Charlemagne, in Tironian characters, still exist. In 1747 a Benedictine named Pierre Carpenter reformed the Tironian alphabet and published, in Latin, a volume on his new method. At present stenography, which is only practised by a few writers, has been modified and improved; but it does not appear to be shorter or more simple than that used in antiquity.

THE CHEROKEE ALPHABET.

THE Cherokee Indians have an alphabet of their own, the invention of one of their tribe named Sequoyah, who, himself unable to read in any language, appreciated the value of the white man's way of transmitting intelligence by writing, and secluding himself in his hut, evolved from his inner consciousness the alphabet which is now used for printing the Cherokee language. This alphabet is phonetic. Sequoyah discovered that the entire Cherokee language consisted of different combinations of eighty-two syllables, and so he constructed his alphabet of eighty-six characters, each representing one of the eighty-six sounds in the language. These characters or letters any lad of ordinary intelligence can

learn to distinguish and pronounce in a week, and when the alphabet is learned the pupil can read anything in the Cherokee language. The ease with which the art of reading may be acquired has led the principle men in the Cherokee nation to encourage its study in various ways, believing that many of their tribe could be induced to learn to read in Cherokee who would never attempt the accomplishment of so difficult a task as learning to read in English. It is to encourage the Cherokees in the study of their written language and in the pursuit of knowledge generally that the Cherokee *Advocate*, a weekly newspaper, is printed, partly in the Cherokee language, at the cost of the whole Cherokee nation.

A TRIAL OF ENDURANCE.

LORD CAMPBELL, Chief Justice of England, who never seemed to know what fatigue was, once presided over a case which had lasted for some time, and which he was very anxious to bring to a close on a particular day. Evidence continued to be taken down until 10 o'clock in the evening, and he then called upon the counsel to address the jury. They not unnaturally protested, but the judge was inexorable, and they were forced to submit. Their speeches were finished about 1 o'clock next morning, when Lord Campbell, with the utmost composure, began to sum up the evidence, closing about 3 o'clock a. m. ! Fancy the feelings of the unfortunate reporter who had to do the entire work without relief, and who was nearly dead, as well he might be, before the trial was over.

KEY TO JOHN CAREY'S REPORTING NOTES.

Q.—Look at that and say whether it corresponds.

A.—It looks like it,—a small piece like that, of that shape.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Dalton pick this up?

A.—I did not.

Q.—Did he give it to you?

A.—Handed it to me.

Q.—What did you do with it?

A.—I retained it in my possession,—I showed it to Mr. Skeffington.

Q.—Will you state what occurred with reference to the little piece of steel?

A.—I gave it as my opinion in the first place that it was a piece of a chisel, and came to the conclusion immediately afterwards that it was a piece of a screw-driver. I looked at it more closely and said then, that is a piece of a file.

Q.—Was this before the present plaintiff was arrested or after he was arrested?

A.—Before.

William Wainwright, assistant general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway is an experienced phonographer, and claims to write 200 words a minute.

Selected.

HANDWRITING.



GOOD handwriting is admired by everybody, and is a strong recommendation in a literary aspirant. It was the neatness of the handwriting, rather than the merits of the essay, which led the adjudicators in a prize essay scheme to award the first prize to Edgar Allan Poe. It is said by Griswold, one of the biographers of Poe, that one of the judges took up a little book remarkably beautiful and distinct in calligraphy, and that it was unanimously decided that the prizes should be paid to "the first of the geniuses who had written legibly!" A neat style of penmanship will assuredly tempt an editor to read the manuscript of a new writer when nothing else will. Our own opinion is, that in the majority of cases the return of MSS. of unknown contributors may be attributed in part to the badness of the penmanship, not to the quality of the articles. Nobody outside a printing, or an editorial office, can form an adequate idea of the slovenliness of the writing of most literary aspirants. They seem to think the worse the writing the greater the genius. We assure those who hold such an opinion that it is erroneous. The so-called men of genius are men who take the greatest pains, and who write in most cases the neatest hand. In any case, a beginner's chances of success are greater when his MS. can be read without an effort. But we cannot do better than quote an editor's observation upon this subject—Mr. John Morly:

"There is one single tribulation dear enough to poison life—even if there were no other—and this is disorderly MS. Empson, Mr. Napier's well-known contributor, was one of the worst offenders; he would never even take the trouble to make his paragraphs. I have the misfortune to have a manuscript before me at this moment that would fill thirty of these pages (*Fortnightly Review*), and yet from beginning to end there is no indication that it is not to be read at a single breath. The paragraph ought to be, and in all good writers it is, as real and as sensible a division as the sentence. It is an organic member in prose composition, with a beginning, a middle, and an end, just as a stanza is an organic and definite member in the composition of an ode. "I fear my manuscript is rather disorderly," says another, "but I will correct carefully in print." Just so. Because he is too heedless to do his work in a workmanlike way, he first inflicts fatigue and vexation on the editor whom he expects to read his paper; secondly, he inflicts considerable and quite needless expense on the publisher; and thirdly, he inflicts a great deal of tedious and thankless labor on the printers, who are for the most part far more meritorious persons than fifth-rate authors. It is true that Burke returned such disordered proofs that the printer usually found it least troublesome to set the whole afresh, and

Miss Martineau tells a story of a Scotch compositor who flew from Edinburgh to avoid a great living author's manuscript, and to his horror was presently confronted with a piece of copy which made him cry "Lord have mercy! Have you got that man to print for?" But most editors will cheerfully forgive such transgression to all contributors who will guarantee that they write as well as Burke or Carlyle. Alas! it is usually the case that those who have the least excuse are the worst offenders. The slovenliest manuscripts come from persons to whom the difference between an hour and a minute is of the very smallest importance."—*Literary Ladder.*

WHAT IS PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

BY PROF. H. RUSSELL, JOLIET, ILL.



WHAT constitutes a practical education is a problem that receives widely different answers; from the man who didn't want his son to waste his time studying geography because he wasn't going to be a sailor, and the metaphysician who deems the solution of the insoluble and the pursuit of the uncatchable the only matters really worthy of a man's attention. To one class of persons only, that is practical in education, which teaches a boy how he can best earn a living when he is a man; to another class, usually stigmatised by the (*soi disant*) practical men as theorists and doctrinaires, anything is practical that tends to make a man good and happy; in other words, anything that develops the faculties, enlarges the mental vision, trains the judgment, and aids a man to rise superior to his surroundings, and draw his enjoyment from reservoirs that the mishaps of life cannot destroy and cannot injure. But an education that aims at this involves an expenditure of time that most boys cannot secure, and, in spite of that quality which is affirmed by the Declaration of Independence, a large proportion of boys could not appropriate even were the time and money at their disposal. For the great majority of boys and girls, education consists, and must consist chiefly in that which will make them most fully able to grapple successfully with the active duties and stern realities of every-day life; thousands of lives have proven abortive failures from lack of this education. No wonder then that the people have become disgusted and discouraged at the many clap-trap systems of education now in vogue, and devotedly appeal, as did the wise old Spartan king, for an education that will be of some practical utility to their children when they are men and women; and it is fair to presume that those institutions of harmony that more closely adhere to this motto, old as it is, will of necessity be the most successful, as they undoubtedly deserve to be.

On the teachers of every name and grade there devolves a great responsibility in making his course of instruction practical and of some real, genuine utility to students. To do this successfully, eternal vigilance is necessary, and above all each one should see to improvement of himself in every possible manner. The trifling cost of the *Journal* and educational papers, of course will enable you to become constant readers of these valuable auxiliaries, so absolutely necessary to secure that knowledge which you are daily and hourly imparting to pupils.

We who have spent a lifetime in the good work most sincerely hope that education of the people, for the people and by the people, for which millions of dollars is being expended, may yearly continue to grow more useful, practical and sensible.

A VALIANT "STANDARD" BEARER.

From the Boston *Journal of Commerce*



SOME Mrs. has recently given a lecture in the city of Providence, R. I. upon phonography or phonetics. One of the reporters of *The Providence Journal* pitched into her ideas of phonography in such a way as to draw from her a letter, the substance of which is immaterial here, but the lady goes on to say:

"I write my sentences in the present Isaac Pitman style with the new vowel scale, and with the improvements of our present American edition. The father of phonography is constantly engaged in noticing modifications and improvements, while his brother Benn has not made any alterations since his first edition, and uses yet the old vowel scale. His time and attention are almost exclusively given to the decorative art instead of shorthand. With all due regard to the *Benn Pitman*, *Munsonian* and *Cram* methods, I will add I am now teaching and have been for years, all these, together with Mrs. Burns' method, and several years at a time wrote one or the other of these methods. so I cannot be very far behind the times. The newest method out now is the 'Eclectic Phonography,' by Elias Longley, and which I have been teaching, and am yet, very successfully, in Boston and elsewhere. From the White Mountains to the Atlantic coast, I have been known as the pioneer of New England in phonetics and phonography, and am not selfish enough to wish all the converts made to belong to my school, but am willing to disseminate and let others, by equal rights, come in for their share."

Our first ejaculation on reading this was something similar to "Holy Moses!" here is a teacher of phonography who calls herself the pioneer in phonetics. We should a good deal rather take off our hat to her if she said she was the boss mixed drinks tutor. If there is any live man, or woman for that matter, who knows what Isaac Pitman does write now, or what his newest scale is, we would give a silver half dollar to look at that man for five minutes. He

would be a greater curiosity than a prize mermaid, and would draw a bigger crowd among well posted phonographers than the "What Is It" did.

This lady teaches Isaac Pitman. The last we knew of him he was on his seventeenth modification; his improvements have been of a retrograde nature. Come to add Benn Pitman's nonsense, the Munsonian jim-jams, Mrs. Burns' inverted vowel scale, and then, to top the whole thing off with Elias Longley's eclectic or drunken anglo-worm shorthand, *in extenso*, we don't wonder the Providence reporter went for her. It is one of the greatest pieces of bosh we have seen for some time, and over which we have had a hearty laugh. It is funny what expense and what lengths people will go, to make fools of themselves. But that is not the worst of it—some young men or women who wish to put themselves in possession of the means of earning a livelihood outside of the ordinary messenger boy or shop girl, take up phonography and are misled by just such people as these, who don't know anything themselves and only muddle anyone who applies to them for information. This is just about on a par with a publication which we have several times noticed, which emanates from New York, and it is a little curious too that all these people take particular spite against Andrew J. Graham and Standard phonography. This notable who has so much to say about Graham is not so badly mixed as the lady, but he shows his venom in the assertion, which he has ground out on his organ over and over again, that no phonographers of any eminence, or of any good standing, write Graham. In the recent report of the New York State Stenographers Association, nine of the eleven eminent reporters who were treated of are Grahamites, pure and simple. At the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, held at Cincinnati, in 1880, the proceedings of which were reported verbatim and printed every evening, the four men who were selected from different parts of the country were every one Graham Standard phonographic writers, and one of them was a converted Pitmanite, who was for five years secretary to Benn Pitman. This man made the frank acknowledgement that he never did report until he learned Graham's Standard phonography. And there are more men who could be cited, men who are not unknown. Our only object in the matter is to put those who wish to learn upon the right track. We spent thirteen years in the underbrush of phonography; undertook to learn Isaac Pitman, but he was too many for us; we could not change systems twice in sixteen months, change books, word signs, etc. We gave him up for Benn Pitman, who never knew much about phonography anyhow. We then adopted Munson's by disinterested advice, and we knew less and less with each system; finally we learned Graham, and we don't learn any more systems. Graham's is the only system that is sensible, practical or available for fast or accurate work.

Editorial Notes.

We have received a phonographic report made by C. W. Treadwell, St. John, N. B., a young gentleman who, we are informed, commenced the study of Phonography (Graham's system) on June 5th, 1880, only one year, and who can now, and could three or four months ago, report *verbatim*.

PHONOGRAPHIC RE-UNION.—A very pleasant gathering of the hieroglyphic fraternity connected with the Law Courts of Ontario was that which took place at the house of Mr. Tyson on Harbord street, on the evening of Tuesday, the 7th of June. The members of the brotherhood of the courts who were absent missed a treat. The meeting was rendered still more pleasant by the presence of the wives, sisters and sweethearts of the reporters. Singing and dancing were indulged in, and the enjoyment of the guests was not a little owing to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Tyson, the host and hostess. We trust this is but the first of many such re-unions bringing into closer social relationship those who are bound together in business pursuits.

REPORTERS IN COUNTY COURTS.—A great many County Councils, recognising the great saving effected by the employment of qualified shorthand writers during the continuance of the County Court and general sessions in June have made provision for their employment. The following Courts have now adopted the saving course:—Ottawa, Nanance, Belleville, Lindsay, Cobourg, Hamilton, Guelph, Orangeville, Woodstock, Owen Sound, Goderich, London, St Thomas and Sandwich.

Mr. G. J. Smith, Secretary to Lansing Mills, Esq., General Manager of Vermont Central Railway, dropped in on us the other day. He reported having a very pleasant trip from Boston to Toronto *via* Chicago, in the new private car "Garfield." They attended an international meeting of General Freight Agents at Montreal, and from thence they proceeded on a pleasure trip, taking in Quebec, Grand Rapids, Portland and other places of interest. We wish Mr. Smith *bon voyage*, and regret that the lot of all shorthand writers is not such a "happy one."

In a letter received from Mr. Dan Brown, Chicago, dated June 6th, he says:—"Correspondence from leading stenographers, in various parts of the country, indicate a large attendance here on the first of September; we expect to have a meeting to make some preliminary arrangements this month, and will inform you of our action."

Mr. H. C. Denning, of Harrisburg, Pa., paid us a friendly visit while attending an international meeting of "Superintendents of Insane Asylums," held in our city. This makes the thirteenth session Mr. D. has attended in his official capacity, and is a deserving tribute to his abilities as a stenographer. He is very deeply interested in the forthcoming meeting of

stenographers to be held in Chicago in September, and hopes that it may result in elevating the standing of the profession.

Dr. Nogent, of Wickham, N. B., claims to be the fastest stenographer among the Scovelites.

Mr. N. E. Dawson, of the Washington War Department, acted as secretary to General Grant during his recent trip through Mexico.

Only eight stenographers are used in the Pennsylvania Railroad offices in Philadelphia.

J. G. Cross is completely revising his work on "Eclectic Shorthand."

The latest stenographic fraud can be learned "in three hours."

Mr. Willard Graker, formerly editor of the *Shorthand Review*, is now engaged at his profession in New York.

Clara Louise Kellogg's father is an enthusiastic Grahamite.

At the recent trial of Bray vs. Devins, at Montreal, in which the plaintiff sued the defendant for damages for publishing a lecture on Ireland delivered by the Rev. Mr. Bray, and inserting patent medicine advertisements among the reading matter, the question of the accuracy and reliability of shorthand was brought in. Mr. James Crankshaw, one of the *Hansard* staff, who reported the lecture for the defendant, affirmed that his shorthand notes could be relied on as being correct in every particular, and fully explained to the Judge and Court the principles of phonography.

THE BENEFIT TO THE JUDGES.—On a recent occasion while two limbs of the law were debating as to the statements of a particular witness, the Judge (the County Council having for the first time provided him with a reporter) with a smile upon his face appealed to the phonographer to read his notes, and as gleefully as a boy at school in saying "I told you so," would have done, informed the legal gentlemen that there would be less trouble now since full notes were taken of all the evidence, and his short notes would no longer be a bone of contention on appeals for new trials. The Judge, like a great many others, is a convert to the great benefit derived from the employment of good shorthand writers in court.

A STATUTE REQUIRING AMENDMENT.—It would be well that the attention of the Attorney-General should be called to the saving it would effect were reporters employed at some of the more important inquests being held throughout the country. At present the stumbling block in the way is that witnesses are required to sign their testimony immediately after it is taken. Could not this be struck out at next session of the Legislature? Any improvement that comes within the powers of the Provincial Parliament we are certain will find a staunch advocate in the Hon. Mr. Mowat.

Not a few good anecdotes might be collected by the reporters in their rambles on circuit. The judiciary of Ontario are men of whom we may all feel proud, and a good dry joke sometimes ripples the judicial calm of our courts. Even a Scotchman, despite the saying of Sydney Smith, can perpetrate a good pun without the aid of a surgical operation. Not long ago after a remonstrance on the part of one of the most genial of our Superior Court Judges as to the frivolity of certain evidence in regard to little domestic squabbles being ventilated in a Court of Justice, Counsel for the woman's side remarked, "Perhaps your lordship is not aware that there are devils still alive in the world, and some of them in the guise of Presbyterians," to which his lordship quietly remarked—with not even a smile—"Well, Mr. —, the devil is not within the jurisdiction of this court."

SHORTHAND IN THE BOARD SCHOOLS.—The *Manchester Courier*, in its report of the proceedings of the Manchester school board on April 25, says:—

A GIFT TO THE BOARD.

Mr. W. Aronsburg, of Victoria street, wrote to the Board, stating that he had seen in some educational journals strong recommendations of a book called "Legible Shorthand," by Mr. Pocknell. He had examined the work, and to him the elementary portions appeared to be useful for teaching in Board schools. As every youth was now expected by employers to know Shorthand, he forwarded twenty-five copies of the work to be disposed of among the teachers and scholars, or for the library, as might seem best to the Board. Upon the motion of the Chairman it was resolved that the present of books should be accepted with thanks.

THE CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITER for April is just received. This completes the first volume. We are glad to read in the editorial that they have paid expenses, Mr. L. D. Scott Browne to the contrary notwithstanding, and we are also pleased, after having read all the numbers of the first volume, to be able to say that the CANADIAN SHORTHAND WRITER has been conducted strictly in accordance with the prospectus contained in the first number. They have not found it necessary to throw mud at other people who disagree with them, or at least did not think precisely as they did. We are glad to notice that it is receiving a more liberal support from reporters all over this country: that while they illustrate the several systems, they do so by putting each system upon its own merits and allowing the readers to judge, rather than to take their dictum, which they are not inclined, however, to give. The SHORTHAND WRITER is a success in more ways than one.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

We hope in the next issue to give a portrait of Mr. Nelson R. Butcher, official stenographer of this city.

A gentleman in England had the following mysterious account handed to him:—"Toanos toagefinonimon 25s." Many of our intelligent readers may be able to decipher this as readily as an inscription on some Egyptian obelisk. Others, however, may not find it so easily to decipher, and I give the translation:—"To a horse; to a-getting on him home." Or, in better language, To a horse; to getting him home, 25s. This account was sent to a rich country squire as an account rendered for having a horse belonging to some one else taken home. In this era of Phonetic spelling this method will be very suggestive to some of our Phonetic friends. If "brevity is the soul of wit," surely such a terse method of making out an account ought to teach us wisdom."

The report of the society for the encouragement of National Industry (France) has an abstract of a description given by M. M. Niandet and Cassagnes, of the Michela mechanical Stenographic Writer, which was exhibited at the meeting. The advantages claimed for this instrument are—simplicity, rapidity and easy manipulation; but perhaps the greatest is the fact that reports taken by it can be easily read off by *any one* unacquainted with the system employed. The instrument apparently acts in the same manner as the Remington type-writer, with the exception that an endless band of paper is used. It was stated 200 words per minute could be easily reported by a skilled manipulator.

KANSAS NOTES.

MR. W. H. Hilton, Chief Clerk of the Land Department, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R., an old stenographer, has been distinguishing himself in the scientific world by his theories in regard to the rainfall of the Great Plains of the West. Several interesting pamphlets have been published by him, and his lectures before the Kansas Academy of Science have been extraordinarily well received. He was for a long time with the Erie Railway. Subsequently he labored as a stenographer for the Land Department here, and still takes a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the Stenographic art.

T. J. Tilley, President of the Topeka State Stenographic Association is to be married to a young lady from the frontier in a few weeks. Mr. W. T. Jordan, Secretary of the Association, also takes a "reporter's companion," and marries a Boston belle. Sam. Goodenbere, stenographer to the Governor, is in the same box, but goes to Missouri for her, being a red-hot Democrat. The boys are excited at this unexpected desertion from the bachelor ranks of the Association, and wax bitterly eloquent threatening a big dinner and a general flareup.

Geo. C. Speery has been appointed stenographer to the Superintendent of Telegraph. Geo. was formerly general office operator.

We invite special attention to the matter alluded to in Mr. Yeigh's letter which appears below, and shall be much pleased to get the views of members of the fraternity on the subject. Personally we are heartily in accord with Mr. Yeigh as to the desirability of taking immediate action for organization, believing with him that it would be a boon to the profession in many ways. The publishers of the WRITER will be only too happy to place their office at the disposal of the shorthand men should they desire to meet for the discussion of this or any other subject in which they feel interested. Indeed, we have recently had it in mind to invite the members to come together, for the formation of a society something in the line suggested by Mr. Yeigh, although our idea was hardly so

ambitious as his. We were merely going to suggest some scheme whereby the shorthand men of the city could be brought together whenever desirable—such for instance as upon the arrival in Toronto of some distinguished professional whom it would be pleasant to meet. At present such a visitor has no means of finding his brethren here except by a long and possibly wearisome search, and then he can necessarily only see a few.

The International Convention takes place in Chicago in a few months, and we earnestly hope that the Canadian Shorthand Writers will be well represented on the occasion. This is one desirable object to be gained by immediate organization.

Communications.



GOOD NEWS.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., May 2, 1881.

Messrs. Bengough Bros.

DEAR SIRS,—Enclosed you will find the printed slip received with the last number of the WRITER, together with my subscription for 1881. I have been very much pleased with your magazine for the past year, and consider that I can in no way invest a dollar with a prospect of greater returns. Its cosmopolitan character, I think, is an extremely good feature, for there is nothing I so dislike as to see a shorthand periodical continually stirring up strife between the followers of different systems, as is the case with one magazine in particular that I have in mind. You have my best wishes that the WRITER may prove to you this year a greater success financially than it was last.

Yours very truly,

CARROLL REMICK.

A SHORTHAND WRITER'S ASSOCIATION.

TORONTO, June 10, 1881.

To the Editor of the WRITER.

Almost every profession and trade has an organization or union for the benefit and assistance of its members, but as yet the Canadian phonographers are in a totally unorganised state. In this we are behind our brother disciples across the lines. There you will find nearly every State has its Shorthand Association, and a movement is now on foot to establish a national society. We need not be out-distanced in this matter, for our ranks are now certainly large enough to support such a scheme if properly managed and carried out. As a beginning, I would suggest that an Ontario Society be formed. An annual conference could be held at some central point annually or semi-annually, when papers and essays relating to

the profession could be read and discussed on the same plan as that adopted by the N. Y. S. Stenographers' Association. Let there be three grades of membership,—first-class, those who occupy positions as Court or Parliamentary reporters, and who can write 260 words per minute and upwards; second-class, composed of amanuenses and others whose speed ranges from 130 to 160; and third class, amateurs and beginners who write from 100 to 130 words per minute. An efficient examining committee could also be appointed who would examine applicants and grant them either first, second or third class certificates, as the case may be, under the authority of the Association, for the guidance of those who employ shorthand writers, and who are often disgusted with those who have not yet mastered the principles of the art, and who attempt to fill responsible positions. Let us hear from some of the Ottawa and Toronto reporters on this matter.

Yours truly,

FRANK YEIGH.

THE QUESTION SETTLED.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MAILS,

WASHINGTON, April 29, 1881.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter of the 26th inst. I have to inform you that "a magazine written in short-hand" is not transmissible in the domestic mails of the United States at the rates of postage applicable to newspapers or other printed matter, but is held to be subject to letter postage, viz.: 3 cents per half ounce or fraction of half ounce.

I am very respectfully,

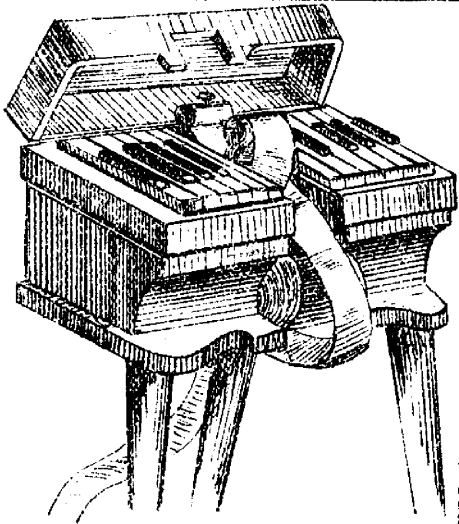
Your ob't servant,

JOSEPH H. BLACKFAN,

Sup't of Foreign Mails.

Messrs. Bengough Bros.,

Toronto, Ont.



THE MICHELA STENOGRAPHIC MACHINE.

Written in Isaac Pitman's System by T. P. Lewis.

The Michela Stenographic Machine is a valuable
 instrument for the shorthand writer. It is designed
 to assist in the formation of the shorthand symbols,
 and to ensure that they are written in a uniform
 and consistent manner. The machine is simple in
 construction, and is easy to use. It is a
 valuable addition to the shorthand writer's
 equipment, and is highly recommended for
 those who are studying the shorthand system.
 The machine is made of wood and metal, and is
 of a compact and portable size. It is suitable
 for use in a study or office, and is a
 valuable investment for any shorthand writer.
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 and is highly recommended for those who
 are studying the shorthand system.

A MERCHANT'S OPINION.

Written in Graham's Reporting System by "Quid."

1. The merchant's opinion is that the market is
 2. very uncertain and that prices are likely to
 3. fall. He advises that buyers should wait
 4. until the market has settled before making
 5. any large purchases. He also says that
 6. the government's policy is likely to have
 7. a serious effect on the market. He
 8. concludes by saying that he is not
 9. optimistic about the future of the
 10. market.



THE OBEROKEE ALPHABET.

Written in Graham's System by T. Pinkney

1. The Oberokee alphabet is a shorthand system
 2. designed for use in the Southern States.
 3. It is based on the principles of Graham's
 4. system and is intended to be simple and
 5. easy to learn. It is particularly well
 6. adapted for use in the Southern States
 7. where the dialect is so different from
 8. the Northern dialect. It is a very
 9. useful system and is well worth
 10. the study of.

SERMON BY BISHOP WALSH.

Written in Munson's System by T. Parish.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Munson's System, left column.

Handwritten shorthand notes in Munson's System, right column.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SHORTHAND.

Written in Benn Pitman's System by W. Malloy.

The advantages of shorthand are many and great. It saves time, and is a great help to the busy man. It is a great help to the student, and a great help to the teacher. It is a great help to the man of letters, and a great help to the man of business. It is a great help to the man of science, and a great help to the man of art. It is a great help to the man of law, and a great help to the man of medicine. It is a great help to the man of religion, and a great help to the man of politics. It is a great help to the man of war, and a great help to the man of peace. It is a great help to the man of all things, and a great help to the man of all men.

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WHAT IS EDUCATION ?

Written in Isaac Pitman's System by C. Phillips.

The modern merchant
 is a man who has
 a good deal of
 money and a
 good deal of
 influence. He
 is a man who
 is not afraid
 to take risks.
 He is a man
 who is not
 afraid to
 lose his money.
 He is a man
 who is not
 afraid to
 lose his
 influence.
 He is a man
 who is not
 afraid to
 lose his
 life.

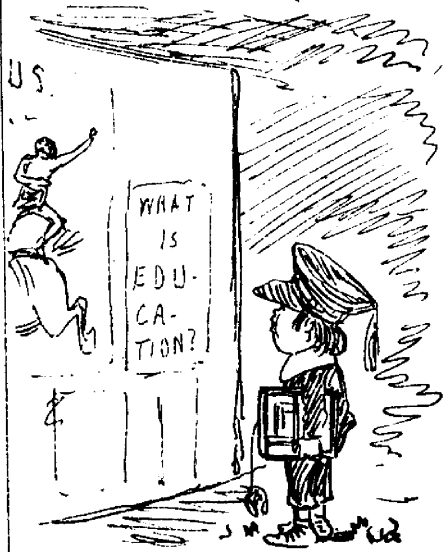
Education is
 the process
 of
 acquiring
 knowledge
 and
 skills.
 It is the
 process of
 learning
 to
 think
 for
 oneself.
 It is the
 process of
 learning
 to
 solve
 problems.
 It is the
 process of
 learning
 to
 work
 with
 others.
 It is the
 process of
 learning
 to
 be
 a
 responsible
 citizen.
 It is the
 process of
 learning
 to
 be
 a
 good
 person.



A SELECTION.

The first column contains several lines of shorthand notes, including the words "Education" and "What is Education?". The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style.

The second column contains several lines of shorthand notes, including the words "Education" and "What is Education?". The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style.



The third column contains several lines of shorthand notes, including the words "Education" and "What is Education?". The notes are written in a cursive shorthand style.

