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THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William H. Orr,

["Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor."—Hon. Tho's H. Benton.]

Publisher.

VOLUME II.

OSHAWA, C. W., JULY, 1859.

NUMBER I.

No Postage on the Pioneer.

From the following clause in the Official Circular to Postmasters, issued from the Postmaster General's Office, June 12th, 1859, it will be seen that the *Pioneer* is entitled to pass free of postage, it being devoted to the education of the people in a knowledge of the Phonetic branch of science as applied to writing and printing. In other words, our little Journal, as is well known, is devoted to Education and to Science, and is in no sense either a newspaper or a literary periodical. Our readers may, perhaps, have to pay postage on this first copy, but upon exhibiting it to the Postmaster and explaining its nature, the cent paid will be refunded, and the subsequent Nos. will be delivered free. The following is the clause in the Circular to which we refer:

"The exemption from charge accorded to periodicals, printed in this Province, other than newspapers, when specially devoted to Education, (both religious and general) to Agriculture, to Temperance, or to any branch of Science, and addressed directly from the office of publication to be transmitted to any Post-office in this Province, is continued."

Phonography in England.

Mr. Isaac Pitman devoted nearly the whole of his *Phonetic Journal* for June 18th to a consideration of our remarks under the above heading, in the January number of the *Pioneer*. Not content with devoting nine or ten tremendous columns of phonotypy in his own paper to the subject—in the course of which he alternately rambles away from and again approaches the matter in dispute—he modestly enough intimates that he would be obliged by his remarks being copied into the *Canadian Phonetic Pioneer*, and the *American Phonetic Journal*. Perhaps the publisher of the latter journal will be able to accommodate him, but we can assure Mr. Pitman that, anxious as we are that the phoneticians of Canada should thoroughly understand his position, it is totally out of our power to accommodate him with suf-

ficient space in the *Pioneer* for so lengthy an explanation. To attempt to do so would "swamp" our little craft, and thus effect double injury to the reform in Canada. Moreover, we are confidently assured by a leading Phonographer of England that Mr. Pitman's remarks above referred to, "are only calculated to mislead Phonographers as to the real bearings of the facts;" that they are a "mass of misrepresentations and exaggerations," that the subject has been so thoroughly discussed in England, and communications of a refuting character been so frequently refused an insertion in Mr. Pitman's journal, that nobody now thinks it worth while to make any formal criticism of what Mr. Pitman may write on the subject. This being the case, and taking into consideration our limited space, it would ill become us to enter into a controversy on the subject, especially as we know for a certainty, beforehand, that nothing we might advance could have the least influence, after the rejection, by Mr. Pitman, of the overwhelming vote of the Phonographers of England upon the subject.

However, as we have no desire to keep our readers in ignorance on any subject if we can readily avoid it, we are perfectly willing to devote a page of our paper to a careful and impartial exposition of the reasons which the advocates of the new style assign for the reversal of the vowel scale, and would feel obliged if Mr. Pitman, to that end, would publish an article of the kind in his journal, in the common print, so that our compositors can read it, and send us the necessary cuts to illustrate the subject, the postal expenses upon which we will pay.

As to our opinion of the Cincinnati phonotypy expressed through the *English Phonetic Journal* in 1856, we do not know that it is much different in 1859. However, it is not wise for those who live in glass houses to throw stones, and when Mr. Pitman ceases to change his opinions on phonetic matters for three months at a time, we may then, but not before, think it necessary to make an apology for a seeming change of ours in three years past. We can assure Mr. Pitman that we are no more in love with the American phonotypy, which we use in the *Pioneer*, than he is, but we use it because we think it better to maintain uniformity with the prevailing style in this country for a time, until Mr. Pitman gets done changing, than it would be to use a different style every few months, thus presenting our readers with a disheartening expose of the in-

stability of the leaders in the reform. Besides, we could not afford it. When Mr. Pitman gets through altering, reversing, and intermixing, and pledges himself in pecuniary bonds to use some one style of print for at least twenty years to come, then he may reckon upon the co-operation of the phonetic publishers of America, but not before.

Our Subscription List,

thanks to a few good friends of the movement, has increased considerably since last issue, but it is a long way below par yet. We have now 135 copies of the present volume ordered, and the sum of \$25 87½c. paid therefor—barely enough to pay the printer's bill for four numbers out of the twelve. We do not care so much, however, about the money—though we would like to receive enough to pay the cost of printing—but we want a larger circulation, so that we may be able to accomplish more, and we look to our present 135 readers, and others into whose hands this number may fall, to render us the required service. Let each procure from one to fifty more subscribers, according to his opportunities for doing so, and forward them with the proper remittance, and the object is accomplished. It is just as easy upon us to edit the *Pioneer* for 5,000 readers as for 100, and if each Phonographer would devote as much time, per month, gratis, to the interests of the *Pioneer* as we do—to say nothing of cash—we might just as well have double five thousand subscribers, and double as large a paper too, as not.

The prizes offered in our last issue appear to have called forth very little competition, probably owing to the idea being entertained that there would be 1 cent. postage to be paid on each copy, or 12 cents per annum. Only two clubs—one of twelve and the other of twenty subscribers—have yet been sent in. As we offered seven different prizes, and as no postage is collectable on such papers as ours, we have determined to hold the award open a while longer than at first announced. As our next number will be issued in a couple of weeks or so after this one, the award will be made in the Sept. No., and all clubs received up to the 15th day of September, will be allowed to compete for the prizes. Lest some who receive this No. may not have seen the issue for June, we repeat the offer:

For the largest number of copies ordered, over sixteen, a copy of the "Phonographer's Diary," containing 400 large square pages of

double-ruled paper of the finest quality, handsomely bound in cloth, price \$2, and \$3 worth of Phonographic Magazines—in all \$4.00.

For the 2nd largest number over seven, a marbled and gilt copy of "Graham's Hand-Book of Phonography," price \$1.75.

For the 3rd largest number over seven, a copy of "The Teacher," price \$1.15.

For the 4th largest number over seven, a copy of the "Phonographic Chart," price \$1.00.

For the 5th largest number over seven, a Reporting Cover, for holding reporting paper, price 75cts.

For the 6th largest number over seven, a copy of "Graham's Brief Long-Hand," price 63cts.

For the 7th largest number over seven, 100 Phonographic Envelopes, price 50cts.

An Apology.

We owe our readers an apology for the lateness of our appearance this month. We have one—otherwise we should have been on hand on or about the 15th of the month, as usual. Our printing office not being a very extensive one, we sometimes get a job to print which occupies nearly all our type and time for a week or two. In such case, our little paper, not being a very good customer, is crowded to one side until more important work is finished. This was the case this month, but we will try to make up for our present lateness by being more early than usual at some future time.

An Orthographic Puzzle.

The celebrated termination "ough" is amusingly enough put in the following lines.

Wife, make me some dumplings of dough,
They're better than meat for my cough;
Pray let them be boiled till hot through,
But not till they're heavy or tough.
Now, I must be off to the plough,
And the boys, when they're had enough,
Must keep the flies off with a bough,
While the old man drinks at the trough.

Phonographic Magazines.

Every student of Phonography should take some Phonographic Magazine for the purpose of keeping up his interest in the study, and having fresh reading matter. A person should be able to read Phonography fluently, as well as write it; and the ability to write rapidly is of very little use without the ability to read what is written. No reading exercise that can be procured, after the Reporter's Companion and the Phonographic Reader are gone through, is more interesting and useful than that to be found in the Phonographic Magazines. In selecting a Magazine, many would prefer to have one from the fountain head of Phonography, viz. England. We have accordingly made arrangements whereby we shall be enabled to furnish our readers with

the "Phonographic Examiner" published by Charles Gahagan, Esq., 8 Nutford Place, Edgware Road, London,—which is the leading publication of the kind in the world—at the low price of \$1.00 per annum, postage prepaid. The "Examiner" is a lithographic periodical, issued once a month, containing 16 pages as large as those of the Manual of Phonography, of neatly written Phonography. In addition to the Magazine proper, there is a Supplement, each month, containing letters from correspondents, book notices, etc., of from 8 to 16 pages more, for which one penny per copy additional is charged in England, but we will furnish the whole, post-paid to any part of Canada, for \$1.00 in advance. Fifty cents will pay for the six months from July to December of this year inclusive. Thus for 70 cts, from 144 to 192 pages of good phonographic reading may be procured. The Examiner is printed mainly in the corresponding style—a few pages occasionally being also given in an easy Reporting style.

Mr. JAMES SRIELEY, a school teacher in the Township of King, writes as follows, in very correct Phonography:—"I have felt anxious to send you a sample of my writing in Phonography, as a proof of my success in the art; but when I tell you that three of us went into partnership for the book you sent me, so that I have only had it one week out of the three, and that I have therefore had it only about one month,—and during that time I have had to attend to my school, half an acre of garden, an acre of potato patch, besides reading four or five weekly newspapers, and along with that a good deal of history, as well as to attend to the wants of my family;—you will readily admit that I have not had a great opportunity to become master of the art. However, I believe I can now write it faster than the long-hand, and am so much taken up with it that I intend to start a class in it as soon as the evenings get a little longer, and I can get a little better acquainted with it."

Our correspondent has certainly done remarkably well, considering the difficulties with which he is surrounded. Such men as he are wanted in the phonetic world, to keep the cause in a state of progress. Persons who, though having abundance of leisure time on their hands, cannot learn Phonography without the aid of an oral teacher, cannot be expected ever to be of any more service in the extension of a knowledge of the art than the little they acquire of it is beneficial to them. The man who learns Phonography in the midst of difficulties and alone, is the man to make his way upward and onward in life, and those who give up the study and say they can't learn it (and we have met with two or three of that character) may as well write themselves down block-heads at once, and never more aspire to be anything or anybody in the domain of intellect. Phonography is one of the easiest, simplest and most attractive of all the various branches of education.

MR. WARRING KENNEDY, of Toronto, a good Phonographer who had the assistance of Mr. Webber in acquiring a knowledge of the art, writes that he has purchased from his tutor, who has gone into other business, all the maps, charts, etc., recently used by him at the Phonographic Institute on the corner of King and Church streets, and that he will keep the establishment open for a time. He says also that he and five others have an ever-circulating magazine in operation, of which Prof. Goutier is conductor; that all are highly pleased with their new attainment, and are resolved to assist each other as much as possible in acquiring still greater proficiency.

MR. SAMUEL CLARE.—This indefatigable laborer in the cause of Reform is speaking a good word for Phonography and instituting classes for instruction in the art in the Town of Brantford, as will be learned from the following paragraph, which we clip from the Brant Expositor:

PHONOGRAPHY.—Mr. Clare's Lecture on this beautiful science was respectably attended on Friday evening last. His exposition of the advantages of Phonography over the common system of writing and spelling, was listened to with much interest. Mr. Clare has taken rooms in the Victoria Buildings, Colborne St., and is now forming classes for tuition in the science. The young men of Brantford, of whatever profession, should lose no time in enrolling themselves as students under Mr. Clare. Independent of the fees being very moderate, the advantage of possessing a knowledge of this beautiful system of short hand is incalculable."

THE PHONOGRAPHER'S SONG.—This excellent composition will be given in next issue, and a large number of capital articles relating to the subject of Phonetic truth will make their appearance as our limited columns will permit.

To the Editor of the Pioneer.

SIR,—You will be glad to learn, no doubt, that the study of Phonography in this place and neighborhood is becoming very general. All my apprentices (three in number) have become proficient in the art, after studying and practising a short time each day during the past three months. The demand for the Manuals is greatly on the increase. Several of our ministers, as well as many of the intelligent young men and others of this place, have studied or are studying the useful art.

The public certainly owe you a debt of gratitude for the pains you have taken in introducing in this country this excellent system of writing by sound.

I am quite out of Manuals. Please send me more copies, with copy books.

Gratefully yours,
Ingorsoll, 12th July, 1859. J. S. G.

For the Phonetic Pioneer.

"I have written all the exercises in Pitman's Manual of Phonography, and can read the most of them as readily as I can our common long-hand. What little I know of the art affords me much pleasure, and I ardently desire to obtain a complete knowledge of a system which I deem so useful and important to the world. I only regret that I did not become acquainted with it sooner. Had this been the case, I might by its aid have acquired greater proficiency in other branches of education, and have done a great deal more good in my sphere of usefulness. I cheerfully recommend it to the favorable notice of all, and particularly the young. All should immediately avail themselves of the facilities offered, and endeavor without delay to know at least something of one of the greatest inventions of the age."

JOHN EARL,

Minister in the Canada Christian Conference. Townsend, C.W., 5th July, 1859.

THE PHONOTYPIC ALPHABET.

VOWELS.

E e	Æ æ	Å å	O o	Ö ö	Ø ø
æ l,	a e,	a r m,	a l l	o d e,	o o z e ;
	æ æ	(a		E e	
	u r,	a s k,		æ r t h ;	
I i	E e	Å å	O o	U u	U u
æ,	æ l l,	a m,	o n	u p	fo o t ;

DIPHTHONGS.

F i	Ø ø	Æ æ	U u
b y,	b o y,	h o w,	n e w ;

CONSONANTS.

P p, B b, T t, D d, C c, G g, J j, K k, G g, p p, b b, t t, d d, c c, h h, j j, k k, g g, f f, v v, r r, æ æ, s s, z z, æ æ, k k, f f, e e, v v, a a, l a t h, l a t h e, c e a s e, s e i z e, æ æ, a z u r e, l l, r r, m m, n n, u u, p p, y y, w w, h h, æ æ, r a r e, m a i n, n u n, s i n g, y o u, w a y, l a y.

A Lesson in Pronunciation.

Who that reads the war news pronounces the names of persons and places with any certainty of correctness, or with any satisfaction to himself? Who dares to read it aloud, and who that does it, gives every syllable a clear, distinct and decided sound? Do not almost all persons slide and stumble over them, somewhat as a "log sled" jumps and thumps over the stumps and rough places in the road? For the benefit of such persons, we give a few of the most frequently recurring names, with their correct pronunciation indicated in phonetic print. By a reference to the Phonotypic Alphabet, the correct sound of each letter may be learned.

- Breguardo—Bragwærdø, vilaj ov Lombardi.
- Brescia—Bresjæ, siti ov ditø.
- Buffalora—Bøfæløræ, a siti ov de Tegeno.
- Canrobert—Kænroberæ, a Frenç Jeneral.
- Castiglano—Kæstjlyænæ, tsn ov Lombardi.
- Cassala—Kæslæ, fortifid tsn ov Itali.
- Cherbourg—Æærbø, fortifid Frenç harbor.
- Chieso—Kæssæ, a river in Nordern Itali.
- Garibaldi—Gærbældæ, an Italian Jeneral.

Guidizzolo—Gweditsolo, tsn ov Østrian Itali.
 Gulai—Jøli, an Østrian Ksnt and Jeneral.
 Lago Maggiore—Lægo Mædjøræ, a lak.
 Magenta—Mæjentæ, tsn ov Østrian Itali.
 Mazzini—Mætsenæ, a politjan ov Itali.
 Mincio—Mænçø, a river in Itali.
 Mont Cenis—Møn Sene, sumit ov Alps.
 Montechiaro—Montækrø, a tsn ov Itali.
 Novara—Nøvræ, siti ov Lombardi.
 Peschiera—Peskæræ, fortifid tsn in Lombardi.
 Romagnano—Romænyænø, tsn in Pedmont.
 Solferino—Sølfærænø, vilaj in Østrian Itali.
 Schliek—Ælæk, an Østrian Jeneral.
 Sicelè—Sæklæ, a nuzpaper in Paris.
 Sesia—Sæsjæ, a river in Pedmont.
 San Giorgio—San Jørjæ, a tsn in Nør. Itali.
 Susa—Sæsæ, a tsn ov Pedmont.
 Ticino—Tjegnø, a river in Pedmont.
 Vercelli—Værselæ, a siti ov Pedmont.
 Vallegio—Væljø, a vilaj ov Østrian Itali.
 Vigevano—Vjævænø, a tsn ov Sardinia.
 Voghera—Vøgæræ, a tsn ov Pedmont.
 Zouaves—Zøvæz, Ææ næm ov an aktiv bodi ov søljerz in de Frenç servis, orjinali Arabz but us Frençmen hø wæ de Arab dres. Ææ Zøvæz ær distingwist from uder Frenç trøps bj dæ dres, hwig iz sunhwot oriental in stjil, konsistiv ov blj tyniks, de los pantalønz tukht in bj gætz, and de Turkij fez or skul-kæp. Ææ dæfer also in dæq militari qrt yuzj de bænet olmost eksklusivli, and trøstj tu dæq jinnæstik æjiliti ræder dan tu dæq skil in de us ov sjerms. Ææ ær regulæri trænd in jinnæstik eksersjæz; and hwot givz dem dæq sarkes ægenst hevi qrmð trøps iz de swiftnes wid hwig dæ wil skul wølz, læp digæz and bænet gunerz at dæq pøstæ æven befor dæ hav had tjm tu læd dæq pæsæ a sekond tjm.

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER. W. H. Orr, Oshawa, C.W. 25c. a year.

The issue for June of this little monthly sheet has come to hand. We have before praised this publication, and on the receipt of this number—the twelfth, completing the first volume—we may again be allowed to direct attention to the magazine and its objects. Its comprehensive title indicates its purpose—viz, that it is "devoted to the spread of the writing, spelling and printing reform" in Canada; and certainly, during the past twelve months the important aim of the "Pioneer" has not been overlooked. We desire especially to notice the fact that a national association has been constituted under the name of "The British American Association," having for its object the union and co-operation of the friends of the phonetic reform, the encouragement and spread of phonetic writing and printing, and the circulation of phonetic and phonographic publications throughout British North America. Members of this association gratuitously correct the exercises of its learners and give information respecting the phonographic art. Similar societies exist in England and in the United States, and as their purposes are disinterested and beneficial they deserve favor at the hands of every journalist. Phonographers wishing to become members may do so by addressing the secretary, Mr. Augustus Webber, Toronto, stating occupation or profession. No entrance fee or subscription is required. Voluntary donations, devoted solely to the printing of the annual report, are received, and memberships are renewed annually. This association was established March 24th, 1859, and full information respecting its constitution and objects may be found in the "Phonetic Pioneer."—Kingston Whig.

Phonography.

SPEECH AND WRITING are the grand mediums for the interchange of thought and affection, and thus for carrying on the necessary intercourse of life. Between these two methods of communication, there has always existed great disparity in point of facility and dispatch. To speak, is an exercise comparatively rapid, easy and delightful; to write, is felt by all to be tedious, cumbrous and wearisome, in an extreme degree. Is this disparity necessary? or, does it result from the imperfection of our system of writing? The hand is as skillfully organised for the rapid execution of written characters as are the larynx, mouth, tongue and lips, for the ready articulation of spoken sounds. It is an interesting and important inquiry,—Why are not the signs employed in writing, as simple as the sounds they represent?

Within the last hundred years, travelling has been expedited to seven times the former rate of speed; within the last sixteen years, the epistolary correspondence of this country has increased five-fold, by the introduction of cheap, but remunerative, postal communication; and, by means of the electric telegraph, intelligence can now be conveyed to any distance in a few seconds. Similar improvements and facilities distinguish the present from all former times, in almost every department of social and commercial life; and yet we continue to use the mode of WRITING which has been handed down to us from the remotest antiquity, (with but very slight changes in the forms of the letters,)—a mode which, by its complexity, obliges the readiest hand to spend at least six hours in writing what can be spoken in one! Is this right, fit or necessary? The genius of the ago answers, "No."

It is, however, in accordance with the law of human life and progress, that that which is defective and erroneous should be remodeled, and rendered conformable to reason and truth; and that that which is difficult should be made easy. In this ago of intellectual and business activity, the want of an expeditious method of writing is universally felt. "Who that is much in the habit of writing," asks the *English Review*, "has not often wished for some means of expressing by two or three dashes of the pen, that which, as things are, it requires such an expenditure of time and labor to commit to paper? Our present mode of communication must be felt to be cumbrous in the last degree, unworthy of these days of invention; we require some means of bringing the operations of the mind, and of the hand, into closer correspondence."

SHORTHAND.—Systems of Shorthand based upon the common alphabet, though considerably briefer than ordinary writing, are altogether incapable of supplying its place in the common business of life. On this point no more conclusive evidence can be necessary than is afforded by the fact that, notwithstanding the art of Stenography has been employed in this country for nearly three centuries, few, except professional reporters, make a practical use of it. The illegibility of Shorthand is proverbial, and the public have wisely refused to trust the records of their thoughts and deeds to its faithless keeping.

PHONOGRAPHY.—The desideratum of a brief method of writing, briefer than the briefest.

Shorthand, and yet as legible as Longhand, is supplied in Phonography, the invention of Mr. Isaac Pitman, of Bath. It is already used by many thousand persons in this country and in America, with perfect fearlessness for all the common purposes of writing,—for correspondence, in book keeping, for writing sermons, essays, etc. that are to be read in public, and for reporting the proceedings of law courts and legislative assemblies. It is a system of Phonetic Shorthand, as rapid and as intelligible as speech itself; of which it is, as used in correspondence, an exact picture; and as used in verbatim reporting, a perfect and intelligible outline. Phonography is based upon a correct and practical analysis of spoken language, and represents words as they are really pronounced. There is every reason to believe that, in the course of time, it will entirely supersede Longhand, except in legal documents, titles of manuscript books, headings of chapters and pages, leading words in written indexes, addresses of letters, and parcels, etc.; where the bold appearance of Longhand, in comparison with Shorthand, affords greater facilities for reference. The following facts may be taken as indications of the future general adoption of Phonography:—No one who is practically acquainted with the system, ever thinks of employing Longhand when writing to a person who has a knowledge of the Phonetic Shorthand alphabet. The alphabet of the system, and the ability to read it, may be acquired in three or four hours' study. The ability to write Phonography at the rate of twenty words per minute,—the average rate at which Longhand is written,—may be acquired by any one who can already write Longhand, in one month, by practising from half an hour to an hour per day. By continued practice, increased facility is attained, and in six months the student of the art is able to report a slow speaker verbatim, at the rate of a hundred words per minute. One or two months' additional practice will enable him to write at the average rate of public speaking, which is one hundred and twenty words per minute.

From the Illinois Teacher.

Phonetic Instruction on Trial.

All who are interested in inquiring into the true merits of phonetic teaching as a means of introduction to our literature in its present dress, will be interested in the following letter from the Superintendent of Public Schools in Syracuse, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
SYRACUSE, November 26, 1858.

Mr. JNO F. BROOKS—Dear Sir; Your letter of the 23th inst. is before me. It is with pleasure I reply to your inquiries.

One year ago the Board of Education was induced to make an experiment designed to test the merits of the phonetic system in teaching children the first principles of reading. For this purpose three classes were supplied with Longley's Phonetic Cards and Primer. The experiment was so far a success as to influence the Board to adopt the system for all the primary departments. Children on entering the school are required to spend the first year in learning to read Phonotypy. In this time we take them through the Primer and

First Reader (Longley's), using the cards during the whole course. We then put them to reading and spelling in a Second Reader of ordinary print, requiring, however, all words to be analyzed by sounds as well as spelled by letters.

We meet with some difficulties. One of the greatest is, not having teachers who understand the system and the proper modes of applying it; another is, the prejudice of the community. To remedy the first, we put our best female teachers in the primary departments, and pay them the highest wages. These teachers, with a few exceptions, have used a commendable degree of industry in qualifying themselves to teach the system successfully, and have accomplished this to as great an extent as we could reasonably expect. If the system is pursued another year, we shall look for much more favorable results than we have yet seen; though the results already attained are much more desirable than those accomplished by the old method of instruction.

To overcome the second difficulty mentioned, the Board purchased the books and furnished the classes with them free of charge, and prevented the children from taking them home until they were sufficiently advanced to read them. In this manner we have avoided coming in contact with the popular prejudices in a remarkable degree. When intelligent parents have witnessed the results of the system in their own children, they have invariably become its warmest advocates.

We have not used the system in all our schools long enough to test its merits in every particular as to its general workings, and only one of the experimental classes has been kept together. The results, however, in this class, I consider a fair example of the workings of the system. The children composing this class were those who entered the school for the first time, most of them not knowing their letters. A few had been taught the alphabet, but this proved rather an hindrance than an advantage. The parentage of the children was the same as that found in most of our schools—a mixture of American, German and Irish. The pupils were taken as they were sent in, with a view to give the system a fair test. The teacher was young, with only one year's experience—an assistant in the primary department. She knew nothing of the system as a means of teaching children to read; hence she had everything to learn as she advanced with the class. She however brought to the work good natural powers, very well cultivated by study, and a commendable degree of earnestness. She had no difficulty in taking the class thoroughly over the Primer and First Reader in the course of the year.

We now came to the point where we expected difficulty. The question was seriously asked, "How shall we make the transition from the Phonetic to the ordinary print?" It was at first determined to use a Transition Reader. By corresponding with the Rev. Thomas Hill, of Waltham, Mass., who has spent much thought on this subject, and who has tried the experiment in the schools of his place of residence, we were assured that such a reader was not necessary. We then put *Webb's Second Reader* into the hands of the class. We have used the reader for years in our schools. The first two weeks removed all our anxiety and the difficulty in the way of transition. The

class took up the book as if they had been familiar with it, and required much less special instruction than other classes advanced to the same point in the usual method. The only instruction required of the teacher was to give the powers of combination in letters with which they were not acquainted. These they readily learned, and soon became as fluent readers in the ordinary type as in that in which they had been taught.

Our anxiety was now in regard to spelling. This, too, was speedily removed, for the phonetic class were very soon the best spellers of their age in the school. The very irregularities of the Romanic orthography seemed to aid them in learning to spell. With these points settled favorably, we considered the experiment a perfect success.

The following is a summary of some of the results of the experience in this class:

- 1st. A distinctness of articulation never before obtained. This is so marked and uniform that the most delicate ear will find it difficult to determine the nationality of the pupil by any peculiarity of accent.
- 2d. Independence in getting out the pronunciation of new words.
- 3rd. A rational and practical knowledge of the relation of letters to words.
- 4th. An increased facility in learning to spell. To this might be added. An increased activity of mind, induced in the child by the fact that every step of the process by which he has learned to read has been intelligible to himself.

I was induced to bring this class before our Teacher's Association at last meeting. The examination then had showed conclusively the foregoing results. Wishing to subject the class to the severest test possible, I, without the knowledge of the teacher, procured another Reader and put it into the hands of the class. It proved to be much more difficult than the one they were using, and the class never saw the book until it was put in their hands. I expected a failure, but was most agreeably disappointed, for every member of the class was able to read the first piece opened to with a distinctness of utterance and a propriety of pronunciation which might well be imitated by most teachers.

I have already been more lengthy than I intended. But I hope our success, imperfect as it is, may encourage others to adopt the system. I have not attempted to advance opinions or theories in this matter, but to give the practical workings of the system so far as we have tried it.

I remain yours very truly,
GEO. L. FARNHAM, Superintendent.

PHONETIC ASSOCIATION.—A list of the new members of the Association should have appeared in the present No., but we have now not space sufficient. See next issue.

TERMS OF THE PIONEER.—For one copy one year, 25 cents. For six copies to different addresses \$1.00. For seven to one address \$1.00. For thirteen to different addresses, \$2.00. For sixteen to one address, \$2.00. For fifty to one address, \$5.00.

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