ISAAC PITMAN.

A

BIOGRAPHY

OF

ISAAC PITMAN

(Inventor of Phonography.)

BY

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ILLUSTRATED.

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PREFACE.

Many sketches of the life and labors of Mr Isaac Pitman have been given from time to time in magazines and newspapers at home and abroad, but nothing has hitherto appeared in the nature of a continuous and fairly complete Biography. I have attempted to supply the deficiency from such materials as have been at my disposal. If I possess no other qualifications for the task, I have at least the advantage of having had a very long personal acquaintance, which early ripened into friendship, with Mr Pitman and most of the members of his family, and of having been for many years a fellow-laborer in the movements, which, more than half-a-century ago, he originated. The latter circumstance has rendered it almost necessary that I should, here and there, make some allusion to the duties I have had to fulfil in connection with the early propagation of Phonography and the later public recognition of Mr Pitman's efforts. I would willingly have omitted all such references, but they have been almost forced upon me in the preparation of this memoir, and I could hardly have passed them by without running the risk

of an imputation of false modesty. In order to avoid errors of statement, I have asked Mr Pitman to read the proof-sheets of the work, and he has been good enough to do so. As far, therefore, as he is himself concerned, the record may be regarded as authoritative. It was not without reluctance that his assent to the publication was obtained; but, having waived the objections natural to a retiring disposition, he has at length given me his friendly help in my endeavors to place before the public some account of his life's work. No responsibility, of course, attaches to him except in regard to the matters of fact here related in connection with his own personal history. For the other parts of the work I am alone responsible, and whatever imperfections they may exhibit must be laid to my account.

Nov., 1890. T. A. REED.

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BIOGRAPHY

OF

ISAAC PITMAN.

CHAPTER I.

Isaac Pitman was born at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, on the 4th of January, 1813, being the second son, and the third child, of a family of eleven children—seven sons and four daughters. The sons were christened Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Joseph, Benjamin, Henry, and Frederick; and the daughters were named Melissa, Rosella, Jane, and Mary. Abraham died at the age of fifteen; all the rest lived to be active members of society. Six of them became teachers of public schools, five having first passed through a course of training at the Borough Road College of the British and Foreign School Society, London. The head-master of the College, Mr Henry Dunn, said to the father of this teaching family, "Send me as many more as you can spare." Jacob Pitman, architect, died at Sydney, N.S. Wales, in March, 1890, in his eightieth year, Melissa at fifty-five, and Frederick at fifty-eight years of age. Seven of the family are now living. Samuel Pitman, their father, was for many years clerk and overseer of the factory of Mr James Edgell, Trowbridge, which, in the early years of the present century, was the principal town in the West of England for the manufacture of cloth. Isaac received the rudiments of an English

education in the Grammar School of his native town. From a list of the names of the pupils, kept by the schoolmaster, Mr Nightingale, it appears that he left school on the 8th of October, 1825, in the thirteenth year of his age. He would have continued longer at school, but for a physical weakness, occasioned, it is now believed, by the condition of the small, low, ill-ventilated schoolroom in which the boys assembled. They numbered from 80 to 100, and the size of the room was about 25 ft. by 15 ft., and 8 or 9 ft. high. The boys were stowed away in two layers, one in raised desks round the room, and the other in classes on the floor. Young Pitman's sensitive constitution could not endure the vitiated atmosphere of the place, and he was often obliged to be taken into the fresh air to recover from a fainting fit. This circumstance brought his school-time to an early close. No one, it seems, in those pre-sanitary days, dreamed of laying the blame upon the schoolroom, the only explanation being found in the boy's weakly constitution. No fainting fit occurred after he left school. From his earliest days he was fond of reading, and his studious habits received every encouragement from his father, a man of considerable intelligence, and a strict disciplinarian. The greatest regularity and punctuality prevailed in the family. To loiter in the street for a game of marbles on the way to school was a serious offence, and punished as such. But Isaac was not inclined to indulge in this or other boyish pastimes. There is, indeed, a family tradition that he once exhibited a healthy tendency to mischief by joining an elder brother in an assault upon an apple tree in the garden. The offenders were discovered, and forthwith ordered to "go to the desk"—a formidable piece of discipline reserved for serious delinquencies. The culprit was required to stand

at the desk, extend his arms before him, and show "a square back," on which descended a black leather strap, part of the household furniture, the number of strokes being regulated by an established code of Draconian strictness. Another family tradition is, that this instrument of discipline was once missing at a time when it was required, and "father" was very angry—the only occasion, it is said, on which he lost his temper while endeavoring to obey the wise man's precept, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." The strap was afterwards found under the bed-clothes of the cradle.

Isaac is said by his brothers and sisters to have been a religiously-disposed youth. He was brought up as a Baptist, his mother being a very devout member of that denomination. The writer has been told that a few days before the departure of this good woman to the other life, she said to her second daughter, Rose, "In the bottom drawer of that chest," pointing to one in the room, "under the other things, you will find the white dress in which I was baptized. I have preserved it for my burial." Its preservation was not previously known in the family. It is said that she was never heard to laugh aloud; but her face always wore a pleasing, or a patiently resigned, expression—generally the former.

Besides the instruction which the children received in the day, Mr Pitman senior, who always took the deepest interest in their education, instituted an evening school at home, and engaged an intelligent lady and a good pianist, Miss New, to teach the four older ones, between the ages of eight and thirteen, for two hours twice a week, one hour being given to the piano, a quarter of an hour to

each pupil; and the other hour to grammar and other youthful studies. The piano was then beginning to supersede the harpsichord and spinet. The first instrument on which the children played for about two years was an old-fashioned triangular harpsichord. After they had acquired some proficiency in fingering, they were rewarded with a real "Broadwood" of five-and-a-half octaves, then considered a good compass. So overjoyed was Isaac with the opportunity of playing on this instrument that he regarded it as a gift from Heaven, and gave shape to his gratitude by saving up his pocket money till it amounted to five shillings, which he converted into a silver crown piece and quietly dropped the glittering coin into the collecting-box at Zion Chapel, all unknown to his brothers and sisters to this day. This home school was held for two or three years, and was discontinued on the removal of the family residence from Nos. 3 and 4 Timbrell Street to Trowbridge Down, No. 4, where, about 1826, Mr Pitman built a house with workshops behind for the manufacture of cloth. A pair of globes was now added to the means of family instruction, and the "use of the globes" was at once added by Isaac to his other subjects of study. Soon after his removal to Bath in 1839, at the request of Miss Evans, who conducted a large ladies' school at No. 1 Royal Crescent, he instructed the young ladies in this branch of knowledge.

In the youth and early manhood of Mr Samuel Pitman (born 1787, died 1863,) the French Revolution convulsed England as well as the Continent. Of literature there was then but a scant supply, and the only science that had been much cultivated since the restoration of learning in the fifteenth century was astronomy, which Mr Pitman

studied with ardor, together with the so-called science of astrology. This he mastered in all its details, being intimately acquainted with that abstruse 4to. volume, "Sibly's Astrology." The horoscopes of the eleven children were placed in the Family Bible. An additional copy of the horoscopes of both parents and children was also made, which the author has had an opportunity of inspecting. In his later life Mr Pitman senior abandoned the notion that the events of life are regulated through the medium of planetary movements, and gave up his astrological studies.

One more reminiscence may be given of Isaac's youth, and his mother's instinctive love. Two years after he left home, and had served his school eighteen months, in the summer holiday of 1833 he paid a visit to his parents. Reaching home in the twilight—the house in Silver Street, Trowbridge, in front of the factory—he was surprised, on entering the house, to find himself in someone's arms, and that fingers were feeling the tip of his nose. On being released, he found that his mother had been trying to assure herself, by a dimple in the nose, that it was indeed her own Isaac. By this incident he first became aware of this little facial mark, so well preserved in Mr Brock's bust. Gossips say it is a "second thought" on the part of dame Nature, who decides to make a unit instead of twins * This first visit home is remembered by

* S. R. Wells, in his "New Physiognomy," p. 210, says: — "Two lateral prominences at the end of the nose, indicate the faculty of correspondence. This sign, when large, makes the nose appear as if it were divided into two lateral halves. A person with this sign large has a clear perception of the fitness of things, and the correspondence of one thing with another, and an equal sense of propriety in manners, dress, and everything else."

the family as having been marked by an affecting religious service. It occurred on the eve of the day before his return to the North. The family was called together to evening prayer. Isaac read *Acts* 20. 17-38, and offered prayer. They were all solemnized, and gladdened by the hope that they should yet "see his face again."

The poet Crabbe was Rector of Trowbridge from 1813 to 1832, and during their boyhood the Pitmans were active in his Sunday School, the father being superintendent, and his two eldest boys, Jacob and Isaac, teachers, the one being about 10 and the other 8 years of age. The Baptist place of worship which the family attended, Zion Chapel, had not then established a Sunday School. In a few years this necessary adjunct to a Church was established, mainly through the exertions of Isaac's father: his two eldest sons became teachers, and led the singing by their flutes.

On leaving school, Isaac became a junior clerk in the counting-house of the factory of which his father was manager, being at his desk every morning at six o'clock. When, as sometimes happened, there was no work to be done, he would take a country walk for an hour. In these walks, and at home, he got through a great deal of general reading, much of it of a serious description. Watts's "Improvement of the Mind" was one of his favorite volumes, and he believes that it had a great influence in the formation of his habits and character. From his earliest days, books and music were, as he has himself expressed it, his "two loves." One of the books which he made his companion in these morning walks, from Pole-barn lane (at the bottom of which was the factory) into the country, was "Lennie's Grammar."

The conjugations of verbs, lists of irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions, and the 36 rules of syntax, he committed to memory, so that he could repeat them *seriatim*. The study of this book gave him a transparent English style. There was also a local library to which his father subscribed, one of the earliest lending libraries established in the country, and Isaac was one of its most diligent readers. He went regularly for fresh supplies of books, and in this way became well acquainted with the English classics, being, as he tells us, as familiar with Addison's Sir Roger, Will Honeycomb, and all the club, as he was with his own brothers and sisters. At this early age he was greatly delighted with the "Iliad," and thought he had made a discovery of an extremely interesting book, never having heard it mentioned by anyone. Besides the treasures of the local library, the young Pitmans had the advantage of occasional parcels of books from London. Their father had obtained an introduction to the publishing house of Tegg, 73 Cheapside, from whom he was able to buy books at trade price,—"a privilege," says Mr Jacob Pitman, "of which he availed himself to a large extent, purchasing a number of books which we had never seen before, and this gave a great impetus to our studies." Isaac never expected to wield the pen as an author, but at an early age his reading of the *Spectator*, from the first number to the last, inspired him with a desire to do something in letters.

He was in the habit, from the age of twelve, of copying choice pieces of poetry and portions of Scripture into a little book which he kept in his pocket, for the purpose of committing them to memory. Two of these little pocket albums have been preserved. Their contents are very various.

One contains extracts from Pope, Milton, Cowper, James Montgomery, the Psalms, and Isaiah, interspersed with the Greek Alphabet, the Signs of the Zodiac, arithmetical tables, and other items of useful information. This book is dated May 31st, 1825. The penmanship is extremely neat and distinct. A later pocket companion contains a neatly-written copy of Valpy's Greek Grammar, as far as the Syntax, which he committed to memory; a chronological table, etc. In his morning walks, at Barton-on--Humber, he committed to memory the first 14 chapters of Proverbs. He would not undertake a fresh chapter until he had repeated the preceding one without hesitation.

Up to the age of sixteen, he greatly increased his knowledge of books; but he rarely had the opportunity of intercourse with educated persons. One result of this was that, while familiar enough with written words and their meaning, he was at fault with regard to their pronunciation. A large portion of the language of books he had never heard in conversation, and the misleading or ambiguous spellings of these numerous words often led him to pronounce them (mentally) inaccurately. Happily, he was conscious of this defect, and did his best to remedy it. Of many hundred words, known by the eye only as dumb symbols, he learned the accentuation by his reading and passionate love of "Paradise Lost." With characteristic energy and thoroughness, he set himself a task which to most persons would be little less than repulsive, and which probably few have undertaken. He carefully read through Walker's Dictionary, with the double object of extending his knowledge of words, and of correcting his errors in orthoëpy. The words which he thus discovered that he had mentally mispronounced were copied out with their proper

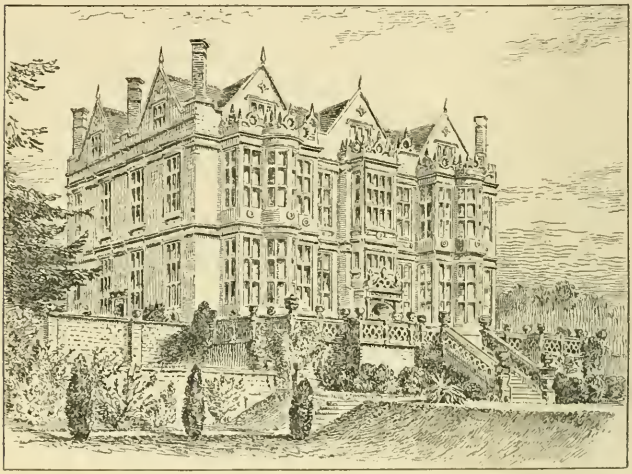
diacritic symbols of pronunciation. They numbered about two thousand, and their correct pronunciation had to be fixed in the memory by repetition. The chief difficulty in this task lay in the fact that a false pronunciation or accentuation had to be unlearned. This reading of Walker was made at about the age of seventeen. He read through the book a second time, with the same object, soon after he was settled in his school at Barton-on-Humber.

It was this study of Walker, especially the Introduction to the Dictionary, that determined the literary bent of his subsequent life. He there saw for the first time a scientific classification of the sounds of the language, and their relations to each other. There, too, he more clearly discovered the defects and redundancies of the common alphabet, and the glaring inconsistencies and absurdities of the current orthography, on which he was destined in after years to make so determined an onslaught, but which, at that period, were regarded by him with the customary literary awe. His study of shorthand—with which his name is now so closely identified—did not begin till about 1829. A copy of Harding's edition of Taylor's system fell into his hands, and he was greatly interested in reading therein an extract from Gawtress's Introduction to Byrom's system, in which the advantages of the art were eloquently set forth. The book was published at 3*s.* 6*d.*—the lowest price for any work on shorthand in those days—and, not deeming it prudent to expend so large a sum, he borrowed the book from a cousin,* read it

* This cousin, Charles Laverton, was of a very studious turn of mind, and he and Isaac Pitman were intimately associated in their literary pursuits, and were much attached to each

through, copied the alphabet and the arbitrary characters, and learned to write the system with sufficient facility to be able to report a slow speaker.

About two years after Isaac had entered the service of Mr Edgell, his father set up as a manufacturer on his own account, as already mentioned, and the young clerk was transferred to his father's counting-house. The



Kingston House, Bradford.

family residence and the business were removed in 1829 to the house and factory in Silver Street; and in August, 1831, Isaac gave up his clerkship for a more congenial occupation,—that of a school-teacher. He was sent to the

other. Laverton learned shorthand as an aid to the ministry for which he was studying. He left England for Harvard College, Boston, U.S.A.; but on walking from the ship to the landing-place, slipped from the plank and was drowned.

British and Foreign School and College, Borough Road, London, to be trained as a British School teacher. After five months' study and drill in teaching, he was sent to Barton-on-Humber, to take charge of the school which had been established there on the funds derived from Long's Charity. A few years after this event, his father removed his residence and business to Bradford, and took the factory connected with Kingston House, to which the family then moved. The house is a picturesque building, erected by John of Padua for Sir Walter Hungerford, about the year 1570. It derives its present name from the last Duke of Kingston, whose property it was, and from whom it descended to the Manvers family. After Samuel Pitman left, it was reduced to the condition of a farm-house. In 1857, Mr Moulton bought the property, and restored the house to its original beauty.

At the age of nineteen, in January, 1832, Isaac entered upon his duties at Barton-on-Humber. The school was an endowed one, the master's salary being £70 a year, which was afterwards raised to £80. The number of boys was 120.

Mr Pitman remained at Barton until 1836, when he left to enter on another scholastic engagement at Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. It is curious to note that the Barton School trustees had not sufficient funds in hand, when Mr Pitman left, to pay him his full stipend; and the balance of £11, then owing to him, has not been discharged.

CHAPTER II.

At Barton an incident occurred which, as it is intimately connected with Mr Pitman's career as a shorthand inventor and at the same time illustrates his industry and his love of accuracy, should be chronicled with some minuteness. In October, 1835, he conducted the services at the Methodist chapel in the village of Ulceby, and happened to see for the first time, at the house of his host, Mr John Hay, a farmer of some standing, a copy of Bagster's "Comprehensive Bible," which he borrowed. He had been in the habit of using in his private reading, the 8vo. Reference Bible of the Bible Society, presented to him by the Committee of the Borough Road College. He set himself the pleasant and profitable task of reading it carefully through, together with all the marginal references. On the Sunday when he took his appointment at Ulceby, he had nearly finished reading the Old Testament on this plan, and, in the course of it, he had detected and noted thirty-eight errors in the references. He was anxious to ascertain whether these errors were repeated in Bagster's "Comprehensive" collection of five hundred thousand marginal references. The preface stated that while the parallel passages of the Reference Bible of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of some other reference Bibles, had been admitted without verification, those of some other Bibles, of less repute, had all been verified. On examining the volume at his own home in Barton, he discovered that, of the thirty-eight errors in the Bible

Society's edition, fifteen had been perpetuated in the "Comprehensive." Thereupon he resolved to write to the Bible Society and to Mr Bagster on the subject. His letter to the former was as follows:—

"Barton-on-Humber, 15th October, 1835.

"Gentlemen,—Thinking that you would be glad to receive any correction that could be made in any of your publications, (which in themselves are above all correction, but not perfect in that arrangement of their parts which has originated with the reason of fallible men,) I submit to your notice the following list of parallel passages which in reading through the 8vo Reference Bible I found had been misprinted. Many of them I was able to rectify by knowing what part of Holy Writ corresponded to the text. Others of the mistakes I have amended from the 'Comprehensive Bible,' but for some of the wrong parallel texts I cannot discover the true reading. [Here was given the list of errata.] Some of these emendations are of little importance, others are corrections of gross errors. Many of the chapters [mentioned in the references] have not the number of verses attributed to them.

"Praying that your Society may have more and more of the Divine blessing upon its operations, and [still] more faithful service from everyone connected with it, I remain, yours in Him by whom the prophets wrote and spoke,

ISAAC PITMAN.

"*P.S.*—You will observe that I have corrected only the Old Testament: indeed, I have not finished it, being now in *Zephaniah*."

This letter was never acknowledged, but, in subsequent editions of the Society's volume, the thirty-eight false references noted by Isaac Pitman were either corrected or omitted.

The letter to Mr Bagster was as follows:

"Barton-on-Humber, 15th October, 1835.

"*Isaac Pitman to Mr Bagster.*—Sir,—In reading through the 8vo Reference Bible of the Bible Society, I found about 40

wrong numbers [in the figures for chapter and verse] in the parallel passages, and sometimes one book put for another. Some of them I corrected by my slight acquaintance with the Sacred Word, such as '*1 Ki.*' being put for '*2 Ki.*', and similar mistakes. Not being able to discover the proper parallel reading of about half-a-dozen, I procured the loan of your 'Comprehensive Bible' from a friend, thinking that I might fully depend upon it. Some of the mistakes I cannot correct from this, the errors being copied into it.

"I have made it my custom for two or three years, in my morning and evening reading of Scripture, to refer to every parallel place; in some measure appreciating the value of the plan. If you would like to place a copy of your Bible under my care, to be considered your property, I would make a constant and careful use of it, and give you the benefit of the corrections or mistakes which I might discover in reading it through.

"I hold the mastership of the British School here, having been sent in 1832 by the B. and F. School Society, Boro' Road. It strikes my mind that the 8vo Bible in which I have discovered the errors was given me by the Committee of that Institution, July, 1832."

The offer was obviously too good a one to be rejected. Mr Bagster readily accepted it, and sent to his correspondent a copy of his Bible by the next coach from London. This was followed by a second copy divided into seven portions, each portion to be returned when read. The magnitude of this self-imposed task may be seen from the fact that the marginal references in Bagster's well-known edition amount to five hundred thousand. By mapping out his work in his customary methodical way, Isaac Pitman calculated that he could accomplish the task in three years, besides attending to the duties of his school. It was begun, as has been said, at Barton, and was completed at Wotton-under-Edge two months earlier than the allotted period, namely, in August, 1838, and this not-

withstanding the time occupied in the change of residence and in the publication of the first edition of his system of shorthand in 1837. To assist him in his work, he prepared a copy of the English version of Bagster's Polyglot Bible by writing on the outside top corner of each page the commencing and concluding chapter and verse, and inserted projecting slips of paper as guides to the books and chapters. With this aid, he was able to refer to any given passage with the least possible expenditure of time. The number of errors detected in this laborious and minute revision was considerable, often amounting to one in each page; and in the books where the references were the most numerous, as in the Psalms and the Epistles, to about three in two pages. The electrotype plates of the Bible were duly corrected in accordance with these emendations, and all the subsequent editions of the work have had the full benefit of the examination. It is no wonder that Mr Bagster felt grateful for this gratuitous assistance from an unknown hand. It led to a lasting friendship between him and Mr Pitman, and in 1843 Mr Bagster presented to his young coadjutor a splendidly-bound copy of the royal 4to edition, having on its cover a silver shield, with this inscription :—

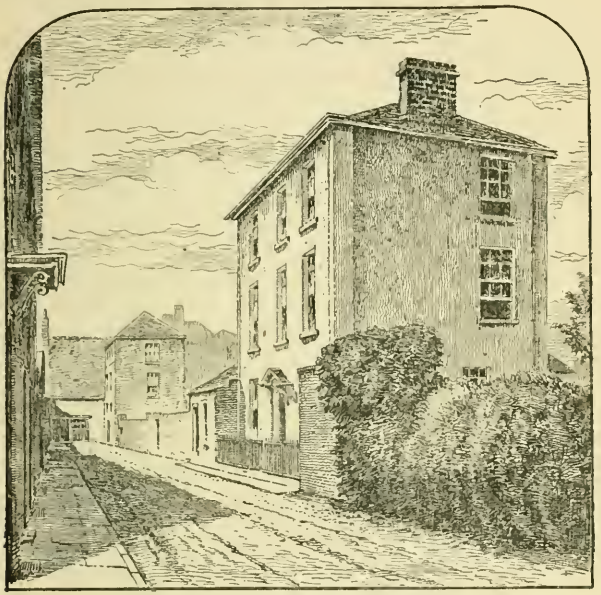
"Presented to Mr Isaac Pitman, as a token of esteem, and in remembrance of the friendly diligence with which he labored to secure the Typographical Accuracy of this edition of the Sacred Scriptures, by Samuel Bagster. March, 1843."

While at Barton, Mr Pitman married the widow of Mr George Holgate of that town. On leaving Barton, as has been already stated, he went to Wotton-under-Edge, where he was invited by a committee to establish a school to be conducted on the British and Foreign School system.

The number of boys was about the same as in the school at Barton, and the same salary was given to the master. Everything went on smoothly enough until Mr Pitman's religious convictions underwent a change, which brought upon him the hostility of some of his former friends. He became a member of the "New Church." At the end of a long "Letter to a Friend," entitled "Reception of the Heavenly Doctrines Vindicated," inserted in the "Intellectual Repository," 1837, p. 557, he says, "I consider the view I have of the spiritual world, of the internal sense of God's Holy Word, and of the Person of the Lord our God and Savior, ["the Almighty," *Rev.* 1. 8,] etc., with which I have become acquainted through the Writings of the New Church, as similar to that arising from a curtain being raised, and I am now able to see as it were an ocean of light"—quoting the language of Huyghens, the astronomer, on seeing through a powerful telescope one of the nebulæ of the starry heavens. It is understood to be Mr Pitman's intention to reprint in reformed spelling this "Letter" and some other papers on the same subject which appeared in the "Intellectual Repository" for 1836 and 1838; and no doubt many phonographers and others will be interested in reading this exposition of his theological opinions. The "New Church" has had few more ardent disciples than the inventor of Phonography.

The new views embraced by Mr Pitman could not be tolerated by the more orthodox supporters of his school, and he shortly afterwards received notice of dismissal. His defection from the Evangelical ranks was almost regarded as a scandal; and, at the Tabernacle built by Rowland Hill, the minister, alluding to the event which

had just occurred, told his congregation (Mr Pitman himself being present) that "if he held such religious sentiments he should expect to be hunted out of the town like a mad dog." But these things, which now seem hardly credible, occurred more than half a century ago; and "many things have happened since then." A change in theological convictions, happily, no longer means social ostracism or persecution.



Mr Pitman's House, Wotton-under-Edge.

It was during his residence in Wotton-under-Edge, and while the revision of the references in the "Comprehensive Bible" was in progress, that Isaac Pitman turned his attention to the popularizing of shorthand. The practice

of the art in those days was very limited. Even among newspaper reporters shorthand was by no means a *sine quâ non*. Verbatim reporting was a rare accomplishment, and a rapid longhand writer with a good memory was able to meet the requirements of most provincial papers in the reproduction of public speeches. Some Parliamentary reporters, too, dispensed with the aid of shorthand, and even affected to despise it. There were a few, and only a few, shorthand-writers practising in the Law Courts and before Parliamentary Committees. Besides these, and a limited number of newspaper reporters throughout the country, there were no professional practitioners of the art. It was occasionally used, as we have seen in the case of Isaac Pitman's cousin, by college students to assist them in their educational course, but few even of these continued its practice in later life. For commercial purposes, the employment of shorthand may be said to have been comparatively unknown. Business men had not made the happy discovery that, instead of writing their own letters, they might sit in an easy chair and dictate them to a phonographer, who would afterwards transcribe them into longhand: and even in lawyers' offices, where busy quills were constantly at work, and where shorthand would have been, as it is to-day, of inestimable value, it had never found an entrance.

If, however, the art was but little known, it was not for want of stenographic systems. There were shorthand authors in abundance, each proclaiming his system as superior to all others. To say nothing of the earlier methods of Bright (1588), Shelton (1620), and many others that have long since practically passed into oblivion, there were the more recent and better known systems of Mason, (republished by Gurney,) Taylor, and Lewis.

Gurney had been before the public for nearly a century, Taylor just half that period, and Lewis a quarter. The systems of Palmer, Byrom, Holdsworth and Aldridge, Mavor, Doddridge's republication of Rich, and others, were also in the field, and boasted of a certain number of disciples. But most of these books were too expensive to secure a wide circulation. The first edition of Taylor was published at a guinea; Gurney was sold at half-a-guinea; Lewis 19*s.* 6*d.*, and the 4th edition at eight shillings; and the cheapest adaptation of Taylor, three and sixpence. Deeply impressed with the value of shorthand, which he had written about seven years, Isaac Pitman had a strong desire that all the elder boys in his school, and finally every lad in the kingdom, should have an opportunity of learning it. He had no idea of publishing or inventing a system of his own. Fairly satisfied with the results to be obtained by the practice of Taylor, he prepared a little Manual of the system, which he thought sufficient for his purpose, to be illustrated by two plates, and sold for threepence. In seeking a publisher, he naturally turned to his friend Mr Bagster, who readily acquiesced in the suggestion that the book should be issued from his establishment; but before printing it, he showed it to a reporter of his acquaintance, in order to get his opinion as to its merits. In returning the manuscript, the reporter said: "The system Mr Pitman has sent you is already in the market. If he will compile a new system, I think he will be more likely to succeed in his object to popularize shorthand; there will be novelty about it." This opinion was in due course communicated to the compiler, who straightway resolved to act upon the suggestion. Still taking Taylor as his basis, he decided on pairing the consonants in their

shorthand representatives as they are paired in sound, *p* and *b*, *t* and *d*, etc., as Taylor had done in the single instance of *f* and *v*. He then made a distinction between the so-called long and short vowels, as in *mate, mat; me, met;* and provided special signs for the vowel sounds in *father, maw, moon, book*. This was in the spring of 1837. During the entire summer, all his leisure hours were devoted to the making of shorthand alphabets and experimenting with them, and his midsummer holiday of three weeks was wholly given up to the same work. He did not even pause on the memorable 20th of June, when everybody else was rejoicing over the accession of the young Queen: "Not," says Mr Pitman, "that I loved Her Majesty less than other people, but that just at that time I loved Phonography more." Only those who have actually engaged in experiments with shorthand symbols can appreciate the amount of tabulation and other labor which they involve. The conventional pairing of the vowels as long and short in *pine, pin; no, not,* where the sounds are essentially different, was soon found to be unscientific, and inadequate to a representation of English as spoken. The experiment of pairing the sounds of the vowels as in *peat, pit; pate, pet; ma, mat; caught, cot; coat, cut; food, foot,* was entered upon with fear and trembling, and with little hope of success; but practice soon proved that it was the true method of notation, and time has shown it to be the most useful in practice. The work grew apace; and the outcome of these months of toil was, a completed manuscript copy of the first edition of the now famous Pitman system. It was forwarded to Mr Bagster in November, and on the 27th of that month it modestly presented itself to the world in the form of a little

fourpenny book, entitled, "Stenographic Sound-hand." It consisted of 12 pages, 3½ in. by 5 in., and contained two Plates. There was no title-page; a leaf could not be spared for it. The title of the book, printed on a label, and pasted on the "Bristol-board" (thin card-board) cover, runs thus:

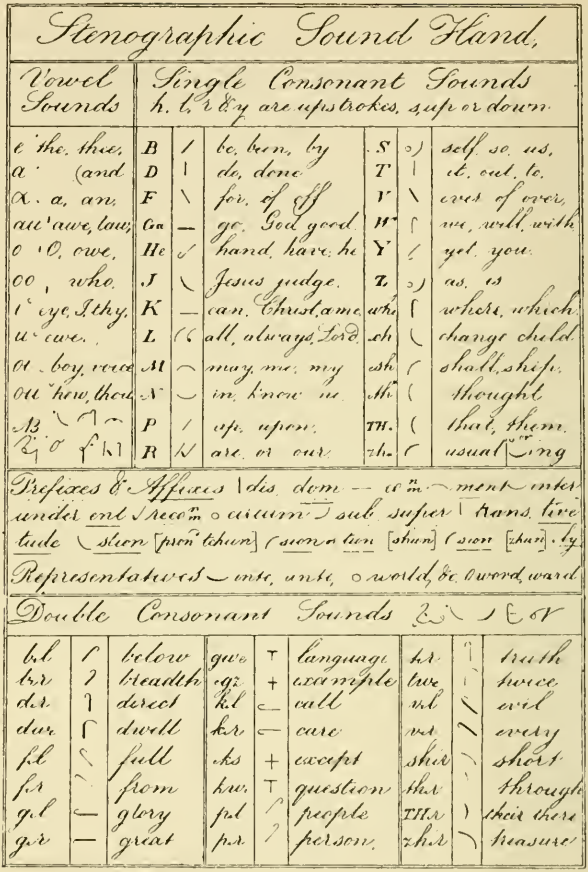
STENOGRAPHIC
SOUND-HAND,
BY
ISAAC PITMAN.

LONDON:
SAMUEL BAGSTER,
At his Warehouse for Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books,
Lexicons, &c., in Ancient and Modern Languages,
No. 15, PATERNOSTER ROW.
Also sold by the AUTHOR, Wotton-under-Edge;
and by all Booksellers.

PRICE FOUR-PENCE.

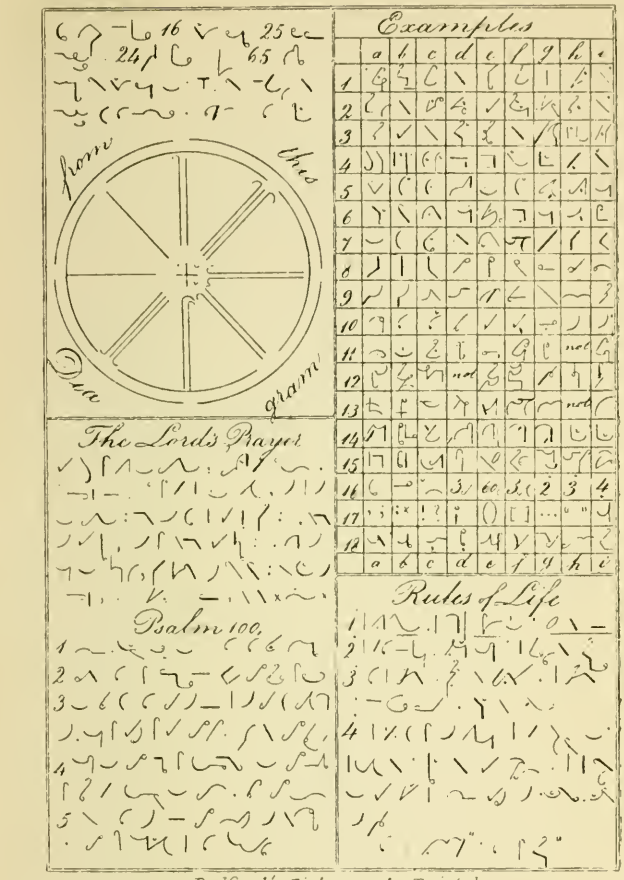
The presentation of the system is given in the first Plate, which is here reproduced. The phonographic reader will at once recognise in it the main features of Mr Pitman's present alphabet. The simple vowels are the now familiar *ah, eh, ee; aw, oh, oo,* the first and third having changed places; and all the principal consonants, *n, s* circle, *t, d, th*(*en*), *l, r, m, k, g, th*(*in*), *ng, y,* remain unchanged; similar sounds, as *p, b, t, d,* etc., being represented by similar signs, the difference being only in the thickness. The use of an initial hook to represent the addition of *l* and *r*, one of the prominent characteristics of the Phonography of to-day, is also shown at this early date. There is a very moderate list of prefixes, affixes, and "grammalogues." Compared with the present highly developed system, with complete lists of abbreviating principles and contractions, this little Plate appears almost amusing in its incompleteness. But Rome

Plate 1



Drawn by Isaac Pitman, Stenographer

was not built in a day. The phonographer now looks upon this immature production with feelings somewhat akin to those with which the railway engineer of the present day regards the primitive "Rocket," or the "Puffing Billy."



The second Plate contains a diagram showing the formation of the consonants of the alphabet from segments of a circle and straight lines traced in various directions; examples of joinings; and three illustrative specimens of

the new "Sound-hand" writing, namely, the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 100, and Swedenborg's "Rules of Life."

In addition to the Plates there are twelve pages of letter-press. The first of these is a brief introduction explanatory of the general uses of shorthand. Then follows an exposition of the system as set forth in the plates, the author claiming for it at the outset the merit of being "a system of shorthand shorter than any practical system yet published," and calling special attention to the fact that "the words are written exactly as they are pronounced." He frankly admits that previous shorthand authors have to a certain extent adopted the phonetic principle, mainly in regard to the consonants; but he claims for his new "Sound-hand" the exclusive credit of providing a sign for each of the twelve vowels given in Walker's notation (*ee, eh, ah, au, oh, ōō,* and their corresponding short sounds, *ĭ, ĕ, ă, ŏ, ŭ, o͝o*), and giving them a proper classification. He also points out that even in the consonantal arrangements of his predecessors no provision has been made for the two sounds *zh*, in "measure," and the heavy *th*, in "breathe," each of which finds a place in his own alphabet. Certain shorthand rules and explanations are then given to the student, together with a few crude suggestions as to methods of abbreviation to be employed for reporting purposes. "Contractions of long words may be made by adjoining one word to another, or by making a comma under." "Another method of saving time is to join little words together." "Theological, parliamentary, and law phrases, may be written by the initial letters of the words joined to each other." Such are the simple and not very original devices which are provided for the student who is desirous of using the system for reporting. "These aids,"

says the author, "will enable a writer to follow the swiftest speaker in the world that is worth following"—a rather vague qualification, it must be confessed; but then he adds—showing how little he had then traversed the wide field of abbreviation which he was destined to explore—"Should other methods of abbreviation be required by a slow writer they may be found in shorthand treatises." The author, however, even at this period, was contemplating further advances, for he tells us that he is preparing a "Manual of Stenography," including an analytical sketch of the English language and its application to shorthand characters;" also a scheme of an alphabet according to nature, which shall be published another day if it is worthy of publication, to ascertain which, this card, containing the *principles*, is thrown out as a *feeler*."

The shorthand above the diagram in Plate 2, is:—"This alphabet contains sixteen vowel sounds, twenty-five single consonants, and twenty-four double ones; total sixty-five letters, including every vowel sound in the language, and every combination of consonants that will commence a syllable, all drawn from this diagram." "The system," says the author, "must stand upon its own legs if it stand at all; or, to change the figure, *it must roll upon its own wheel*, and if it sink into oblivion after a reasonable trial of its capabilities, it will be because it deserves no better fate. By the author it is practised and taught daily, without any inconvenience arising from heavy letters; and after eight years' extensive use of the best system hitherto published, Mr Taylor's (sometimes miscalled Harding's, and lately sent forth without any reference to Mr Taylor's name) and an examination of many others, he hesitates not to say, it is as good again as *that*.

This observation might certainly be spared for the sake of modesty, and also with regard to those readers who have learned Mr Taylor's and will now give this a fair trial; but we know well that, with many persons, stenographic perseverance is a rare virtue; and the experiment, with its result, is here mentioned for their sakes. Among the author's pupils are more than twenty boys (in his school), about the age of ten years; and it may confidently be asserted that they could not have learned so easily any other system extant." Mr Pitman concludes by some pious reflections on the world's degeneracy, one illustration of which he sees in the imperfections of English spelling; and by an anticipation of a bright period in store for humanity when "order will be restored," when, among other things, "shorthand will be the common hand," and the Bible, thus printed, "will exist no larger than a watch, and be as constantly used for the discovery and regulation of man's spiritual state with reference to eternity, as the pocket chronometer is for the discovery and regulation of time with reference to the present life." In a note, he estimates that a readable shorthand edition of the Bible could be printed $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches square, and three-quarters of an inch thick.

Key to the Shorthand Examples, Plate 2.—1*a*, The plainest practical plan of putting pen to paper for the production of peerless poems or profound and powerful prose for the Press or for private pursuits ever published. 3*h*, Tea, tin; pay, pet; father, fat; daw, dot; show, shut; coo, could; fine, duke, boy, vow. 5*a*, Fear thou the Lord in thy youth; hate and avoid evil; love and pursue good; and so walk in the paths of life. 7*f*, Anguish, bb, bd, bf; 8*a*, db, dd, df; 8*d*, sp, st, sf, sk, sr, sm; 9*a*, sb, sd, sf, sg; 9*e*, rbl, pkr; 9*g*, ff, mm, prpr; 10*a*, least, all, oil; right, our, raw; case, us, see; among, owing; 11*e*, sprain, strong, screw; 11*f*, splinter, swing; 12*b*, principle, instruct; 12*g*,

possible, toaster, whisper; 13*a*, maxim, sticks; 13*c*, queen, request; 13*e*, exist, languish; 13*g*, lm; 14*a*, beyond, statistics, open, alter, altitude; 14*f*, mood, tune; 15*a*, transact, wisdom; childhood, without, forward, professions, contents, incomplete, missionaries; 16*a*, thoughts, comes, thou mayest; 300, 60,000, 300,000, second. third, fourthly; 17*a*, comma, semicolon, colon, period, admiration, interrogation, irony, parentheses, brackets, hyphen, quotation marks; 17*i*, notwithstanding, nevertheless, indispensable, incomprehensible, satisfactorily; 18*e*, as it is said, there are, kingdom of heaven, His Majesty's ministers, practice of the Court.

Key to Rules of Life, Plate 2. 1. To read often and to meditate well on the Word of God.

2. To be always content and resigned under the dispensations of Providence.

3. Always to observe a propriety of behavior, and to preserve the conscience clear and void of offence.

4. To obey that which is ordained, to be faithful in the discharge of the duties of our employment, and to do everything in our power to make ourselves as universally useful as possible.

Always to remember "The Lord will provide."

A year-and-a-half after the publication of "Stenographic Sound-hand," June, 1839, Mr Pitman, who, as we have seen, was dismissed from the post which he occupied at Wotton-under-Edge, took up his residence in Bath, where he established a school at No. 5 Nelson Place, which he conducted till 1843. In 1839, the first edition of his little shorthand volume, of which 3,000 copies had been printed, was exhausted. There can be no doubt that its circulation was largely promoted by the fact of its being issued from a respectable and well-known house like that of the great Bible publisher of Paternoster Row. With such an imprimatur, no one was likely to suspect it of being a mere catch-penny publication.

About this time, the agitation for postal reform was at its height, and Isaac Pitman eagerly looked forward to

the establishment of the Penny Post, not only as a public benefit, but as a valuable aid in the dissemination of his system. Prior to 1840, the average postage of a letter was ninepence-halfpenny, and any enclosure, however small, made the postage double. The amount of paper allowed by the authorities was limited to a single sheet, without reference to its size, and a correspondent who had a great deal of matter to communicate commonly made a point of writing on as large a sheet as could be purchased. Isaac Pitman constantly resorted to this method, and some of his letters written at this period were great curiosities, from the quantity of writing they contained. He made a calculation that one of them was as long as the Gospel of Matthew. Rowland Hill's well-known pamphlet, "Post Office Reform: its importance and practicability," had taken the public by storm. It was first published in 1837, a few months before the appearance of "Stenographic Sound-hand." In this pamphlet he clearly demonstrated that the existing high rate of postage crippled public and private correspondence, and he suggested that a uniform rate of a penny should be made for each letter under half-an-ounce, to be collected by means of an affixed postage stamp.

Of course, the scheme was vigorously opposed and denounced as wild, absurd, and preposterous. The Post Office officials especially stood aghast; and the Postmaster-General, Lord Lichfield, declared that of all the visionary schemes he had ever heard, this was the most extravagant. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to consider the subject. It held sixty-three sittings, heard a vast body of evidence, and finally reported in favor of a great reduction, and a uniform rate; not venturing, how-

PHON[ographic]

WRIT[ING]

being a s[ystem of]

SHO[RTHAND]

Engraved & Printed

RULES for WRITING illustrated by EXAMPLES

1. Write by sound as pique (pēk) seat set set (sāt) sat (sät) sit sight sit. For c write k, as cough ors as city orsh, as negociate. For x write ks, as box or gz, as exist or as noxious. For q write k &c. at the double or treble vowels most persons pronounce this letter like who with the aspirate as queen quart. Y is e & w is ō when commencing a syllable in which case they never occur except in combination with another vowel, & will be found under the double & treble vowels as Yorkshire west with.

2. Especially observe the proper sound of the short vowels, every one of which in the common hand is out of place thus neat knit age edge psalm Sam (Samuel) ran. ton tun pool pul.

3. Pronounce the vowels as they sound in the alphabetical words and examples placed to them. Pronounce every consonant at once by means of the small vowel put to it. Learn to hear the natural order of the pure vowels & single consonants. As new names are given to some of the single cons.s to express their true sound, or to keep them in unison.

4. Mark the difference between sp & spr. st & str. sch & schr. sk & skr at the commencement of words also ps & rps. ts & rts. chs & rchs. ks & rks at the conclusion of words. See Joining Table.

5. joined to a hook or small letter one means a dot as spots. snt. Its kts. &c. spr instead of sts & fts &c.

6. Vowels before consonants are placed to the left of perpendicular & leaning strokes as eat weight wet eyes ape owl fair: and above horizontal strokes as eager aim Anne walker.

7. Vowels after cons.s go to the right or under as joy high owe.

8. The vowels places are sorted from the beginning of the cons. e a & their derivatives take the first place as the daw week noise royal. a o. & their derivatives take the second place or middle of the cons. as air oath upper ache oar; and A O & their derivatives have the third place or end as Pa loo due now house.

9. When a & c are put to cons.s they may point any way when they stand alone for w as them.

10. A vowel between two cons.s (& neither of them the loop s) is to be placed thus a first or second place vowel after the first cons.t as team Tweed trifle void net. A third place vowel goes before the last cons. as rack loom duke man mouth shaft.

11. The loop & dot s take no vowel & when a vowel is put close to one it belongs to the cons. connected with it as pass secure sickle.

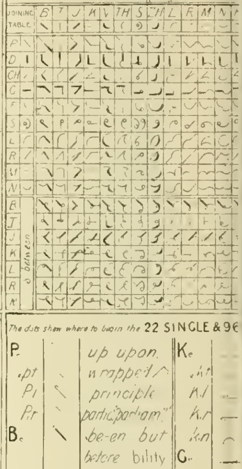
12. If two vowels come between two cons.s give one to each as poet.

13. When two vowels begin or end a word put one close & the other at a little distance or iota. oasis. Isaiah. Victoria.

14. Never join a short straight letter (which is always a double or treble cons.) to a letter in the same direction, but write the single cons.s for it or take off the pen as fact not steam ed or not started.

15. Shn after n & r, and between is curved thus as nation portion missionary.

JOINING TABLE: B T J K V TH S SH L R M N ...; P D CH G F S L R W N; Bl J J K L R R (in between)



12 VOWELS

e	·	the. see.
a	·	say. mate
A	·	a Bath.
â	·	all awe. ought.
o	·	O. note.
ō	·	to who-m.
ĕ		in. it. sin
ă		met sent
Ă		and. an. at
ă		of. not
ŏ		nut sun
ŏ		put should-st

NB The underlined letters indicate the sounds of the vowels. Letters marked thus * are foreign & provincial sounds

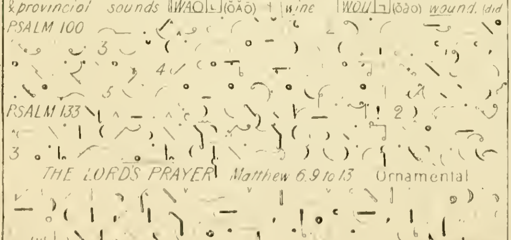
The eight sounds in the 32 DOUBLE VOWELS angular marks may be

yē		ye. year-s
yā		Yates
yA		*yawl
yâ		yawn
yō		yoke
ū		(ēō) you r-s
yĕ		*new tube
yă		yet. yester
yĂ		yard. yday.
yă		beyond.
yŏ		young young-
yŏ		+ ster
ī		(Aē) I by thy
ĀO		+ pine

wē		we. between
wā		a way. where
wA		+ walk
wâ		water. woll
wō		woe wove
wō		woo wolf
wĕ		with. will
wă		well. when.
wĂ		thwack
wă		was what
wŏ		were won.
wŏ		would - st
oi		(āē) voice how
ou		(ăō) thou about

pronounced & written 8 TREBLE VOWELS lighter long or short

WI	(ōĀē) wh ile	WOI	(ōāē) + wine
WAO	(ōĀō) + wine	WOU	(ōāō) wound. (did



The dots show where to begin the 22 SINGLE & 96 ...

P.		up upon.	K.	
pt		wrapped	kt	
Pl		principle	Kl	
Pr		participation	Kr	
B.		be-en but	kn	
bd		before bility	G.	
Bl		robbed		
Br		publish breadth	gd	
		re-member.	Gl	
T.		out. time.	Gr	
tl		till. little	gn	
Tr		truth. trans.		
tn		ten town	F.	
D.		day. do-ne	ft	
		discom dom	Fl	
dl		deliver	Fr	
Dr		dear Dr.	fn	
dn		down. London	V.	
CH.		which	vd	
cht		fetched	Vl	
chl		children	Vr	
chr		nature	vn	
chn		question	TH	
J.		Jesus general	thl	
jd		obliged	THr	
jl		individual	TH.	
jr		Jerusalem	thl	
jn		margin	thr	

Sent to purchasers of early impressions. — The characters for wi. wao. woi & wou are changed from < to ... to accommodate a few additional double & treble vowels which, as they +

[illegible] with two chapters from the N. T. (Mat. & Rev.) [illegible] edition [illegible] Bagster [illegible] Paternoster R. w. 1841

16. Make the strokes in these cases only when a word contains only s & a vowel as (yes) (sigh) when s is repeated as (ease) (asses) (sizes) also when a word begins with a vowel [illegible] lowed by s as in [illegible] ends with a vowel preceded by s as (tendency) & whenever you [illegible] put a vowel [illegible] (sumptuous) [illegible]

17. All rules relating to the [illegible] are also applicable to their corresponding flat b d j g v th z zh

18. When short l stands alone [illegible] vowels places downwards as (hoe) [illegible] (allow) [illegible] When other letter [illegible] joined to the top [illegible] only written [illegible] downwards as (issues) [illegible]

19. Make s and sh with a tick when either letter stands alone or [illegible] (ocean) & when it is succeeded by the loop [illegible] as [illegible] oceans [illegible]

20. The letters [illegible] & rch must never stand alone nor with the loops [illegible] only added because of [illegible]

21. Each letter in the Alphabet stands for the words put to it (except the example in short hand) & any others of the same sound [illegible] for other words [illegible] all the [illegible] that sound [illegible] them together [illegible] the [illegible] vowels as [illegible]

22. s may be added to an Alphabet [illegible] word without taking off the pen as words [illegible] thoughts [illegible] hands [illegible] thinks [illegible] Other letters must be separated as established [illegible] distinction [illegible]

23. The horizontals half sized [illegible] when representing words stand at the top of the [illegible] words contain [illegible] first place vowel [illegible] at the bottom for words cont.[g] second & third place [illegible] In the Alphabet these words are divided [illegible]

24. A [illegible] middle place vowel [illegible] when standing alone go at the bottom of the [illegible] as away [illegible] yet one [illegible]

25. Compound words must be reduced to their primitives and written near together as with[illegible] without [illegible] altogether [illegible] somewhat [illegible] yourselves [illegible]

26. [illegible] in Phonography [illegible] interest [illegible] Phonography [illegible] or [illegible] For a plural [illegible] add [illegible] tenements [illegible]

27. [illegible] are written [illegible] to the next [illegible] accommodate [illegible]

28. For [illegible] put a small [illegible] the last [illegible] starting the plural [illegible] a large dot [illegible]

29. If a word reaches [illegible] not [illegible] take off the pen [illegible] on it [illegible]

30. [illegible] the first [illegible] writing [illegible] not [illegible]

31. [illegible] generally omit [illegible] for the sake [illegible]

32. [illegible] place vowel standing at [illegible] should be [illegible] time [illegible] the [illegible] placed [illegible] peaceable [illegible]

33. [illegible] Write the digits thus [illegible] other numbers in short hand [illegible] under [illegible] fifteen [illegible] fifty [illegible]

34. [illegible] exclamation [illegible] marks [illegible] See Psalm 133 [illegible] deny [illegible] Inflection [illegible]

35. [illegible]

Tr	hl	J	Kr	d	F	Ir	Sh	M	Ml	Vd	N	Wr
[illegible]												

CONSONANTS but form no part of them

S		saw so [illegible]	th		though	rf		[illegible]	N		on any no
(long)		us [illegible]	sh		Welsh	rv		[illegible]			uncom
(for part)		establish [illegible]	tzn		[illegible]	rth		earth [illegible]	nt		want into went
		system scription	r		ready	rth		[illegible]			[illegible] ant
Z		his [illegible] whose	m		[illegible]	rsh		[illegible]	nd		hand under
		is [illegible] Israel	r		[illegible]	rch		[illegible]	nch		French [illegible]
SH		shall ship	R		[illegible]	rl		rule	nj		change
sht		washed	rb		[illegible]	rm		[illegible]	nl		journal
shl		especial [illegible]	rb		suburb	rn		[illegible]	nr		[illegible] able
SH		assure [illegible]	rt		heart short	M		may	NG		thing Eng[illegible]
shn		auction	rd		word heard			[illegible] ment			language
ZH		enthusiasm	rch		church [illegible]	mp		important	ngk		distinct
zhd		azure	rj		[illegible]	mt		[illegible] might			think [illegible]
zhl		usual	rk		[illegible]	md		[illegible]	ngg		single [illegible]
zhr		treasury	rg		[illegible]	ml		mercy	H		he him had
zhn		occasion				mr		[illegible]	hr		[illegible] hood
L		LORD also									
lp		help [illegible] ally									
lb		elbow									
lt		difficulty									
ld		hold world									
lch		filch [illegible]									
lj		indulge									
lk		milk									
lf		wolf									
lf		alphabetical									
lv		resolve									
lth		health									

SUMMARY of the SINGLE CONSONANTS [illegible] Liquids [illegible] Nasals [illegible] Aspirate

Pronounce each of the 65 TREBLE CONSONANTS [illegible] and [illegible] add [illegible] the half letter by making it half length as [illegible] titled [illegible] deserved [illegible] These Trebles [illegible] represent the past tenses of the verbs placed to the Double Consonants from which they are derived or carried.

Note [illegible] represent spirit [illegible] strong strength [illegible] criticism

THE LORD'S INVITATION [illegible]

Any Language may be written in Phonography [illegible] the [illegible]

French [illegible]

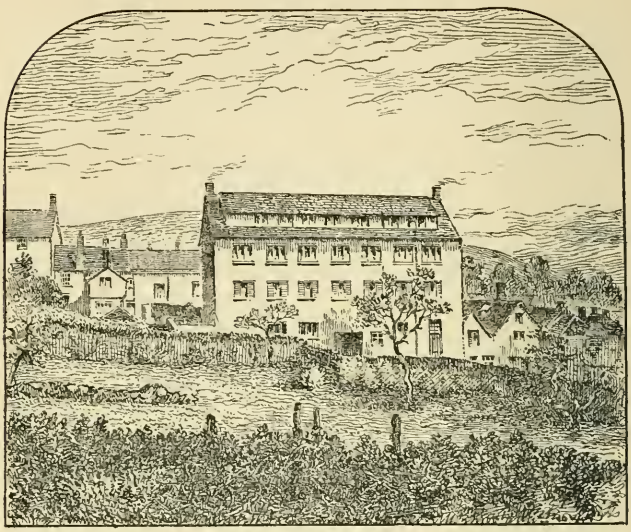
German [illegible]

[illegible] can write about a dozen verses from the Bible [illegible] between the [illegible]

† exist only in provincialisms & Foreign Languages are not noticed here. they will be in the Large Plate [illegible] the size of this to be published [illegible]

ever, to recommend a penny post, which it was thought would, for a time at least, prove a loss to the revenue. The result was that the postage was reduced at first to fourpence, and ultimately, on the 10th of January, 1840, to a penny. The Government offered a prize of £200 for the best method of collecting the pence for prepaid letters, and among the many competitors was Isaac Pitman, who, in September, 1839, submitted to the Lords of the Treasury a proposal to collect the postage by means of stamps: "Let plates," he said, "be engraved in small squares of an inch space, the plates being 20 inches by 12 =240 squares, the price of which at 1*d.* a stamp, when struck off on paper, will be £1." He also pointed out the advantage to the public of being able to transmit small sums by means of such stamps. "The stamps," he said, with a prophetic instinct, "will become equivalent to the current coin of the realm, and remittances of small amounts might be made in them."

The manuscript of the second edition of Mr Pitman's shorthand system was ready in the autumn of 1839, but its publication was deferred till the Penny Post came into operation on the 10th January, 1840. It then appeared in the form of the accompanying Penny Plate. Nothing could have been more opportune than the new postal facilities. They were the second tidal wave on which the system had been carried forward. The amount of correspondence in "Phonography," as it was now called, even in those early days, was very considerable, and it could not have been conducted under the old prohibitive rates. This was illustrated by a singular incident two years afterwards. In the recently-established *Phonographic Journal*, a request was made by Mr Pitman that



Mr Pitman's second Schoolroom at Wotton-under-Edge.

Mr Pitman's School at Wotton was opened in January, 1836, in a long room which the Committee had engaged in Sim lane, called "The Folly." It is now occupied as a cottage. In about a year the growth of the school rendered it necessary to remove to the first floor of a disused factory in "The Steep," at the bottom of Long street, represented in the above engraving. The building is now used as a Church Institute. When Mr Pitman was dismissed by the Committee, he established a private school on the British and Foreign system in a room at the top of Long street.

on the last day of the year (1842) his correspondents would send him a letter enclosing a penny stamp, as a gratuity to the Bath postman who delivered the editor's letters. Two hundred and sixty-one persons responded to the appeal, and the result was a substantial Christmas-box for him.

Light pamphlets as well as letters could now be sent cheaply through the post; and Mr Pitman availed himself of the new facilities by sending gratuitously six copies of his Penny Plate to all the schools in Somersetshire, together with a circular letter calling attention to the advantages of the new system, and requesting the recipient, if unable to devote attention to the art, to hand the copies to someone who would be likely to take an interest in the subject. The author well remembers receiving from his own schoolmaster in Bristol one of the copies which had been thus transmitted; but as it contained little else than the alphabetic characters, lists of "grammalogues," and a few exercises, all engraved in letters of the tiniest dimensions, it was ill-adapted to the capacities of a lad of thirteen, and it was accordingly laid aside. The sheet embodied certain changes on the first edition, which the author's experience in writing out the entire Bible, and in other practice, had suggested to him.

CHAPTER III.

Besides issuing his shorthand works and conducting an extensive correspondence, Mr Pitman utilized his Midsummer and Christmas holidays by making lecturing tours in different parts of the kingdom. The places and dates for lecturing were fixed some time in advance, and the bills were printed at Bath and forwarded by post for distribution. He took with him a supply of books, which he sold to teachers and booksellers, and in his lectures he called public attention to them. His success was very varied. In some places he met with a poor reception; at others he succeeded in arousing a keen interest in his system.

His Christmas holiday, December, 1840, was spent thus:—Leaving Bath early in the morning, he walked to Stroud, the road being covered with snow, carrying a parcel of books weighing about 15lb., lectured, and the next morning walked to Oxford, visited most of the Colleges, leaving copies of the Penny Plate and tracts, through High Wycombe and other towns, to London and Bath.

In the following Midsummer holiday he started from Bath, and in twenty-three days visited in turn, Devizes, Salisbury, London, Ipswich, Norwich, Yarmouth, Hull, Barton-on-Humber, Leeds, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, returning to London by steamer and to Bath by the newly-opened Great Western Railway. Sunday occurring during the voyage from Edinburgh to London, Mr Pitman assembled as many of the passengers as wished to attend worship on board, and preached. At Edinburgh he could

only sell a few copies of the system. At Newcastle he received greater encouragement. He had large and attentive audiences, and made many converts, one of them being Mr T. P. (now Alderman) Barkas, who himself shortly afterwards became an active propagandist of the new faith ; for as such it had now come to be regarded ; and a bond of brotherhood was established among its adherents. This was largely due to Mr Pitman's own indomitable energy, his enthusiastic, yet quiet temperament, and his profound belief in the "cause" which he had initiated. At that time his highest hope was the popularising of shorthand. In a year or two he became the champion of a double reform, which he advocated with a never-tiring activity. His shorthand scheme was propounded not as a mere professional instrument in the hands of the reporter, or an occasional aid to the student, but as a method of saving a large proportion of the time ordinarily spent in writing. He boldly asserted that his system was applicable to all, or almost all, the purposes to which longhand is applied, and he especially advocated its use for all kinds of correspondence. Enforcing the maxim that "to save time is to prolong life," he invited all his countrymen to become phonographers, and waxed eloquent on the benefits that would inevitably flow therefrom.

Very early in his crusade he proposed that the phonetic principle, a sign for a sound, which he had made the basis of his shorthand, should be also applied to the common reading alphabet, and that words should be spelled as they are pronounced. This, he contended, would remove the absurd anomalies of English orthography, immensely facilitate the acquisition of the ability to read, and promote a more accurate and uniform pronunciation

of English words. It was here that he encountered the gravest opposition. Few persons would object to the application of the phonetic principle to a new set of shorthand symbols; but the notion of interfering with the sacred pages of the spelling-book, and setting up a new standard of orthography, was repellent to every conservative literary instinct, and sent a shudder through the frame of almost every educated man. It was true that English orthography had undergone numberless changes since the days of Caxton, that the early printers spelled pretty much as they pleased, and that the existing spelling was a mere haphazard, unsystematic contrivance, for which no reasonable or unprejudiced person had a good word to say: no matter—English spelling, like the English constitution, had grown, had become consolidated, and so far identified with the national literature that it would be little short of vandalism, or even sacrilege, to touch it. Many phonographers even hesitated before giving in their adhesion to a reformed printing alphabet. But the band of reformers multiplied. Mr Pitman kept up a constant correspondence with them, and thus inspired them with some of his own enthusiasm.

In 1842 he brought out the first number of the *Phonographic Journal*, which, under a slightly altered title, has been continued to the present day. He was lecturing in Manchester in the winter of 1841, and happening to be at the office of Messrs Bradshaw and Blacklock (now Henry Blacklock, of Albert square), he made his first acquaintance with the art of lithography, and was told that if he would write a page of shorthand on "transfer paper" he could have an exact copy of it printed. This was at once done, and from that day lithography became the faithful handmaid of stenography. Mr Pitman went home to his lodgings with

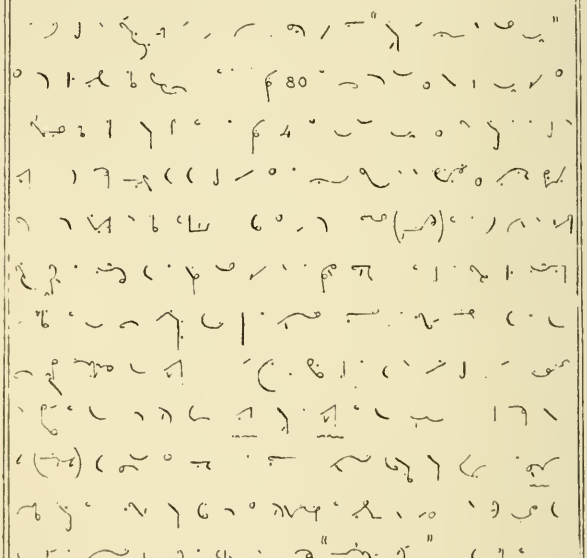
a large sheet of transfer paper, and straightway wrote out in shorthand the first number of his Journal, of which a thousand copies were printed. Several hundred were circulated in Manchester; some were sent to Mr Bagster, in London; and the remainder were taken by Mr Pitman to Glasgow. The Journal consisted of eight pages. The first article was an introductory address on the subject of Phonography, containing a brief history of its invention and publication. It told of a "new era" in the development of the art, or "science," as it was then inaccurately called, and ventured upon the prophecy that the thousand phonographers then said to be in existence would be doubled during the year, chiefly by the instrumentality of the Journal. This was followed by a short article entitled "Reasons for Printing the Title of the Journal in Longhand." Then came an article on "The Advantages of Shorthand in general," and the last page was occupied by a brief notice of Mr Pitman's visit to Manchester during his Christmas holidays in furtherance of the new movement. Two public lectures and one private one were delivered, on the occasion of that short visit, and two phonographic classes were formed, numbering ninety-one persons. "We shall now," says Mr Pitman, "proceed to Glasgow in a few days on the same errand." This was his mode of "filling up," as he calls it, the few weeks' interval in summer and winter which his school vacation placed at his disposal. Of a real holiday, in the ordinary sense of the word, he never even dreamed.

A facsimile of the first page of this *Phonographic Journal* is here presented. Of the two branches of the Reading and Writing Reform, Mr Pitman justly considers the "Spelling Reform" as the greater.

No. 1 JANUARY, 1842. Price 2d or 3d by Post paid.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC JOURNAL.

EDITOR, Isaac Pitman, 5, Nelson Place, BATH.
PUBLISHER Bagster, 15, Paternoster Row, LONDON
Sold also by all Booksellers



Facsimile of the First Page of the "Phonographic Journal."

The next number of the Journal told of the Glasgow visit. It was a flying one. Between the 7th and the 20th of January Mr Pitman contrived to lecture at the Glasgow University, the Andersonian University, the Grammar School, the Mechanics' Institute, and other places, to form classes, and take the pupils, about 80 in number, through the elements of the system. Many of the college students were among these pupils. The following unsolicited testimonial was handed to Mr Pitman before he left Glasgow, by two distinguished professors, but was not published till 1847. (See *Phonetic Journal*, p. 309.):—

"Glasgow College, 13 Jan. 1842.

"We have examined with great interest Mr Pitman's analysis of the sounds of language which is made the basis of his system of Phonography, and we consider it not only ingenious but also as founded throughout on correct philosophical principles. His system of Phonography we have not had time to examine, but as it rests on so good a basis, we can have no doubt of its possessing great merit.

JAMES THOMSON.
WILLIAM RAMSAY."

Prof. Thomson's two sons, William (now Sir William Thomson) and James (Queen's College, Belfast,) were taught Phonography by Mr Pitman during this visit to Glasgow.

The subsequent numbers of the Journal, which appeared monthly throughout the year, were chiefly occupied with accounts of the dissemination of Phonography in different parts of the kingdom, with reading exercises for pupils, and with some rather crude suggestions with reference to phonetic printing. The desirability of printing Phonography, if possible, with movable metal types was very early recognised, and efforts were made to devise a suitable

fount for the purpose, but in view of the immense number of types that would be needed for any such scheme, it had to be abandoned. In the August number of the Journal there is a singular proposal, apparently the first of its kind, for a series of types not only for the single letters of the phonographic alphabet but for the compound letters. "About 92 consonants would be needed, namely, 46 light letters and the same number of heavy letters for the corresponding voiced or flat sounds." In addition to the consonants, 23 types would, it is said, be required for the vowels, which were to be represented as written. Other types also are suggested for the aspirate, the prefix "con," and some other letters. Nothing is said about distinguishing capitals. It was soon discovered that so large a number of movable types would be impracticable, and in the October number of the Journal there appeared a proposal for an alphabet formed upon the Roman model, containing no double consonants, but giving separate characters for the double vowels of the *w* and *y* series. Other suggestions, in connection with phonetic printing, were made in subsequent numbers, but no fount of types was ordered for use. Subscriptions, however, were solicited for the purpose.

Among the other contributions in the Journal worthy of notice, was a phonographic representation of a song entitled "The Witch," in the Dorsetshire dialect, the exact pronunciation being of course exhibited. It is an interesting illustration of the value of Mr Pitman's system, even in its early stage of development, in recording dialectical peculiarities.

It is noticeable that in the later numbers of the Journal the phonographic characters are larger and clearer than in the early numbers, and Mr Pitman's style of writing for the

lithographer's stone exhibits a decided improvement. The first number, as already stated, was printed in Manchester; but there is a line at the end of the volume (December) stating that (from February) the work was "written by I. Pitman, lithographed by J. Holway, Bath."

In the next year, 1843, Mr Pitman found himself able, indeed compelled, to give up his school in Nelson place, Bath, and thenceforward he devoted his entire energies to the development and propagation of Phonography and phonetic spelling. By this time other laborers had come into the field, to whose co-operation the progress of the new movement was greatly indebted. His brothers, Joseph and Benjamin, following their elder brother's example, lectured throughout the country, sometimes together and sometimes separately. The writer of this Biography, when a youth of 17, joined Joseph Pitman in 1843, and for three years lectured and taught classes with him in many of the principal towns in the kingdom; and having acquired some facility as a phonographic writer, was able to demonstrate by practical experiments at the lectures and elsewhere, the capabilities of the new system in the hands of an expert penman. Among the other lecturers and teachers who joined the early crusade were Henry and Fred. Pitman, George Withers (who continued to be a phonographic teacher till his death in 1886), F. E. Woodward, T. Walker, W. G. Ward (afterwards Mayor of Nottingham), James Clarke (late editor of the *Christian World*), T. P. Barkas, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, John Haywood and J. Mogford. Some of the classes were very numerous, the pupils being numbered by hundreds. In the north of England, especially in Lancashire and Yorkshire, the subject was taken up with great energy and enthusiasm.

In Manchester the first phonographic "Festival," as it was called, was held in a schoolroom. It was a social tea-gathering of phonographers, at which a number of speeches were delivered by the more ardent disciples. One of these was Mr W. Hepworth Dixon, then a very young man, who gave emphatic testimony in favor of the Pitman system, a knowledge of which he had just acquired. "I cannot say," he remarked, "that I have carried out the system to any great extent, but, from what I have studied of it, I can say its beauty is such that it carries its own recommendation."

Later in the year another "Festival" was held in Nottingham, on which occasion, we are told, "450 persons sat down to tea, the number being afterwards increased to 600." The demonstration was organized by the pupils of Messrs Joseph and Benn Pitman, who had conducted large classes in the town. Mr Barkas occupied the chair, and Mr Isaac Pitman had come from Bath to attend the meeting. There was the usual flow of eloquence suitable to the occasion, with quotations from Milton and other less distinguished poets. If the glowing periods in which the approaching phonographic millenium was hailed (all duly chronicled in the pages of the *Phonotypic Journal*, as the monthly organ was now called) create a smile as they are read nearly half a century later, it will not be forgotten that most of the orators were young, and spoke with the natural ardor of new discipleship. It is only thus that new movements have a chance of making their way, and sensible people will not be too severe on the effusive oratory and exaggerated expectations of early pioneers; since, as has been well said, it is difficult to get a proportionate amount of attention paid even to a good cause, unless some persons are found to advocate it with disproportionate energy.

A month or two later another gathering of a similar character was held in Birmingham, in the Assembly Room of Dee's Royal Hotel. It is memorable in phonographic history by the circumstance that Mr Thomas Wright Hill, the father of the Postal reformer, was among the principal speakers. He went from London to Birmingham with Mr Isaac Pitman, who had been invited to spend a day with him at Tottenham. Mr Hill expressed a warm interest, not so much in Phonography as in Phonotypy; or, as he called it, Phonotypography. Phonetic spelling, he declared, was not so much an innovation as a restoration; and he attached the greatest value to it as an educationalist. "You will," he said, "give me credit for being able to form a judgment in this matter when I say that I have been employed in teaching the pronunciation of the English language for nearly the whole of the present century." Mr Hill, indeed, had devised a phonetic system of his own, which he had published as a tract. Among the other speakers at the meeting were Dr Melson, an expert stenographer, who occupied the chair, and Mr Isaac Pitman, who, in the course of his speech, said that in passing through London, he had amused himself by reading the names on miles of sign-boards, and had not seen one which was spelled on strictly phonetic principles; and further, that he had searched the *Gazetteer* in vain for the name of a single place whose pronunciation was in entire accord with its orthography.

The public interest excited by the lectures delivered and the classes formed by the early phonographic pioneers about this time was very great. The reports in the newspapers called additional attention to the subject, and many men of learning and influence gave the movement their

hearty support. Thus, in Edinburgh, during the visit of F. Woodward and T. Walker, Robert Chambers took the chair at one of the lectures, learned Phonography, and wrote an interesting article on the subject for *Chambers's Journal* (Oct. 5, 1844), which did the movement great service. In Sheffield, when Joseph Pitman and T. A. Reed were lecturing and teaching in the town, the poet, James Montgomery, took the chair at one of their meetings, at which he recited some verses that he had written on the art,* and gave an account of some phonographic experiments which he had witnessed at his own house. Again, in Brighton, during the visit of the same lecturers, Rowland Hill, the Post Office Reformer, presided at a phonographic *soirée*, and expressed the interest he felt, not only in Phonography as a shorthand system, but in phonetic spelling generally. His father, as has been already stated, had taken part the year before in a similar gathering at Birmingham. But perhaps the most important addition to the ranks of the spelling reformers at this period was Mr (now Dr) A. J. Ellis, who is known as one of the most distinguished phoneticians and philologists in England. He had read in the *Athenæum* a short account of the Birmingham celebration, and immediately sent for copies of Mr Pitman's publications. To learn Phonography was for him but the work of a few hours, and in the course of a day or two he wrote a letter in the new system to Mr Pitman, which proved to be the commencement of a correspondence that continued, almost without intermission, for four years, during which Mr Ellis was a diligent contributor to the *Phonetic Journal*.

Some well-known journalists also gave in their adhesion

* See *Phonotypic Journal*, 1844, p. 125.

to the phonographic movement, in the interests not simply of the art of shorthand but of general education. Foremost among them was John King, the proprietor and editor of the *Suffolk Chronicle*, who constantly advocated the phonetic cause in his own journal, and started a monthly phonographic magazine. Another friend of the new system was John Harland, the famous reporter, and afterwards one of the proprietors of the *Manchester Guardian*. He wrote a system of his own, and was recognized as a highly skilled professional shorthand writer. He reported Joseph Pitman's lectures in Manchester at great length, and at the close of the reports added the following emphatic testimony to the merits of Isaac Pitman's invention :—

"We might conclude here, having fulfilled our duty in faithfully recording the announcement of an invention of some importance. But justice requires that we should candidly express our opinion of Phonography, inasmuch as through accidental circumstances its author, on a former occasion, had some reason to complain of erroneous statements in a notice of his lecture in our columns. Phonography we believe to be the only mode at once philosophical and practical, of writing language by signs accurately representing the sounds or elements of which all language is composed. In these days of general acceleration, its universal use would be a great benefit to the civilized world, however chimerical the anticipations of such an extension may and do appear. It has hitherto received far too little attention from those philosophical inquirers whose *dicta* have so much weight with the more practical minds of the community. It is, in fact, a vivid picture and transcript of any and every language spoken on the earth ; having as universal an application as the

notation of musical signs, with this superiority—that it represents not only sounds like musical notation, but sounds which are the images and signs of 'thoughts that breathe, and words that burn.' These are its chief merits; but it has others, among which it may be stated, it is now adapted to the purposes of reporting, so as to be equal in point of expedition and legibility to most of the systems of shorthand extant; and we believe that it contains within itself the power of becoming superior to all, with the further improvements and augmentations which a careful revision on the part of its author and his pupils, in the course of a few years, will be able to give to it. We have often letters of inquiry as to the best system of shorthand for young students; and we take this opportunity of saying once for all that, with the advantage of consulting Messrs Pitman by post, on any difficulty that may occur to the learner, and even for the correction of his exercises, etc., there is no system extant that we would sooner recommend to the inquirer. We understand that the next step in the promulgation of this art is to obtain a fount of types, in which to print it, and so introduce Phonotypy as well as Phonography."

Among the men of mark who, at this early period, had a good word to say for the new movement, was Mr John Bright, who presided at a lecture given by Mr Joseph Pitman in Rochdale, and was greatly struck by the practical demonstrations that were given of the merits of Phonography. "I am greatly astonished," he said, "at what I have seen. I think no person can have been at this lecture or attended the one that was given this day week, without being convinced that all that has been promised by this science may easily be performed; and that it is so

exceedingly simple as to be easily learned by everyone of ordinary capacity; and if it be learned by a very large number of the people, the public benefits to be derived from it are entirely incalculable. It may be said, also, that, to make it very valuable, it is necessary that great multitudes should learn it. Shorthands are of very little use if they are only known to a select few; for men are not writing always to the same men; and if ever it is to come into general use, it must be, I think, by very large multitudes learning it; and I see no reason why, in this town, we should not have a class of four or five hundred, or more. If five hundred knew it well, and used it, many thousands would be forced to learn and practise it from necessity. In this age, when we are talking so much about education—when we ought to be doing so much more than we are—this science appears to me likely to tend to increase the love of reading and writing, and of education generally; and it seems to have sprung up at a time when, like many other improvements, it was most needed; and when, in all probability, it will be seized upon with the greatest avidity. I may say for myself, that I am extremely obliged, personally, to the inventor, and to the gentleman who has come among us and given us these lectures; and hope to be much more so, when I become acquainted with the science. We are extremely indebted to them for the very handsome manner in which they have come forward, in offering to teach, gratuitously, all such as find it difficult to pay; and, unfortunately, there are too many such in these days. I trust there will be no want of those who can pay, to remunerate them for this handsome offer which they have made towards those who cannot pay. I shall be glad if this town, which, on many occa-

sions, has stood foremost among the towns in Lancashire on some other questions, should not be behind in one so important as this." It may be remarked here that in later years Mr Bright's daughter (now Mrs Clark) learned Phonography, and became her father's amanuensis, often writing from his dictation in the new characters.

From some other influential quarters there was, as might have been expected, a good deal of opposition. The *Leeds Mercury*, whose reporter, like Mr Harland, wrote a system of his own, opposed Phonography when it was introduced into the town, and declared its claims to be inadmissible. Most, if not all, its reporting is now done by phonographers. The reporter of another newspaper, the *Ipswich Journal*, also attacked the system with much vehemence and acrimony. Another opponent was the Rev. Edward Bickersteth, who, oddly enough, saw in Phonography an enemy to religion itself. Denouncing, in his work entitled "The Promised Glory," the infidelity of the day, he made the astounding assertion that "Mesmerism, Phrenology, Phonography, Chartism, and Socialism, are the stalking-horses behind which the most Satanic lies and the most absurd blasphemies are sent forth against the Word of God."* Bernard Barton, the Quaker poet, as he was then called, composed a short poem† ridiculing Phonography, the Spelling Reform, and the "modern babblers" who were advocating them. But these things only served to call public attention to the subject, and as replies were always forthcoming, the movement was benefited rather than injured by these notes of opposition.

* In the second edition of the work, "Phonography" was expunged from the sentence quoted.

† *Phonotypic Journal*, 1845, p. 158.

Mr Pitman's labors at Bath were daily increasing, owing to the constant demand for his works. His printing was for six years done at the office of *Keene's Bath Journal.* In December, 1845, he decided on having it done under his own immediate superintendence; and with this view, he established a printing-office in his house, 5, Nelson place, and at once began to print his own books. Here he not only compiled the various works published at that time, but often worked "at case" as a compositor, read all his proofs, kept his books, and conducted, single-handed, all the correspondence of the office. During 1844, he set the pages of phonetic types that appeared in the *Phonotypic Journal* every month, in Messrs Keene's office. His power of work, which is said to be always characteristic of true genius, was astounding. His regular hours of labor were from six (occasionally from five) in the morning till ten at night. His habits were methodical in the extreme, and his mode of living was strictly temperate, if not abstemious. He rigidly abstained from intoxicants and from flesh diet, and never smoked. He has himself given us an account of his reasons for adopting vegetarianism, in the following letter, which appeared in the *Times* for 6th February, 1879, in reformed spelling:—

Ser, A frend sujests tu me that I ought tu reit a leter tu the *Times*, plasing mei leif-eksperiens in kontrast with the editorial suming-up on Mr W. Gibson-Ward's vejetarian leter in the *Times* ov last Thurzday. The konkluzhon areivd at iz:—"So long az no speshal kall iz tu be made on the strength, a piurli vejetabel deiet may sufeiz." Az mei leif haz been wun ov eksepshonal aktiviti, the fakt that it haz been maintaind on a vejetabel deiet ought tu be known, nou that a diskushon on deiet haz been admited intu the *Times*.

Mei deietetik eksperiens iz simpli this,—Abuv forti yearz ago dispepsia woz kariing me tu the grave. Medikal adveizerz

rekomended animal food three teimz a day insted ov wuns, and a glas ov wein. On this rejimen I woz nuthing beterd but rather grew wurs. I avoided the meat and the wein, gradiuali rekuverd mei dijestiv pouer, and hav never sins known, bei eni pain, that I hav a stumak.

Theze forti yearz hav been spent in kontiniuus labor in konekshon with the invenshon and propagashon ov mei sistem ov fonetik shorthand and fonetik speling, korespondens, and the editorial diutiz ov mei weekli Jurnal. Though siksti-feiv [66] yearz ov aje, I kontiniu the kustom I hav folowd all through this period, ov beïng at mei ofis at siks in the morning, sumer and winter. Til I woz fifti yearz ov aje I never tuk a holiday, or felt that I wonted wun; and for about twenti yearz in the ferst part ov this period I woz at mei desk fourteen ourz a day, from siks in the morning til ten at neit, with two ourz out for mealz. Twenti yearz ago I began tu leav of at siks in the evening.

I attribiut mei helth and pouer ov endiurans tu abstinens from flesh meat and alkoholik drinks. I kan kum tu no uther konkluzhon when I see the efekt ov such ekstended ourz ov labor on uther men who eat meat and drink wein or beer.

I hav riten mei leter fonetikali, az iz mei kustom, and shal feel obleijd if it be aloud thus tu apear in the *Times*.

EIZAK PITMAN.

Fonetik Institiut, Bath, 27 Janiueri, 1879.

The letter was given in the *Times* in full phonetic spelling, with old letters. It has since been considered advisable to advocate, at first, a partially reformed spelling, as in the above specimen.

In a biographical notice of Mr Pitman in the *Food Reform Magazine* for April, 1884, the immediate occasion of Mr Pitman's adoption of a vegetarian diet is mentioned.

"Mr Pitman's whole life has shown that when he has made up his mind that a thing is right he follows the idea promptly with action, as manifested when, having come to the conclusion that intoxicating drinks were injurious, he knocked the bung out of his beer barrel and poured the

contents into the sewer. Unfortunately those who embrace the principles of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors are too often blind as to the evils of flesh-eating and the fact that it is a provocative to the drink crave. Medical men failing to do good with their medicines, Mr Pitman resolved to take his case in hand himself, and, aided by the following incident, resolved to become an abstainer from fish, flesh, and fowl.

"A number of fowls were kept principally for the sake of their eggs, and occasionally one of them was doomed to the pot or the spit. The boy who did the killing business declined the job when it came to the turn of his pet fowl to be killed. Requiring obedience to orders, the lad was directed to hold the fowl's head upon the block, and then Mr Pitman aimed a blow at it with the hatchet; but his unpractised hand only half did the work, and the bird with its partially severed head flew about the yard. This unpleasant business of killing 'our poor relations' set Mr Pitman thinking, and the questions arose, 'Is it right to require another person to do what I do not like to do myself?' 'Is flesh meat necessary as an article of food?' His answers being in the negative, he has never eaten flesh-meat since, yet he has had sound health, and believes he could not have done an equal amount of mental and physical work upon a 'mixed diet.'" Although Mr Pitman never takes flesh meat, it should be stated that his dietary includes eggs, milk and butter.

Nothwithstanding Mr Pitman's power of work, he at length found himself unable to cope with the increasing business of the office, and he was compelled to obtain assistance, especially in the mechanical department. Training lads to the work, he was able to relieve himself of a good

deal of the routine drudgery which, in his plodding way, he had hitherto taken upon his own shoulders. This enabled him to give more time to the preparation of his books, periodicals and tracts. Of the tracts he printed and distributed vast numbers, trusting to these and to his own personal correspondence for making his system known. With all this labor on his hands he found time to correct the shorthand exercises of students. This he did gratuitously. Indeed, in his Journal for December, 1842, he publicly expressed his willingness to correct the exercises of any persons who had at any time received lessons from himself or his brothers, or who were too poor to send even a small nominal fee.

A good deal of this labor of correcting the lessons of learners was afterwards done by other hands. In February, 1843, there appeared in the *Phonotypic Journal* a suggestion made by the author of this work for the establishment of a "Phonographic Corresponding Society," to consist of members who desired to correspond with each other in shorthand. The idea was readily taken up in different parts of the kingdom, and, at Mr Pitman's suggestion, it was arranged that one of the functions of the members of the Society should be the gratuitous correction of the lessons of learners through the recently-established Penny Post. The next Journal contained the names of twenty-seven members, including those of Isaac Pitman and his two brothers, Henry and Fred; and from month to month considerable additions were made to the list. Among the earliest to join the new Society were Hepworth Dixon*

* Mr Dixon never ceased to take an interest in Phonography and phonetic spelling. This interest he occasionally manifested in the columns of the *Athenæum*, of which he was for many years the editor.

who was then the secretary of the Ancoats Lyceum, Manchester; and Mr A. J. Ellis, the distinguished philologist and phonetician, then residing at Dorking. The names of many other young men and women who afterwards made their mark in literature or some other department of labor, may also be found in the first year's list of members. The Society was in later years called the Phonetic Society, which name it still retains, and now it receives an addition of about 4,500 members yearly, all of whom undertake the gratuitous correction of learners' exercises. In addition to the Phonographic Corresponding Society, numerous local associations of a similar character were formed throughout the country, often as the result of lectures and classes. Of these the records are to be found in the early numbers of the Journal.

CHAPTER IV.

It was not until 1843 that Mr Pitman seriously set to work with phonetic printing by means of movable types. To accomplish this it was necessary to procure about twenty new letters, to supply the deficiencies of the common twenty-six letter alphabet. Many experiments were made in order to discover the most suitable forms for the new letters required, and the mode of using them; and Mr Pitman, in this, as in regard to his shorthand, sought and obtained the co-operation of many friends. He also, through his Journal, solicited subscriptions to defray the cost of the founts. It is unnecessary to describe in these pages the many different schemes propounded, whether for a complete new phonetic alphabet, or for an adaptation of the existing alphabet with or without additional letters with diacritic marks. In the *Phonotypic Journal* of January, 1844, Mr Pitman was able to address his friends in "phonotypy," and "thus offer you the result of the first experiment made with the fount which your liberality has enabled me to provide." In this opening address he freely acknowledged the efforts made by his predecessors in the same direction, the failure of which he attributed to the want of a public desire and demand for a Spelling Reform such as he had himself been, with some success, endeavoring to create. Henceforward phonographic shorthand and phonetic printing went hand in hand. With singular devotion Mr Pitman, whose personal expenses were absolutely insignificant, applied a large portion of the

profits derived from his works to the promotion of a reformed spelling. The literature of the Spelling Reform did not pay its expenses; and though subscriptions were received from time to time from other persons interested in the movement, they had to be largely supplemented by Mr Pitman's own contributions.

The extent to which Phonography had become popularized may be estimated by the circumstance that the system had reached a sixth edition in 1844 and a seventh in 1845. In the latter year Mr Pitman found time to attend a public phonographic soirée at Ipswich, (held in commemoration of the labors of Messrs Joseph Pitman and T. A. Reed, who had delivered many lectures and conducted large classes in the town,) and he was also present at the third annual meeting of the Birmingham Phonographic Society. At this meeting he told his hearers that he was sending out from his Bath office 7 cwt. of books per month, and was receiving about ten thousand phonographic letters a year; that ten lecturers were constantly engaged in teaching his system; and that 1,054 members of the "Phonographic Corresponding Society" were more or less actively employed in its private dissemination. In this year also Mr Pitman began to print the Bible with phonetic types, but, as might have been expected, the phonetic alphabet received further improvement, and when he had printed as far as the Chronicles, the work was abandoned, and the sheets sent to the grocer. The *Phonotypic Journal* was published monthly entirely in the same character; and the *Phonographic Correspondent* was lithographed every month in his clear and beautiful style of phonographic penmanship.

At the close of the same year a noteworthy incident

occurred in regard to the practical application of the phonetic system of shorthand. An anti-corn-law demonstration was held in Bath, and Mr Pitman attended and reported Cobden's speech on the occasion for *Keene's Bath Journal*, at whose offices the phonetic publications had for some time been printed. Instead of transcribing his notes in longhand in the usual way, he contented himself with rapidly reading them through, and dropping in a vowel here and there for the sake of additional legibility, and then handing them to the newspaper compositors, some of whom had been in the habit of setting-up from his shorthand MS. The speech was duly printed from these revised notes. This feat—for such it really was—was duly chronicled in the *Bath Journal* of 8th December, 1845, in the following paragraph:—

"In connection with the report of the excellent addresses delivered at the great demonstration on Thursday, of the opinions of a very large majority of the citizens of Bath, which will be found in our columns this week, we would call the attention of our readers to a fact indicative of Reform in other matters as well as in the Corn Laws. By the kindness of Mr Isaac Pitman of this city, whose systems of writing and printing by sound have made such astonishing progress in all parts of the kingdom, we are enabled to give a nearly verbatim report of the excellent speech of R. Cobden, esq., which our compositors have set up from Mr Pitman's phonographic notes, there being no necessity for their transcription. With all other systems of shorthand writing, not only was there never known such a thing as a reporter passing over to the compositor his notes of a speech an hour and a quarter in delivery, but he is often unable to decipher them himself. All that was necessary in this case, Mr Pitman has assured us, was to

give the speech one reading the next morning, and fill in a few vowels. We are convinced that we shall in a few years, by this invaluable system, save all that immense

amount of toil which our present reporters have to undergo in deciphering and transcribing their notes for the press.''

About this period a portrait of Mr Pitman was painted

by Mr J. B. (now Colonel) Keene, son of the editor of the *Bath Journal*, and its present proprietor. He was one of the earliest writers of Phonography. From this painting a steel engraving was produced, of which we give a copy. Mr Keene also wrote a little poem on Phonography, which was published in the *Phonotypic Journal* for 1843, p. 96.

The sale of the phonographic publications had now so much increased as to interfere with the Bible-publishing business of Messrs Bagster & Sons; and in 1845 they opened a shop in Queen's Head passage, adjoining No. 15 Paternoster row, for carrying on the phonographic publishing business. In the following year Benn Pitman took charge of this depôt, and in 1847 it was transferred to Frederick Pitman, then 19 years of age. In October, 1849, he removed the business to the commodious premises, No. 20, Paternoster row, and thenceforward all the London publishing work passed through his hands. Some risk was expected to attend the experiment of setting up a special establishment apart from Messrs Bagsters, with whose house Phonography had been identified for nine years, but the result amply justified the change. Here, as at Queen's Head passage, Mr Fred. Pitman was assisted by his father, Mr Samuel Pitman, who, in his old age, had the satisfaction of witnessing the success of his sons, and giving them the benefit of his co-operation. Those who visited the depôt in those days will not forget the shrewd and sagacious sayings and doings of Pitman *père*, who was for some years a well-known character in the Row. He learned Phonography, and could read it with ease, but never wrote it fluently.

During the next two or three years Mr Pitman continued to issue his phonographic and phonotypic publications, including "Paradise Lost" in phonotypy, and to urge in every

possible way the claims of the Spelling Reform movement. His correspondence became more and more extensive, every day bringing him sixty or seventy letters, chiefly in shorthand, most of which were answered by his own hand. He also commenced a "History of Shorthand" in the *Phonotypic Journal*, and continued it through many successive numbers. The phonetic movement continued to spread throughout the country by means of classes, lectures, "festivals," and other demonstrations. Mr Ellis was a frequent and zealous contributor to the phonetic literature of the day, and his scholarship was a great acquisition to the cause. A "Phonetic Council" was also formed, whose members assisted in the formation of the new alphabet, and in giving publicity to the movement. Mr Pitman was constantly experimenting with new types, and doing his best to arrive at a practical alphabet which should effectively represent the sounds of the language. An impetus was given to the movement by a highly appreciative article in the *Athenæum* of the 19th December, 1846, from which some paragraphs may be usefully quoted:—

"It is a singular anomaly in the history of intellectual development, that, while every department of positive science and system of philosophy has been prosecuted and agitated in modern Europe, so little earnest and continuous attention has been bestowed upon language—the instrument of all science, the medium of all literature, the very basis of civilization. If a correct logic be necessary in inductive reasoning, and a sound method indispensable in the investigation of natural phenomena, a philosophical system of language is still more important, and a more catholic necessity.

"The whole tribe of languages admits of a very simple

and primary classification—namely, hieroglyphic and phonetic. The first is purely symbolic, and uses signs to express *ideas*. The second is founded on the alphabetic principle, and uses signs to represent *sounds*—which recall the ideas to which they are wedded when pronounced or read off the written page. The first is the more obviously natural method, and was probably the first in use: the other is, however, the simpler and more effective instrument. Diodorus Siculus informs us that both systems obtained in Egypt; and that the hieroglyphic was principally made use of by the caste of priests (as being extremely difficult to acquire,) to conceal their mystic knowledge and recondite theogony. The less difficult they taught the common people—a fatal mistake, which says little for the sagacity of the Egyptian intellect. The relative value of these different systems of communicating intelligence has not yet been morally and politically appreciated. The first is vast, unwieldy, and almost unuseable: the other is plastic and expressive. Quiescence or activity, respectively, characterizes the nations which have adopted the one or the other. China, with its stationary civilization and unprogressive literature—Western Europe, with its revolutionary intellect and conquering science—are the true exponents of the forces which lie beneath the two methods.

"The Teutonic languages, of course, belong to the great class of alphabetic tongues; but a departure, more or less, from the normal principle, has taken place in each, and in none more than in English. The last has departed so widely from the purely phonetic character, that out of 70,000 words in its vocabulary, not more than 70—or 1 in 1,000—are pronounced precisely as they are spelled. How

few persons, even of those most practised in reading and writing, are there who can spell correctly every one of these 70,000 words! Yet if they were really, as they are ostensibly, phonetically represented, there could arise no doubt. The elements of the pronunciation would combine with the ease and completeness of chemical affinities. As it is, the vocabulary is a work of memory. Each word must be made a separate subject of study; and hence, a life becomes too short for the acquirement of the whole. The same difficulties attend most of the other European tongues.

"The phonetization of language is, however, more than a mere possibility; and the adoption of a science of phonology, at least perfect in theory, and in practice felicitously adapted to the purposes of life, is not the idle dream of the speculative student. 'We have here,' says Sir John Herschel, speaking of an analysis of his own, 'the fewest letters with which it is possible to write English. But on the other hand, with the addition of two or three more vowels and as many consonants, making about forty characters in all, every known language might probably be effectually reduced to writing, so as to preserve an exact correspondence between the writing and pronunciation; which would be one of the most valuable acquisitions not only to philologists but to mankind; facilitating the intercourse between nations, and laying the foundation of the first step towards a universal language, one of the great *desiderata* at which mankind ought to aim by common consent.' The works now lying before us [the *Phonotypic Journal* and Milton's 'Paradise Lost,' in phonotypes,] are indications of another earnest attempt, which has been for some time in progress, to achieve that reform in the representation of our language to which many

eminent philologers have marshaled the way. Some account of the views which—by lectures, and class-teaching, and a journal of their own, and publications like that of 'Paradise Lost'—these logical reformers are seeking to enforce, may be worth bringing under the notice of our readers.

"At the head of this new movement, is Mr Isaac Pitman, of Bath. His attention was directed, it seems, to the anomalies of our alphabetic system, by the elaboration of a method of *shorthand*, of which he is the inventor. Without any acquaintance (as he himself states,) with the labors of others in the same field, he had been induced to reject the Roman alphabet as inadequate to represent the sounds of our mother tongne; and adopted as the basis of his short-hand system, the best analysis of vocal sound that he could obtain. Much time and labor were expended in perfecting this analysis; but when it was complete, it was at once evident, says Mr Pitman, that a system which so simplified written, would answer the same purpose for printed language. Many experiments were consequently made; and after three years have been consumed in getting the best forms of type, and improving the subsidiary details of the system, 'Paradise Lost.' is issued as the first complete work from the phonetic press.

"The phonological science of Mr Pitman is based upon the assumption that the primary aim of orthography is to express the *sounds* of words, and not their histories. The etymological relation of a word has no influence upon its pronunciation; and, therefore, according to the normal alphabetic theory, ought to have none upon the spelling. The pronunciation and the representation should exactly coincide. To effect this, a new alphabet was required—the Roman one being notoriously faulty—containing as

many letters as there are simple, indivisible sounds in the language. The detection and classification of these primary sounds were the first processes, and led to the following result. The voice (in so far as the enunciation of English is concerned) has but *twenty-one* radical elements;—namely, six vowels, two coalescents, one aspirate, and twelve consonants. The six pure vowels, however, have each a short sound, which it is considered expedient to represent by a separate letter. Seven of the consonants have also a heavier sound :—Thus F is deepened into V ; T into D, etc. Besides these, it is deemed expedient to use single letters to express four of the frequently recurring diphthongs, [*ī, oi, ou, ū,*] and two double consonants, [*ch, j,*]—making, in the whole, *forty* distinct letters.

"These forty primary and compound sounds, are, in combination, considered equal to the perfect vocalization of each and every English word. It is obvious, that an alphabet of forty letters cannot be expressed by the old twenty-six types, even if these had distinct and well-ascertained powers—which, however, every student of the language too well knows they have not. New forms of letters have, therefore, been invented, to supply the new sounds with typical exponents. Two principles are asserted to have presided at the selection of the new types;—rigid adherence to phonetic truth, and as little alteration as possible in the appearance of the printed page. To arbitrate between these somewhat conflicting demands has been the great problem with the phonologers. They believe that they have solved it; and have obtained an alphabet representing the radical elements of speech, true to all the requisitions of science, and practically adapted for all the purposes of life.

"The object supposed to be achieved by this phonetic method of printing is principally educational. The years now devoted to learning to read and spell will be, it is promised, commuted to months. On the phonetic plan, it is believed that a man of ordinary intelligence might learn to spell and pronounce every word in the English language with the unerring certainty of the rhetorician, in three months.

"A system which even plausibly offers such advantages is not unworthy the inquiries of our readers. But the philosophical ambition of the phonotypists has far wider limits. They do not merely aim at the phonetization of the English tongue; but, regarding their analysis of sounds as containing the radical elements of all speech, hope finally thereby to make English the nucleus of a universal language. They state, we may add, that 150,000 copies of the system of phonetic short-hand have been sold; that thousands of persons in Great Britain and America have been taught the art; and that the Phonographic Corresponding Society numbers upwards of a thousand members."

CHAPTER V.

In 1848 a new departure took place in connection with Mr Pitman's monthly *Phonotypic Journal*. In conjunction with Mr Ellis, he had for several years carried out an immense number of experiments, not only as to the forms of the printing types for the phonetic alphabet, but as to the modes of employing them. There was, as indeed there still is, a great diversity of opinion among phoneticians in reference to the sounds of certain words and syllables, and as to the question whether the stiff and deliberate or the easy and colloquial pronunciation should be taken as the standard in a popular system of phonetic representation. By the end of 1847, Mr Pitman and Mr Ellis had come to an agreement on these points, and what was afterwards known as "the 1847 alphabet" was accepted as the basis of the proposed spelling reform. With a view of taking a more active part in the promotion of this reform, Mr Ellis went to reside at Bath, and arranged with Mr Pitman to purchase his printing plant and take over the monthly journal, henceforward to be called the *Phonetic Journal*. The purchase was carried out in November, 1847, and Mr Ellis established his printing office at Albion Place. One of the conditions of the purchase was that Mr Pitman was to have the joint use of the office and plant, paying 5 per cent. on the cost of production, for wear and tear. Under this arrangement, Mr Ellis brought out the Journal in 1848, and was actively engaged in printing other works with the

new alphabet, including the New Testament, the "Vicar of Wakefield," and "Rasselas." He also started in 1849, at great expense and labor, the now historical newspaper, the *Phonetic News*, or, as it was commonly called, the *Fonetic Nuz*. It was hoped that this *quasi* partnership would have worked satisfactorily, and that by the combination of Mr Pitman's energy and practical experience with the ripe scholarship and more ample means of Mr Ellis, the reform would make more rapid strides than ever. The expectation, reasonable and natural as it seemed, was not realized. Difficulties arose, into the details of which it is not necessary to enter, in connection with the joint working of the printing office. These difficulties at length became, in Mr Pitman's view, so serious, that he resolved to resume phonetic printing in an office under his own direction; and, with this object, he ordered from Messrs Figgins a supply of type of all sizes, together with the necessary plant. About the same time, Mr Ellis's labors and anxieties had begun to tell upon his health. The production of a weekly newspaper in the new spelling, in addition to his other publications, proved a greater strain than he could well bear. The *Phonetic News* appeared weekly for three months, then twice at intervals of a month, and came to an end with the number for May 25th, 1849. Notwithstanding the inevitable ridicule of the comic papers—partly perhaps because of that ridicule—and the diatribes and sneers of the champions of the old spelling, the *News* did good service during its brief but brilliant career. It was well edited, as it was sure to be in Mr Ellis's hands, and drew public attention to the anomalies of English spelling, and the necessity of a change, in quarters to which previous publications had rarely, if ever,

obtained access The attempt, however, was too ambitious; the time had not come for a first-class weekly newspaper in the reformed spelling. Mr Ellis was too sanguine, and lost several thousand pounds in his venture. The establishment of the *Phonetic News* being an interesting feature in the history of spelling reform, it may be well to append the public announcement made of its appearance:—

"On Saturday, 6th January, 1849, will be published the first number of the *Fonetik Nuz*; conducted by Alexander John Ellis, B.A., containing twelve pages, the size of the *Examiner*. Price 4½d. stamped. Published every Saturday morning. The Spelling Reform which has for its object to change the absurd, inconsistent, and, strictly speaking, ignorant orthography in which the English language is now most generally presented to the reader, numbers so many supporters in various parts of the British Dominions, and in the United States of America, that the establishment of an English weekly newspaper is imperatively demanded as their organ. This Reform was commenced in 1837, by the publication of Mr Isaac Pitman's "Manual of Phonography;" and since that time more than one hundred and fifty thousand persons in Great Britain and Ireland have become its supporters: the present annual sale of works bearing on the Spelling Reform is one hundred thousand copies, and it is rapidly increasing. Since the completion of the phonetic system by Messrs Pitman and Ellis's joint invention of a Phonetic Printing Alphabet, an enduring foundation has been given to the Reform, and its importance has become more clearly felt, as the sole means of making the education of the poor in this country possible. Large public meetings in various parts

of Great Britain and Ireland have been held in furtherance of this important movement, in its joint aspect of a revolution in writing and printing. Thousands—nay, millions, we hope—who are at present unacquainted with this mightiest, but peacefulest revolution of the nineteenth century, only wait to have its great principles presented to their notice, in order to embrace them with eagerness and advocate them with warmth and earnestness. To effect this there is but one course open, namely, to establish a Phonetic newspaper, which, by becoming the organ of the phonetic reformers, will give strength and unity to their exertions. The necessary practical arrangements for printing and publishing a Phonetic Newspaper have been accordingly commenced, and are already sufficiently advanced to enable the Director of the Printing Department of the Spelling Reform to announce that a Phonotypic Newspaper, under the appropriate title of the *Fonetik Niuz*, will be issued on Saturday, 6 January, 1849, to be continued weekly. The conductor appeals confidently to all friends of phonetic spelling, for support in his present undertaking, and assures them that every exertion will be made to render the *Fonetik Niuz* a worthy organ of the Spelling Reform."

The prospectus goes on to explain the general policy of the paper, and adds:—"The *Fonetik Niuz* being published in London, will be conducted in all respects as a metropolitan weekly newspaper. Its contents will be varied, and strictly adapted for family perusal. The news of the week, a condensation of the parliamentary debates, metropolitan and provincial intelligence, a careful abstract of foreign news, original articles on subjects of general interest, reviews of new books, music, and the drama, with other

necessary details, will all find a place in the columns of the *Fonetik Niuz;* which, however, will be distinctively characterised by a copious account of the progress of the Spelling Reform, under the joint aspect of phonetic printing or phonotypy, and phonetic writing or Phonography, consisting of communications from those actually engaged in diffusing a knowledge of phonetic spelling, reports of the more interesting lectures and public meetings, and original articles in explanation and enforcement of the principles of the phonetic movement. In addition to its peculiar character as a chronicle of the Spelling Reform in general, the *Fonetik Niuz* will be the especial organ of the Phonetic Corresponding Society, which important and rapidly increasing body now numbers nearly 2,000 members, scattered over the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, and all working in their several spheres to advance the phonetic cause. All notices from the Director of this society (Mr Isaac Pitman), and weekly lists of new members, will appear in its columns. The *Fonetik Niuz* will consequently be the only recognized medium of public communication with those who confine their attention to the writing department of the Spelling Reform."

In reprinting this prospectus, which was issued in phonetic spelling, the name of the paper is given in the phonetic alphabet of the present day. In 1849 it was *Æe Fonetic Nɥz.*

During the period of which we are speaking, Mr Ellis published his well-known "Essentials of Phonetics," and a second and greatly enlarged edition of his "Plea for Phonetic Spelling"—a popular appeal for a rational orthography, which long served as a hand-book for spelling reformers.

In March, 1849, Mr Pitman resumed the editorship and proprietorship of the *Phonetic Journal*, after a suspension of the work for two months. It now appeared fortnightly instead of monthly. With his accustomed energy, he continued to issue his other publications for the promotion of phonetic writing and printing. In 1850 a report was spread, through the newspapers, that the Phonetic Printing Institution at Bath had ceased to exist, and that Mr Pitman had lost a large sum of money by the speculation. The report was, of course, at once contradicted, and we find at the same time Mr Pitman stating that his printing office "is in full work and employs eighteen persons, eleven in the printing department and seven in the binding department. In addition to this force, three lithographic presses are kept constantly employed upon the shorthand periodicals and other works at the large lithographic establishment of Mr Hollway in this city (Bath). The regular demand for phonetic publications is greater rather than less than the present means of supply." In the same year was printed, and in February, 1850, was published, the Bible in a phonetic dress. It was issued by Mr Pitman in a demy-octavo volume, at the price of 10*s*. It was printed according to the Authorized Version, the text being arranged in paragraphs, and the poetical books printed in parallelisms. The same work was also issued with a New Arrangement "in divisions, sections, and sentences, to facilitate reference and quotation." This publication Mr Pitman naturally regarded as an era in the progress of the Writing and Spelling Reform. The editing and proof-reading being done by Mr Pitman, the expense of the work was not great; about £100 for composition, and

£100 for presswork, paper, and binding, for an edition of a thousand copies.

In the following year, 1851, Mr Pitman found time to attend a Phonetic Soirée held in London during the period of the first great International Exhibition. The meeting was held in the lower room, Exeter Hall, and was attended by a large number of friends of the phonetic movement. Among the speakers were Isaac and Benn Pitman, A. J. Ellis, C. Cayley, T. A. Reed, and other well-known advocates of phonetic spelling. It is a noteworthy circumstance that some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the use of one of the rooms in Exeter Hall for a phonetic gathering. The movement was looked upon with suspicion by some of the authorities, and the writer of this Memoir well remembers the trouble he had in persuading them that the proposed reform was not of the revolutionary character attributed to it, but simply a means of rendering reading and writing a pleasure rather than a toil.

During the same year Mr Pitman attended the anniversary meeting of the Preston Phonetic Sunday Evening and Week-day Evening School, and the Birmingham Phonetic Festival. With these exceptions, he was working continuously at his desk, superintending the issue of his publications, and carrying on a vast correspondence, which, without the aid of his shorthand, would have been an absolute impossibility.

In 1852 Mr Pitman's labors were still further increased by the issue of the Journal weekly instead of fortnightly, and in an enlarged form; and by the preparation of new editions of the "Phonographic Vocabulary," "Teacher," and other works, involving a large amount of labor in compilation and lithographing. From some statistics pub-

lished in the Journal (28th Feb., 1852), it appears that the number of shorthand sheets annually printed about that time averaged upwards of 100,000. Referring to the preparation and issue of the "Vocabulary," Mr Pitman remarks :—

"A fact connected with the publication of this work may perhaps be stated. During two or three years much time was spent in the compilation of the book, and making a fair copy of the shorthand portion. The latter work could not be accomplished until many phonographic outlines and sets of outlines had been tried in ordinary writing, for the purpose of selecting the best. After the typographic part was printed, the copy of the lithographic portion prepared, and every word examined by the compiler and Mr T. A. Reed, in company, the work was lithographed in three weeks, about half of each day being devoted to it. As the writer's lithographic employments are now lessening, and from the pressure of other and more important duties, may soon draw to a close, he wishes to mention, for the encouragement of other labourers in this pleasant field of usefulness, that during the last four years, as supplementary to his general business, he has lithographed 4,800 pages of Phonography."

The admirable manner in which this enormous amount of work was done will be obvious to every reader of Mr. Pitman's beautifully executed shorthand pages. With becoming modesty, however, he says (*Phonetic Journal*, 1852, p. 67) that he "never hoped to be able to produce anything in this way that could be considered excellent, because his 'transfers' were, from the stern necessity of his business, produced in a short time, and often amid interruptions. Moreover, he had not been trained to the work —had never written anything merely for practice, but litho-

graphed the first number of the *Phonetic Journal*, in 1842, after an hour's trial with the lithographic pen, and never afterwards wrote anything but for the purpose of its being printed."

For the first year or two of the decade Mr Pitman appears to have been mainly concerned with his new phonotypic alphabet of thirty-two letters, to replace the alphabet of 1847, as arranged by himself and Mr Ellis. The Journal of 1853 is filled with correspondence on this subject. The partisans of the rival alphabets became greatly excited, and assailed each other with the bitterness of theological disputants. The Phonetic Council was appealed to for its decision on a number of moot points in connection with phonetic representation. The votes of the members were duly collected and tabulated. They were generally in favor of the reduced alphabet.

The demand for Mr Pitman's shorthand instruction books was unabated, and in one of the numbers of the Journal (3rd Sept., 1853,) some interesting particulars are given as to the numbers issued.

"Fifteen thousand copies of the 'Phonographic Instructor,'" says Mr Pitman, "have since (June, 1852) been printed, of which only one thousand remain unsold. The engravings of the work not being satisfactory, we have had the whole of the phonographic illustrations re-engraved, and the other portion of the book re-set in new type. A shorthand fount has been prepared to supply the simple characters, and all shorthand words that cannot be made from the fount are engraved on separate metal blocks, technically called 'blanks,' or quadrats, type height. . . Of the new 'Instructor' we have just printed ten thousand copies, thus making twenty-five thousand copies of the

work printed, and fourteen thousand sold in fourteen months. . . . The new edition of the 'Manual' was not ready until last November. Of this, two issues of five thousand each have been printed, and the stock is now two thousand only. We have this week put to press five thousand more 'Manuals.' The new edition of the 'Reporter's Companion' was published in March last; three thousand copies were printed, and two thousand have already been sold." These numbers were at that time considered extraordinary for a system of shorthand. It will be seen later on that they were insignificant in comparison with the numbers of the instruction books issued from the press in recent years.

Most of these instruction books, in all probability, found their way into the hands of students and amateurs, but not a few must have been purchased by professional reporters, many of whom, especially those not confirmed in their habits by many years' practice of the older systems, were about this time embracing the new method for use in their daily calling. The number of phonographers engaged on the provincial newspapers was rapidly increasing. In the metropolis the progress was more slow, and the number of phonographers in the Gallery was insignificant. It is amusing at the present day, when the great majority of the Gallery reporters are phonographers, to note the statement made in the Journal from which we have already quoted, to the effect that the Editor is "acquainted with the names of three gentlemen who are at the present time engaged on the *Morning Post*, with one on the *Morning Chronicle*, and one on the *Morning Advertiser*, who use Phonography in the House of Commons; and with one employed on the *Times* who reports Committees of the House, etc." It

would now be difficult to mention "the names of three gentlemen" on any of the morning papers who write any other system than Phonography.

About this period a stimulus was given to the phonetic movement by an important Conference held at the residence of Chevalier Bunsen, on the 25th January, 1854, to take into consideration the question, "Whether or not a uniform system of expressing foreign alphabets by Roman characters could be devised and agreed upon." The gentlemen who met were Sir John Herschell, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Prof. Owen, Revs. H. Venn, F. Trestrail, — Chapman, William Arthur; Messrs Edwin Norris, R. Cull, E. Underhill, Captain Graham, and Prof. Max Müller, representing most of the Missionary, the Asiatic, and Ethnological Societies. The Royal Academy of Berlin was represented by Dr Pertz. Strangely enough, neither Mr Pitman nor Mr Ellis was invited to this Conference. The proceedings were reported at some length in the *Times*, the *Athenæum*, and other papers, and public attention was thus called to the desirability of a purely phonetic representation of language. A universal alphabet, it was stated, had been framed by Prof. Max Müller and Dr Lepsius, but nothing practical came of this ambitious proposal. Prof. Max Müller, as will be seen later, became a warm adherent of Mr Pitman's scheme, as the most satisfactory method of phonetically representing the English language. Chevalier Bunsen, in the course of his powerful address, stated that "a universal phonetic alphabet is a generally felt desideratum," and that it is "comparative philology combined with universal ethnology."

The Phonetic Society continued to increase in numbers,

and in 1854 Mr George Dawson became its president. Mr Pitman, nominally its secretary, continued to be its working head, and, indeed, its only official. A proposal having been subsequently made for a new classification of members (numbering about four thousand five hundred), Mr Pitman invited Mr Ellis to accept the presidential chair, notwithstanding the differences of opinion existing between them in reference to the 1847 alphabet.

"I believe," said Mr Pitman, "I speak the sentiments of every phonographer when I say that your acceptance of the office of President of the Phonetic Society would be hailed with delight by every one of the thousands of spelling reformers in this country and in America. . . . For the interest of the phonetic cause in America especially would I urge the propriety of your accepting the office of president of a Society which I have from its commencement, eleven years ago, served in the capacity of secretary. There, where party feeling on most subjects runs high, they suppose that you and I are at variance as men because we have different opinions on phonetics. It is in your power to remove this impression, which is as hurtful to the interests of morality as to the phonetic reform."

To this Mr Ellis replied:

"I have read over your article on the proposed new organization of the Phonetic Society, and also your letter to me asking me to be President. It is quite impossible for me to accept the office; indeed, I am not even aware that it is vacant, having recently seen the name of Mr George Dawson printed as that of the President of the Phonetic Society. You must excuse me from entering upon my other reasons for declining to allow my name to be

placed at the head of your Society, to which in my own opinion no other name but your own could be prefixed, as it is emphatically a Society of your own creation and upholding. I will only say that I do not decline from any party feeling on the subject of alphabets, any dislike to the soonest possible advent of some phonetic spelling, any disapproval of Phonography in its present state, or any personal feeling against yourself."

Under these circumstances Mr George Dawson continued to hold office, and occupied that position for several years.

Another enlargement of the Journal from eight to

*No. 5 Albion Place.**

* The inscription is given in the Phonetic Alphabet of the present day. On the building it was "FONETIC INSTITUΩON AND JENERAL PRINTIJ OFIS."

sixteen pages took place in 1855, and Mr Pitman's printing office was removed from No. 5, Albion place to Parsonage lane, in the centre of Bath. The new office was the top floor of a large block of buildings used for furniture store-rooms. It was a large and lofty room, 53 ft. by 28½ ft., and Mr Pitman was fortunate enough to secure it for the low rental of £15 a year. The removal and fitting up of the office occupied a week; "and during this period," says Mr Pitman, "we have been unable to attend to any letters or orders, our time being taken up with the packing, hauling, unpacking, and re-arrangement of from fifteen to twenty tons of type, printing apparatus, books, and office furniture; and the books themselves being out of reach we have been unable to fulfil orders even if we had time for desk work." The locality was anything but an agreeable one, and the approach to the office was dismal in the extreme. A stranger in search of the inventor of Phonography had to grope his way along a dark passage, and up two flights of stairs; but once arrived in his spacious office everything was found to be the pattern of neatness and order. It was here that Mr Pitman, seated at his desk, and surrounded by his printers and assistants, continued for twenty years, with unabated industry, the issue of his phonotypic and phonographic publications. He was not slow to avail himself of the reduction just effected on the postage of book parcels to 4d per lb., or 4 oz. for 1d. Hundreds of 4 oz. packets of phonetic documents and small books printed phonetically were distributed by post, and phonographers generally were invited to employ a portion of the first week of the new postage regulations in the dissemination of phonetic literature.

CHAPTER VI.

Not content with his numerous phonotypic and shorthand labors, Mr Pitman, at this period, spent a good deal of his spare time in an endeavour to bring about an arithmetical reform. The question of adopting a decimal notation had been discussed by Parliament, by the British Association, by the Society of Arts, and other bodies, and a strong feeling had sprung up in its favor. Mr Pitman, while recognising the importance of a more uniform and easy method of reckoning, advocated a still more radical reform than that involved in a general system of decimalization. He attacked the decimal numeration itself, and boldly supported a duodecimal one. Instead of making ten the basis of the whole system of numeration, he proposed to substitute twelve. The only reason, it was urged, for the adoption of ten, was that men originally counted with the aid of their ten fingers and ten toes. The great defect of a decimal notation was alleged to be that ten could only be divided by 5 and by 2, while other numbers might be chosen that were much more readily divisible. An American writer had suggested an octonary basis, on the ground that 8 could be divided by 4 and 2, or be halved twice. He proposed to sweep away the figures 8 and 9, thus, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 (eight), 11 (nine), 12 (ten), etc. The number 64 would thus be written 100, which could be continuously halved without a fraction down to 1. But Mr Pitman argued that twelve would be a still better basis than 8, being divisible by 3 and 6, as well

as by 2 and 4. This would of course require the addition of two new figures for 10 and 11, and "10" would then come to signify twelve, "11" thirteen (which would have to be re-named "dozen and one") and so on. With a view of carrying this proposal into practice new types were ordered (ƭ ten, and ȿ eleven), in minion, brevier, bourgeois, and small pica; and it was Mr Pitman's intention to employ the new notation in his Journal, and to recommend it for general adoption. During 1857-58 he counted everything, as far as possible, by dozens and grosses, instead of by tens and hundreds, with a view of paving the way for the new numeration; but he was unequal to the task of undertaking a reform of this magnitude, in addition to the Writing and Spelling Reform, and after a series of trials he reluctantly abandoned the project, but not the hope of seeing it inaugurated at some future period In these two years he kept his accounts, and the Phonetic Fund (see *Phonetic Journal* for 1857-58, and the paging of the volumes), in pence, shillings (a new gold coin of 12s. was to replace the half-sovereign,) and "bancos," a gross of shillings, = £7 4*s*. (to replace the £5 note). In his private accounts he adhered to the duodecimal notation till 1862. The figures 732 would represent 7 bancos, 5 shillings, and 2 pence.

There is little of personal history to note during the next few years. In 1857 Mr Pitman attended a meeting at the Mechanics' Institution, Manchester, during the Art Exhibition held in that city, and delivered an address on the origin and progress of the phonetic movement. The other speakers on this occasion were T. A. Reed, who occupied the chair, Henry Pitman, T. Cayley, G. B. Emerson, and T. Walker. The following resolution was adopted at the meeting:—"We, phonographers and friends

of phonetic printing, in public meeting assembled, being acquainted with the arts of Phonography and Phonotypy, desire to record our conviction that Phonography, the invention of Mr Isaac Pitman, is the briefest and most legible system of shorthand, and that Phonotypy will, as proved by many practical tests, greatly facilitate the education of the poor and ignorant."

In the year 1857 Mr Pitman experienced a domestic affliction in the death of his wife, after a severe illness of three years.

In the same year public attention was called to his phonetic labors by a liberal offer on the part of Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, of two prizes of £100 and £40 respectively, "for the two best and approved essays on a reform in the spelling of the English language, by the introduction of a phonetic instead of the present unphonetic system." The essays were to include, "An historical account of the origin and growth of the present imperfect system of spelling; an analysis of the system of articulate sounds; and an exposition of those occurring in our language; with a notice of the various modes in which it has been attempted to express these sounds graphically, and a suggestion for doing so, in which care should be taken that no letter should express more than one sound, that no sound should be expressed by more than one letter, and that as few new types as possible should be admitted." The competition was to be open to Great Britain and Ireland, British North America, and the United States. The adjudicators were Mr A. J. Ellis, Dr. R. G. Latham, Professor Max Müller, Mr Isaac Pitman, and Sir Walter C. Trevelyan. Eighteen essays were received from various parts of England and America, but not one of them was

adjudicated as meriting a prize, all the conditions of the offer not having been fulfilled. Several of the essays, however, were said to show much talent, and Sir Walter Trevelyan, as the offerer of the prizes, gave to the writer of one of the essays (Professor S. S. Haldeman, of Columbia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.) the sum of £50, and a further sum of £50 on the author's undertaking to revise, complete, and publish the essay. The Professor published his essay in a 4to. volume of 148 pages. Sir Walter also gave £10 to the writers of four other essays, namely, the Rev. F. G. Fleay, vice-president of Culham Training College, Abingdon; Mr James Kerr, M.A., the Rev. R. Wells Whitford, and the Rev. Neil Livingston. In connection with this competition an interesting letter was received by Mr Pitman from Professor Max Müller, indicating the great interest which he took in the phonetic movement. He wrote:—"I was well acquainted with the strenuous exertions which you and some of your friends have been making in order to effect a reform in the present system of English Orthography. I possessed myself of several of your publications, and had derived much information from a book, first published, I believe, in your Journal, the 'Alphabet of Nature,' by Mr Ellis. What I wrote to Sir W. Trevelyan was only to express my conviction, that though hitherto the reform of English spelling had not met with that success which one might have wished and expected, yet it was sure ultimately to effect the desired result; and that I thought the encouragement which Sir Walter intended to give to this movement, by offering a prize for the best Essay on the Reform of English Spelling, very opportune and beneficial. My own line of studies has led me to pay some attention to the general subject of phonetics, and the origin and

history of alphabetical writing, and I was very much interested in seeing how this science had been applied by you with so much ingenuity to the practical purpose of reforming the English system of spelling, and facilitating the method of learning to read and write." The correspondence thus commenced subsequently led to a personal friendship between the learned Professor and Mr Pitman which has continued to the present day. Sir Walter Trevelyan also kept up an intercourse with Mr Pitman for many years, and towards the end of 1858 accepted the office of President of the Phonetic Society, which he filled until his death, 23rd March, 1879.

Throughout 1859 Mr Pitman's press was constantly employed in printing phonetic books, and there appeared every probability that one press would not much longer be able to supply the increasing demand. In addition to his own works he printed for the Bible Society the Book of Psalms in Mikmak, a language spoken by a tribe of Indians in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia. In the previous year he had printed the Book of Genesis in the same language, and in 1863 the Acts of the Apostles. The four Gospels were also printed phonetically in Mikmak, Luke by Mr Pitman, and the others by the missionary, the Rev. S. T. Rand, who died last year, full of years, honors, and good deeds.

A wide publicity was given to Phonography about this date by the publication of the system in *Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper*, of which between 270,000 and 300,000 copies were sold weekly. The work was done under Mr Pitman's own superintendence, and an arrangement was made by him with Messrs Cassell in order that his copyright in the system should not be affected by the publication.

During the same year, it occurred to some of Mr Pitman's many friends and adherents that it was time that an effort should be made to obtain for him a substantial acknowledgment of his constant labors for nearly a quarter-of-a-century in the cause of Phonography and Phonotypy. The project took shape, a committee was formed, and an appeal was made to phonographers and others interested in the phonetic reform for subscriptions to a public testimonial. It was known to many of Mr Pitman's personal friends that, in order to carry on his crusade with effect, he had not only devoted to it a large proportion of the profits arising from the increasing sale of his shorthand books, but had borrowed a considerable sum, which he was anxious to repay.* It was also known that he had incurred a large number of bad debts, due from persons, chiefly in America, to whom his publications had been supplied. A small committee was formed, and Mr Pitman was consulted as to his willingness to receive a testimonial. The Rev. Cyril H. E. Wyche, an ardent

* Mr Pitman's loans from friends, commencing in 1846, and ranging from £50 to £250 at a time, as money was required to carry on the printing office, and the improvement of the phonetic printing alphabet, at length amounted to £2,000; on which he regularly paid 5 per cent. interest, except on one loan of £50 from Sir Walter Trevelyan in 1857, which the lender wished should not bear interest. This small sum was repaid in 1862. There was one other sum of £150 on which, after it had been used two years, the lender would not receive interest, and desired that the principal should be given to the phonetic cause. No security was required in any case. Sir Walter Trevelyan was one of the earliest of these kind helpers. The last instalment of £250, advanced in 1855, was repaid to him in May, 1877, two years before his death.

phonographer, who was asked to become chairman of the committee, wrote to Mr Pitman as follows:—

11 York place, Kennington, London, S., 12 Aug., 1859.

Dear Sir,—I have been requested to communicate with you on a subject more agreeable than the little matters of business which usually call for a letter to you.

It seems that Phonographers in various parts of the country have come to the conclusion that the present is a fit time for testifying their appreciation of the beautiful Art for which they are indebted to you, as well as the estimation in which they hold your personal character and your unwearied labors in the Phonetic cause. They desire accordingly to begin raising a subscription for a Testimonial, and they wish to know whether you would accept such a recognition, provided, of course, it were offered in a form of which you could approve.

If I remember rightly, Phonographers of America did, some years ago, subscribe for such a purpose, but you refused to let their Testimonial take the form of a personal gift, and requested them to retain the money so raised as the nucleus of a Phonetic fund for the promotion of the Reform in the United States.

It occurred to my mind at that time that it would have been better had you accepted the offering, and devoted it yourself to this good purpose. I cannot help thinking that something of the kind might very properly be done now. It would be a proof that Phonographers, although divided on some points, yet agree in the high value which they set upon their Art, and in grateful feelings towards its Inventor; and it would be a practical proof to the American phoneticians that many of the statements put forth in that country with respect to yourself are without any real foundation.

It has been suggested that a Committee of London Phonographers should be formed to carry out this good intention, and I have been asked to act as its Chairman; but before proceeding in the matter I wish to know your opinion of it,—whether such a Testimonial would be accepted by you; and if so, as a secondary matter, in what form it would be most acceptable.

I remain, very truly yours,

CYRIL H. E. WYCHE.

To Mr Isaac Pitman, Bath.

Mr Pitman replied to Mr Wyche's letter, which he characterized as "one of those rarely-occurring events in life in which we recognize the Angel of the Divine Providence as soon as he is at our side." He expressed his gratitude for the generous sympathy with Phonography, and the friendly feeling towards himself which the movement exhibited, and suggested that the fund proposed to be raised should go towards building a Phonetic Institute —a suitable home for Phonography and Phonotypy, in which his printing establishment should be located.

"To show the urgency of this want," he said, "it is only necessary that I should refer to the buildings that have been successively occupied for this purpose. From 1837 (the date of the first edition of Phonography) to January 1846, I put out my printing. I then set up a press in one of the rooms of my own house, 5 Nelson place, and used two other rooms for compositors and a bindery. In January, 1851, to obtain more room, I removed to 1 Albion place, Upper Bristol road, (Mr Ellis's printing office in 1848 and 1849,) where the business was carried on, under many inconveniences, in four rooms. In March, 1855, I removed to this office in Parsonage lane, where I have sufficient room for my present business, (but not for much increase,) and on a single floor, but I can say nothing else in favor of the place. It is situated in the only filthy lane I have seen in this clean and beautiful city of crescents and squares; and the pollutions are not physical alone, but moral also; for on the other side of the narrow lane, two or three steps from my office door, the 'social evil' festers. The dimensions of my office are 53 feet by 28. It is the top floor of a block of buildings occupied principally by cabinet-makers. The rate of insurance is thus so high

that I have not insured my stock of type and books. The ground floor is a large gateway leading to a pig slaughter-house that lies at the back; there is another pig slaughter-house in the front of my office, and a sheep slaughter-house that does a great deal of business, next door. Of course noisome smells often arise from these places, and sometimes they have been pungent enough to drive every-one out of the office. The room itself would be more correctly designated a *barn* than a printing office. During the first two years of my tenancy, one-half of the room was not even ceiled, and I had nothing between me and the sky but an old shattered tile roof that constantly let the rain in. This room is an addition to the original height of the house, and the walls are only six inches thick. Placed thus within thin walls, under an immense tile roof, we are exposed in summer to excessive heat, and in winter to excessive cold. I have scarcely been free from a cold since I entered this place. Only in the spring and autumn can I do a fair amount of work for the number of hours I spend here. Often in the evening, when I am the sole occupant of the office, a company of rats will scamper across the floor to amuse me. There is not another place in Bath to which I can remove, nor have I been able to find one elsewhere."

Mr Pitman's idea was that a suitable building might be erected for £1,000. "I am not able to build it myself," he said, "because, to say nothing of twenty-two years of personal labor, I have given more than twice this sum to the cause in various ways." An appeal was then issued by the committee, of which Sir Walter C. Trevelyan was the chairman, for subscriptions to the Pitman Testimonial.

The idea of a Phonetic Institute was found to be a little too ambitious at the moment, and its realization was not destined to be accomplished until some years later. A sum of about £350 was collected, for the most part privately, and the presentation was made at a social meeting held at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, Aldersgate Street, on the 26th of June, 1862. It consisted of a cheque, and a handsome marble timepiece, on which was the following inscription :—

"Presented, with a purse of £350, to Isaac Pitman, the Inventor of Phonography, by many friends of the phonetic system, in token of their high appreciation of its many excellences, and of his untiring labors in its extension."

The writer of the present memoir presided on the occasion and, in the course of his address, related from personal experience some anecdotes of Mr Pitman's method of daily work. He said :—"Those who have witnessed Mr Pitman's labors in that remarkable little spot called Parsonage lane, descriptions of which some of you possibly may have read, must have been struck with admiration at the intensity of labor and of earnestness which he has exhibited. I could tell you if I had the time, of instances of it that I have myself observed. I have on more than one occasion partaken of Mr Pitman's hospitality at Bath, and on the last occasion he was good enough to invite me to his house, he asked me to go with him to his office the next morning for the purpose of running over some proof-sheets of a work that was then going through the press,—an invitation that I gladly accepted, as I am at any time delighted to show him my willingness to render him any little services I can in the adaptation of the system to useful purposes. We retired to rest at eleven o'clock.

Mr Pitman asked me if he should call me the next morning. I thanked him, and requested him to be good enough to do so. It was then in the depth of winter. In the morning when I was fast asleep some raps came at my door, which after being repeated some few times awoke me. You must know that I am not one of the "rising" generation. I responded in a sleepy kind of way; the door opened, and I saw Mr Pitman's familiar features. He entered holding a light, and announced that it was actually five o'clock in the morning. I rose and was speedily dressed, but not in so short a time as Mr Pitman takes. I joined him, and we took a walk of nearly a mile down a very steep hill on a cold December morning, under circumstances not the most comfortable for sensitive nerves, and at about ten minutes to six we were in front of his office in Parsonage lane. At about six o'clock we were seated at his desk, by gaslight, of course, and for two hours we waded through some pages of the little book upon which Mr Pitman was then at work. Having labored for two hours, we returned just as it was getting daylight, ascended the steep hill leading to Lansdown crescent, and found ourselves in excellent condition for breakfast. I have no doubt that if any other visitor had called upon Mr Pitman just before ten o'clock that night, he would have found him still at his desk, as absorbed as ever in the mysteries of the phonetic art. This is, I believe, a fair specimen of Mr. Pitman's general labors, under which any ordinary mortal would certainly succumb. And when we see that all these labors are devoted to a cause from which he himself derives little or no personal benefit beyond a bare living, we shall all the more admire the disinterestedness which is so conspicuous a characteristic of the man."

The other speakers at the meeting were the Rev. Cyril Herbert Wyche, one of the chief promoters of the testimonial, Mr Fred. Pitman, Mr J. B. Keene *(Bath Journal)*, Mr Austin, the Rev. Dr. Bayley, Mr Wells (of New York , Mr J. T. Young, and Mr C. B. Cayley. The following resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted :—

"That this meeting recognises the great excellency of the art of Phonetic Shorthand invented by Mr Isaac Pitman, and is fully convinced that the greatest benefits would result from the extensive application of the phonetic system of writing and printing to the representation of the English and other languages.

"That this meeting desires to express its hearty sympathy with Mr Isaac Pitman, and admiration of the talent, perseverance, and devotion which he has exhibited in the Writing and Printing Reform, and in the development of the Phonographic art during the last twenty-five years; and trusts that the progress already made in the construction and application of the phonetic alphabet may prove an incentive to renewed exertions in the future, to himself and phonographers generally."

Mr Pitman, in acknowledging the gift took his hearers into his confidence, told them frankly what he proposed to do with the money, and explained the position, financially and otherwise, which he considered that he occupied in regard to Phonography. "I feel," he said, "that I have no right to receive such a sum of money as £350 and appropriate it to my own purposes. . . . I will tell you what I shall do with it. The introduction of this Phonetic Reform has been a most expensive affair of money as well as time. Mr Ellis is the only man, besides myself, who has spent a large sum of money upon it. Mr Ellis, in the course of eighteen months, in which he conducted a printing office, actually spent, and received but a bagatelle

in return, six thousand pounds. That was injudicious, and I am afraid that it was the rapidity with which the money went that has induced him for the last eleven years to slacken his hand, and do very little in a direct manner, though he is still a phonetic reformer, and can never be anything else. I, not having a fortune at my command, could only spend money as it came in, in the conduct of my business—the sale of shorthand and other phonetic books. But though I had no capital, I had a fortune in reversion—my copyright in Phonography, which I may tell you in a friendly way—for this is a kind of family party—is worth to me, capitalized, about £8,000, and will no doubt, increase in value to the end of my life, the income being secure also to my executors for seven years more, according to the law of copyright established in the present reign—the 5th and 6th Victoria. I estimate the value of the copyright at £10,000, and although I would not sell the system for less, I think there is no probability of my having to refuse the offer of this sum. I have lived on a portion of the profit arising from Phonography for the last twenty years, and a very moderate portion too, and all the rest has been spent on the Reform. But I have had to do more than that. I have, or rather had, drawn on the capital, in order to support the cause, to the extent of £2,000."

Mr Pitman then gave some particulars of his early connection with Mr Ellis, and the steps taken by the latter to carry on phonetic printing at Bath, and to establish the *Phonetic News*, projects which, as we have seen, illness and large pecuniary losses soon compelled him in 1849 to relinquish. "Since that time," said Mr Pitman, "I have had the chief responsibility and cost of phonetic

printing. I felt sure that at the rate at which Mr Ellis was expending at the beginning of 1849, the *Phonetic News* would not hold out longer than about three years;—it ceased in six months. Partly to give phonographers a cheaper medium of communication than the *News*, and partly because, in truth, I still wanted to have a finger in the phonetic pie, I started the *Phonetic Journal* again in March 1849, two months after Mr Ellis had given it up on the publication of the newspaper. The Journal has continued to the present day, and is now in its twenty-first annual volume. It is larger than *Chambers's Journal*, is published weekly, and contains both intelligence of the cause, and interesting, phonetically-printed articles, sometimes original, but chiefly selected from the best periodicals of the day. It was necessary for me to incur considerable expense in the re-establishment of my printing office; first in the purchase of a press, founts of type and other printing plant; and secondly and chiefly in cutting 'punches' of new letters for the improvement of the alphabet. The alphabet which Mr Ellis and myself had employed until 1851 was so defective that type-founders and printers would not look at it as a possible alphabet for representing the English language in books. Mr Besley, the eminent type-founder, remonstrated somewhat sharply with me for thinking to overturn good-looking printing by bad. 'Your page,' said he, 'is covered with little hooks, and tails, and triangles.' I spared no labor and no expense in removing this obstacle to the general introduction of phonetic printing. I knew we could not succeed without a good alphabet, and I drew upon what I have called my reversionary fortune to the extent of £2,000. I found on taking stock in 1856, when the costly experiment of punch-cutting had

come to an end, that that was the amount I was indebted. During the last six years I have paid off one half of that sum. The handsome present you have given me this evening will go a good way towards paying the remaining half; and, according to the present sales of books, the whole will be cleared in five or six years more, and sooner with the increased sales I may reasonably expect. On this money, raised on loan to carry on the Reform, I have paid five per cent. interest, with the exception of two loans, amounting to £350, from friends who literally lent 'hoping for nothing again.' Only under these circumstances should I feel justified in accepting this money; that is, if I had not already spent it upon the phonetic alphabet and its propagation, I should devote it to the Reform in some other way."

An interesting account was given by Mr Pitman of the different processes employed in the printing of shorthand books, and a statement of the numbers issued from the press; from which it appeared that during the last year (which was an exceptional one, the sales being low in consequence of phonographic teachers and the public being in expectation of a new edition of Phonography, with improvements), he had issued 15,000 copies of the "Phonographic Teacher," 3,000 "Reader," 6,000 "Manual," 2,000 "Reporter's Companion," 1,000 "Phrase Book," of the *Phonetic Journal* 1,000 a week, halfpenny and penny tracts, 8,000; and of First, Second, and Third "Phonetic Reading Books," etc., about 3,000; making a total of 90,000 publications in twelve months. Add to these the small gratis tracts circulated, and the grand total was above 120,000. "These," said Mr Pitman, "are cheering signs of progress, and I return to Bath with a determination not to work so many

hours as I have for twenty years, but to work with the same application of mind as of old. My hours of labor from the beginning of the Reform to about a year ago, were from six in the morning till ten in the evening, taking out three hours for meals and exercise. I have now made a change, and 'knock off' at half-past six. I intend to continue to labor at this good work twelve and a half hours per day, and, with your kind co-operation, I think that will be sufficient to keep the Reform in motion, and realize, in the end, all that we desire."

Among the most interested visitors at this gathering was Mr Pitman's second wife (Miss Masters) whom he had married in 1861.

CHAPTER VII.

It has been already stated that Mr Pitman is a great lover of music. The discussion on the subject of uniformity of musical pitch, arising out of a report of the Committee appointed by the Council of the Society of Arts in June, 1859, naturally attracted his attention; and he drew up a table showing the number of vibrations of each note in comparison with every other note in the octave (the lowest in whole numbers), which he published in the *Phonetic Journal* for 29th September, 1860, together with an account of the proceedings at the meeting of the Society of Arts held to receive and discuss the Committee's report. As every student of musical acoustics knows, the pitch of a note depends upon the number of vibrations produced in a given time. The C produced by a 32 ft. organ pipe (said to be the lowest possible musical note) is the result of 16 double or 32 single vibrations per second; the octave above, or the lowest C of a grand pianoforte, of 32 double vibrations; the lowest C of a violoncello of 64; tenor C of 128; middle C of the pianoforte of 256; and the C on the treble stave of 512. The intermediate notes are the results of vibrations represented by intermediate numbers, always increasing with the rise of the pitch. Mr Pitman's table was as follows:—

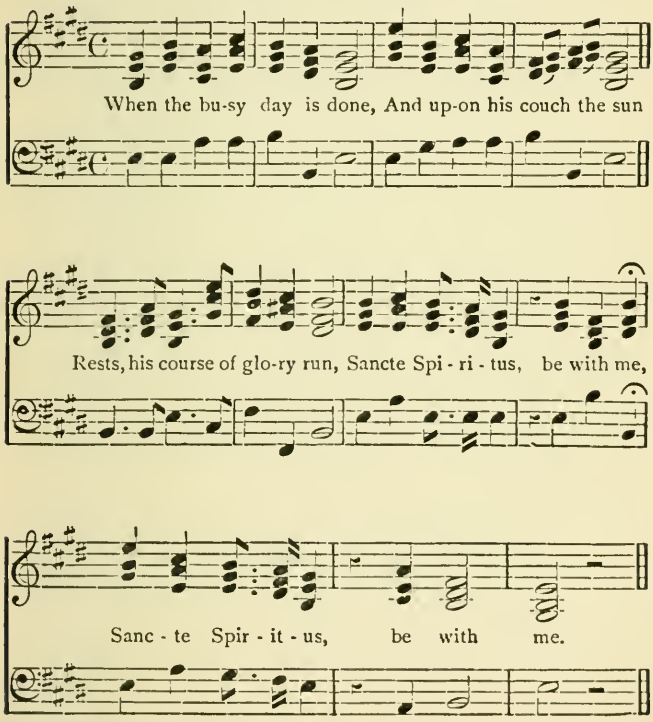
	C below treb. stave	D	E	F	G	A	B	C 3rd space treb. stave
C 3rd space treb. stave	2.1	16.9	8.5	3.2	4.3	6.5	16.15	
B	15.8	5.3	3.2	45.32	5.4	9.8		15.16
A	5.3	40.27	4.3	5.4	11.9		8.9	5.6
G	3.2	4.3	6.5	9.8		9.11	4.5	3.4
F	4.3	32.27	16.15		8.9	4.5	32.45	2.3
E	5.4	10.9		15.16	5.6	3.4	2.3	5.8
D	9.8		9.10	27.32	3.4	27.40	3.5	9.16
C below treb. stave		8.9	4.5	3.4	2.3	3.5	8.15	1.2

The table, it was explained, is to be used like a multiplication table; thus, lower C with G above gives the vibrations as 2 to 3, while the next note, D with A above, gives 27 to 40, etc. In the chord D, F sharp, A, the vibrations of A, to agree with the chord C, E, G, should be $40\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 40, or D should be $26\frac{3}{4}$ instead of 27. We thus see, says Mr Pitman, a mathematical demonstration of the distinction which every musical ear feels in the perfection, or roundness, of the C chord, compared with

the chord of upper D, F sharp, A; and of the difference in quality, as it may be called, between the various "keys," ranging from C natural, through G with one sharp, F with one flat, D with two sharps, B with two flats, A with three sharps, A flat with four flats, to E with four sharps, etc.

In his youth, Mr Pitman indulged his love of harmony so far as to compose a hymn tune, an anthem on *Isaiah* 49. 13-17, and the following tune to be sung to a hymn which appeared in the *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette* for 26th July, 1831:—

Sancte Spiritus.



SANCTE SPIRITUS.

When the busy day is done,
And upon his couch the sun
Rests, his course of glory run,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

When the twilight shadow falls
O'er the humming waterfalls,
And zephyr unto zephyr calls,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

When the vesper murmurs come
Through the leaf, and from the tomb,
From the sunset's crimson gloom,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

When the moon is roaming high,
Like a seraph, through the sky,
And the one white clouds floats by,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

When the stars, those jewels rare,
Fill with diamond-lights the air,
And comes on the hour of prayer,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

Then when knees are truly bent,
And the hands are clasp'd intent,
And the voice to heaven is sent,
Sancte Spiritus be with me.

— H. C. Deakin.

The anthem was arranged thus:—"*Chorus*—Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; break forth into singing, O mountains; for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. *Solo, plaintive*—But Zion said, the Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. *Duett, for two Trebles*—Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. *Chorus*—Behold, I have graven thee on the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." It was sung with much *eclat*, his brother Jacob says, on the other side of the globe. The author's modesty would not allow him to introduce it even to his friends at Zion Chapel.

He was a diligent musical copyist. The day of cheap editions had not arrived; new music was an expensive luxury, and the student of limited means could only obtain it at the cost of severe mechanical toil. Some of young Pitman's manuscript books, filling hundreds of pages, still exist, and they are models of neatness and accuracy.

At the age of 17 Mr Pitman was able to take charge of the organ in the Conigree Chapel, Trowbridge, for a few weeks, during the absence of the regular organist. After his removal to Bath, he took lessons on the organ, of Mr George Field; but his practice of music abated when he became a Methodist at Barton-on-Humber. Thinking that our Lord would not have wasted his time, when on earth, by sitting down to a piano, he gave away a £50 instrument which he had purchased at Hull. It was sent to his brother Jacob, who had left the Tavistock British School, married, and settled at North Nibley, where his wife had established a ladies' school. But Isaac's love of music was not stamped out by this act of self-denial, it was merely held in subordination to what he considered the higher claims of religion. The claims on his time, by the advance of the Writing and Printing Reform, increased to such an extent that about twenty years ago he virtually abandoned the practice of music, contenting himself with being an occasional listener at the many excellent concerts given at Bath during the winter season.

About September, 1862, an article appeared in *Weldon's Register* giving a graphic description of Mr Pitman and his daily work. "If," says the writer, "we were asked to name the most diligent and hard-working man we know, it would be Isaac Pitman. It is a treat to visit his printing office in Bath. Printing offices are usually very dirty and untidy places; but Mr Pitman's office, save for its furniture, might be a lady's drawing-room. Everything is in what, for some unknown reason, is called 'apple-pie' order. In a large room sits Mr Pitman himself, writing an article, reading a proof, or answering a

letter. His correspondence is immense; letters and papers flow in upon him from every part of the world. He attends to all himself. Those who write to him in ordinary handwriting he answers in longhand phonetic spelling, but the mass of his correspondence is in Phonography; and the speed and ease with which he writes enables him to get through an amount of work which would else seem fabulous. We wish we could reproduce one of Mr Pitman's phonographic letters on this page. Written on a scrap of ruled paper, half the size of an ordinary page of note-paper, would be seen a series of lines, circles, and dots, sharp and delicate as if traced by a fairy, and containing as much matter as an ordinary letter of four pages. A most courteous correspondent, he commences in the ancient style, 'Isaac Pitman to Mr ——, or Mrs ——, or Miss ——,' as it may be, and goes on to say what is necessary in a free, kindly, and concise style, closing his letter with the simple word 'Farewell.'

"Letters in this way he writes off by the score, without haste, and with an ease which fills one, used to drudge with the pen in the customary fashion, with pity for his own sad lot. Mr Pitman carries into his printing office the *régime* of the schoolmaster; he is a strict disciplinarian. No talking is allowed, beyond necessary questions and orders, and the quiet is unbroken except by the click of the types, or the packing of parcels for the carrier or the post. Seeing his set of apprentices so sedulously and silently at work, and the prim order which pervades the place, is really tempting to one's mischievous propensities, and stirs the desire to cry out, 'Boys, do let's have a romp and tumble things about!' We have sometimes amused ourselves with drawing comparisons between Isaac Pitman and John

Wesley; and, did we believe in the transmigration of souls, we might imagine that the soul of Wesley had left its 'world parish' to write shorthand, and persuade Englishmen to spell phonetically. Unlike Wesley, Pitman is tall, but, like him, he is spare and muscular, with bright eyes, a keen face, and rapid motions. Like Wesley, his habits are regular, and almost ascetic. He goes to bed early, and rises early summer and winter, and may almost invariably be found posted at his desk by six in the morning. Except for the progress of his work, he seems to have no care in the world. He sees no company; he seldom dines from home, or pays visits, and, first in his office in the morning, he is last to leave it at night. He delights in walking exercise, and scampers over miles of country with the same ease that his pen goes over paper. Like Wesley, he is very abstemious: wine, beer, or spirits of any kind never pass his lips: nor fish, flesh, nor fowl. For years he has been a strict vegetarian; and, but for a cold now and then, he has enjoyed perfect health. As if his shorthand and phonetic printing were not enough to task all his powers, he preaches twice each Sunday in a little chapel, at Twerton, a village a short way from Bath. Like Wesley, he has no love for money save for its uses in promoting his ends. His personal wants are few and simple, and every penny beyond what is required for them is devoted to the phonetic propaganda. Like Wesley he has a governing and despotic temper. In all things he takes his own way. He hears the advice of a disciple in the blandest and most candid spirit. The disciple thinks, surely never was there a man more pliable than this. But if he observes carefully, he will discover he has made no progress. Somehow, he will find that Pitman has not changed his mind,

and has rejected his disciple's advice, but yet so kindly that the rejection gives no pain, but almost pleasure. His alterations in Phonotypy and Phonography have usually been proposed in the face of strong opposition ; but he has always carried them. Consciously or unconsciously he makes up his mind as to what ought to be done, and though he undergoes much palaver with all the appearance of being affected by it, he ends in executing his programme to the final letter. Alternately he is accused of fickleness and obstinacy : of fickleness, because when he sees, or fancies he sees, a possible improvement, he will pull down any amount of building to make room for it; and of obstinacy, because what he thinks right he does, whatever be the outcry."

In a note in the Journal, with reference to this article, Mr Pitman accepts the title of " despot"—not, however, in its modern sense of tyrant, but in its older and inoffensive signification of governor; " not as implying the love of rule for its own sake, but simply the love of order, use and beauty."

CHAPTER VIII.

It may not be without interest to pause awhile at this period—just a quarter of a century after the introduction of Phonography—and, so to say, take stock of its achievement, and note the position which it had attained. Some idea may be formed of its progress from the circumstance that the "Manual" published at this time is marked 170th thousand. Of the more elementary work, the "Teacher," 285,000 copies had been issued; and of the "Reporter," 25,000.

At the same period it may be safely asserted that the great majority of newspaper reporters throughout the country employed Phonography in their daily avocations. Most of the older hands, both in London and in the provinces, continued, no doubt, to write the earlier systems; but the ancient prejudices had, for the most part, died out. Here and there an old-school champion might be found raising his voice in defence of Gurney, or Taylor, or Lewis; but the ancient plea that Phonography was impracticable, absurd, and the rest, was wholly abandoned in face of the overwhelming fact that a very large portion of the best reporting throughout the country was done by its instrumentality. In the first few years of Mr Pitman's phonographic labors, when most of his disciples were shorthand amateurs, and included scarcely half a dozen professional writers, it was easy to denounce the new comer, and prophesy its speedy extinction after the manner of so many of its unsuccessful predecessors. But in the presence of an

army of active workmen, whose skill was unquestioned, it was idle to decry the tool which they employed. Of a propaganda in the old sense of the word, there was but little need. It was no longer necessary, as in the early days, to bring the system before the public notice by lectures and meetings. Though these agencies were still resorted to, and had their use, the most effective propagandists were those who, in their daily work, *demonstrated* the practicability and superiority of the system—reporters for the press, and professional shorthand writers practising in the law courts. The progress of the system among the latter was, perhaps, slower than among the former, but as one after another of the new practitioners was found writing the new method, and doing excellent work, the old prejudices against it were softened, and though the older hands were naturally unwilling to undergo the labor involved in a change of system, they were compelled to admit that they had formed a mistaken estimate of its merits.

But besides these silent witnesses to the efficacy of Phonography, there was a large and increasing number of coadjutors in commercial life bearing the like involuntary testimony. The discovery had been made, especially among railway companies and other large business concerns, that much of the time of the principals or heads of departments, daily occupied in correspondence, might be saved by the employment of shorthand clerks who could take down letters from dictation and transcribe them in due course; and about this time advertisements began to appear in the newspapers for assistants who could render this kind of service. With the increasing pressure of other work, the mechanical labor involved in writing the common longhand was felt to be intolerable, and when once the practice

of conducting correspondence by dictation to a shorthand amanuensis was introduced, its advantages were so obvious that it extended with great rapidity. The wide diffusion of Phonography among the rising generation had no doubt suggested this method of relieving busy commercial men of the tedium of epistolary work. As a new railway opens up new sources of traffic scarcely dreamed of, so Phonography, once popularized, offered facilities and supplied wants scarcely needed or felt till the appropriate agent was at the door. It is not too much to say that it introduced a new employment in connection with office work. Large classes were formed with the express object of qualifying young men for this department of labor, and Phonography was practically the only system employed for the purpose.

Nor was the spread of the art limited to Great Britain. In every English-speaking country, especially in the United States, it had found disciples not less active than those at home. Mr Benn Pitman had been laboring in the States since 1853 ; and still earlier pioneers had promulgated the new system throughout the Western Continent. Many editions were published, some under the names of other authors who, adopting all the essential features of Mr Pitman's method, had introduced certain modifications with the ostensible object of improving it, but generally with the result of making it more difficult of acquisition and less facile in practice.

As an indication of the position which Phonography had obtained at this period, it may be mentioned that a paper on the subject, written by Mr Pitman, was accepted by the British Association for its annual meeting at Bath, in 1864. At the previous meeting, held in Newcastle, in 1863, the

president, Sir William (now Lord) Armstrong, in his opening address, had referred to the waste of time and labor involved in the use of the common method of writing, and recommended that some means should be adopted for its abridgment. "The facility," he said, "now given to the transmission of intelligence and the interchange of thought is one of the most remarkable features of the present age. Cheap and rapid postage to all parts of the world; paper and printing reduced to the lowest possible cost; electric telegraphs between nation and nation, town and town, and now even (thanks to the beautiful inventions of Professor Wheatstone) between house and house,—all contribute to aid that commerce of ideas by which wealth and knowledge are augmented. But while so much facility is given to mental communication by new measures and new inventions, the fundamental art of expressing thought by written symbols remains as imperfect now as it has been for centuries past. It seems strange that while we actually possess a system of shorthand by which words can be recorded as rapidly as they can be spoken, we should persist in writing a slow and laborious longhand. It is intelligible that grown-up persons who have acquired the present conventional art of writing should be reluctant to incur the labor of mastering a better system; but there can be no reason why the rising generation should not be instructed in a method of writing more in accordance with the activity of mind which now prevails. Even without going so far as to adopt for ordinary use a complete system of stenography, which it is not easy to acquire, we might greatly abridge the time and labor of writing by the recognition of a few simple signs to express the syllables which are of most frequent occurrence in our language. Our

words are in a great measure made up of such syllables as *com, con, tion, ing, able, ain, ent, est, ance*, etc. These we are now obliged to write out over and over again, as if time and labor expended in what may be termed visual speech were of no importance. Neither has our written character the advantage of distinctness to recommend it." The prominence thus given to the subject of shorthand, and the circumstance that the next meeting of the Association was to be held at Bath, where Mr Pitman resided, naturally prompted him to offer a paper to be read before the Section of Economics and Statistics, which was readily accepted. Owing, however, to the number of papers set down for that section it was found impossible to read it, and, as in the case of another paper in the same position, a printed copy was handed to the audience, and it was "taken as read," and duly included in the Transactions of the Association.

In this paper Mr Pitman pointed out the insufficiency of any mere longhand abbreviations such as those suggested by Sir William Armstrong, and the objections which he entertained to their introduction. "The game," he said, "is not worth the candle. All can abbreviate if they like, yet only reporters and lawyers do it. If the game were worth the candle, we should all soon fall into the same contractions, but the truth is we do not want them. Abbreviations were formerly in extensive use, when fewer people wrote, but now they have all gone out, except the Latin *et* for *and*, in the form of '&'—that is, the letter *e* written across *t*; the downstroke of '&,' which represents *t*, being written first. With most people who spend but a small portion of their time in writing, abbreviations are not worth the effort of mind necessary

in keeping up two habits of writing the same word. On some occasions it is necessary, or at least advisable, to write every word fully, and if the hand were accustomed in its ordinary style to abbreviate some words, it would hesitate when called upon to write the same words in another manner. No one can write fluently, either in longhand or shorthand, whose hand thinks, so to speak, how it shall form the words. It must form them without thinking, and leave all thinking to the brain. In the quotation which I have just read from Sir Wm. Armstrong, consisting of 346 words, and containing 1,626 letters, there would be but 47 letters saved by the adoption of the abbreviations therein recommended; that is, for the loss of power through occasional hesitation in the act of writing, there would be a gain of 3 per cent. If we were to adopt, in addition, all the abbreviations which reporters use in transcribing their notes for the press, writing a slanting stroke / for *the*, & for *and*, *o* for *of*, *wh* for *which*, *t* for *that*, etc., the saving would be 8 per cent. additional. This saving of 11 per cent. is of considerable importance to men who spend many hours each day in writing, but it is not sufficient to commend the system for general adoption. Longhand is still too long, and we must recur to the alphabet as the proper subject of abbreviation." Referring to Sir William's suggestion that some of the longhand letters should be more clearly distinguished from others, Mr Pitman said: "His objection lies against the *n*, *u* classes of letters. Of the first kind we have *m*, *n*, *ng*, *v*; and of the second *i*, *e*, *u*, *w*, and portions of other letters. The use of *ng*, in preference to *e*, increases the legibility of a rapid style of penmanship. The evil complained of lies in the alphabet—in the numerous strokes

we have to scribble, to get down one word. Men accustomed to dispatch in other things cannot endure a tedious style of writing; they hurry through their work, and spoil it, forgetting that whatever is written has to be read. Writing-masters distinguish the curves that form the *n, u* classes of letters, as over-curves (*n*) and under-curves (*u*). Swift writers generally make only under-curves, because this is an easier action of the hand than the over-curve, thus mingling all these letters of both classes in an undistinguishable mass of under-curves; but surely everyone who has time for longhand writing, should consider himself, in justice to the reader, bound to distinguish *n* from *u, m* from *ni, ui, in,* etc.; and be especially careful to dot the letters *i* and *j*. The want of these distinctive points is one of the most serious impediments in the reading of bad manuscript. I find that I can decipher writing made up of under-curves if the dots or jots be placed over *i* and *j*; but writing that consists of under-curves only, where these dots are omitted, is hopelessly illegible. As a bad servant is said to be 'the greatest plague of life' domestic, so bad writing may be called the greatest plague of literary and commercial life. Not unfrequently I receive letters, the signatures of which I am utterly unable to decipher. In such cases I cut out the name, gum it on my reply, and hand over the puzzle to the post-office. The letter finds its way by virtue of the other portions of the address. Shorthand signatures are very rarely illegible. Phonetic Shorthand is much more legible than longhand, supposing both styles to be written with equal rapidity. but whether the penman or our cumbrous alphabet is to be blamed for making a mess of such words as *minimum, ammunition,* there is no proposition before us for changing

the forms of any of these letters; and whoever may propose new forms must make his script letters harmonize with the roman and italic printing letters; for italic type is simply script letters disconnected, and roman type, except in the two letters 'a, g,' is merely italic made upright." The paper then gave a full analysis of Phonography, and an account of the main principles which had guided the author in its construction.

Notwithstanding the inconveniences connected with the Parsonage lane printing office and its unpleasant surroundings, Mr Pitman, with unflagging industry, continued his daily work for twenty years in these premises, still editing and printing his weekly journal, and issuing with it a shorthand supplement containing portions of the Bible and other reading exercises. The whole of the Bible was reproduced in this serial fashion, twice beautifully lithographed in Mr Pitman's best style, and was subsequently published in a separate volume; as was also the Book of Common Prayer, the Church Service, Macaulay's Essays, and a dozen other volumes. Enjoying excellent health, and living with the greatest regularity and method, abating nothing of his abstemiousness, he pursued his labors with but little interruption. A slight accident laid him aside for a while in 1864. In the month of March he fell from a carriage and injured his right knee. No bone was broken, but he was obliged to keep his bed for a week, and was unable to lithograph his customary shorthand sheet for his journal, which accordingly appeared without its supplement.

These weekly shorthand additions to the Journal of course involved a considerable amount of manual labor on Mr Pitman's part. As a rule he kept well in advance in

order to prevent any delay or interruption from accidental causes, and generally utilized for this purpose some portion of the summer holiday in which he was now able to indulge. He was forty-eight years of age when, in 1861, he took his first holiday. The occasion was his honeymoon, which he spent on the Continent. In 1867 the weekly shorthand portion consisted of a reprint of the once popular little story "The Dairyman's Daughter." Some of the readers of the Journal were not a little surprised at the appearance in its pages of a work of such a strongly pronounced evangelical tendency, the Editor having so often, and, as it was thought, too freely, made these shorthand supplements the vehicle of disseminating the more "advanced" religious views which he himself entertained. His explanation of the circumstance presents us with a biographical item which is worth recording. In a note appended to the letter of a correspondent dealing with this question, and also with the subject of Phonography, he says:—

"Our object in inviting the writer of the article 'Objections to Phonotypy'—an invitation of two or three years' standing—to state his opinions on the subject, knowing them to be opposite to our own, was, that we might give on the other side our reasons for the hope we entertain that in the course of time, perhaps in three or four generations, the English alphabet will be enlarged by the addition of as many letters as shall be considered necessary to express the language phonetically, in its own proper orthography, instead of in a mixture of Latin, Anglo-Saxon, French, and other styles of spelling, which do not direct to the *sounds* of the words. The article was in type, but not sent to press, when we had to leave Bath for our usual midsummer holiday of a month at the seaside, and we took

a proof of it in our travelling desk, for the purpose of making some notes upon it.

"When the day came that had long been fixed upon for the excursion, we had been unable to get a single day ahead with our lithographic labors for this Journal. We therefore took our lithographing tools with us, sat down at Sandown in the Isle of Wight, and in a month did seven of the Journal transfers. This gave us an opportunity of taking a fortnight's holiday, and yet have one transfer ahead for the first week after our return to Bath. During this fortnight's traveling about the island, and enjoying its lovely scenery, there was no disposition to entertain arguments for or against Phonotypy. This little bit of personal history brings us to 'The Dairyman's Daughter.'

"Six of the seven transfers spoken of were the last six of the 'Phonographic Vocabulary.' It was necessary to do one more transfer before leaving Sandown, to secure the punctual appearance of the Journal. The question to be decided was, What shall we take for the subject? The 'Vicar of Wakefield' we considered too long for that brief emergency. Had we been at home the 'Reporter's Assistant,' now being issued, would have been commenced; but to do it away from the Phonetic Institute was impossible. Being in the very centre of the interesting spot where the scene of Leigh Richmond's narrative is laid, Sandown being only two miles from Brading, his residence, two miles from Ashey Down, his 'lovely mount of observation,' and four miles from Arreton, which contains the grave of Elizabeth Wallbridge; and knowing how sincerely a vast multitude cherish the kind of religious sentiment (considered as distinct from life and doctrine), which is embalmed in this book; we thought it would be a gratifi-

cation to such of them as read the *Phonetic Journal* to have the book in shorthand. While admiring the author's piety, and his tact in the composition of the work, we inwardly protested, as we wrote, against many of the sentiments, and most of all against the division he makes between Christ and God, regarding them as distinct Divine persons, instead of considering our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the God of heaven and earth, 'the only wise God our Saviour,' in whom (not *out* of whom) dwells the Essential Divinity called in Scripture 'the Father.' We had a strong desire, in transcribing the book, to write a supplementary Note to it, on the very objectionable points which our correspondent has raised; but time, which stays not in its course, hurried us on in our ordinary sphere of duty. We trust this apology will be accepted by those who have reasonable objections to Leigh Richmond's book; and as for our Evangelical readers, they will thank us for giving them this favorite book in shorthand."

In 1866 some public attention was called to a phonetic system entitled "Visible Speech," by Mr Alexander Melville Bell, and a paper on the subject was read by the inventor, before the Society of Arts. No explanation was given of the symbols employed by Mr Bell, who contented himself with explaining the theory on which his alphabet was founded—namely, the use of signs which pictorially represented the arrangement of the vocal organs required to produce the various sounds of the language. By this method it was stated that all possible shades of elementary sounds could be accurately represented. Mr Pitman was naturally interested in Mr Bell's invention, and reprinted his paper in the *Phonetic Journal*. He also offered to contribute to the cost of casting types to illustrate the new system, and

invited Mr Bell to make use of the Journal as a means of illustrating and promulgating his scheme. The offer was not accepted. Mr Bell desired a Government subsidy before revealing the secret. This, however, was not forthcoming; and the author of the system subsequently published it on his own account. It was a much more ambitious attempt than Mr Pitman's, and was designed as a mode of expressing every sound that could be uttered by the human voice, and that by a comparatively small number of symbols, having no resemblance whatever to the letters of the ordinary alphabet. But it was not at all adapted to the common purposes of reading and writing, and no practical result followed the publication.

About this date (1867) we find Mr Pitman bringing out a new shorthand book, the preparation of which involved an immense amount of labor. It is, in its way, a marvel of industry, and required almost as much patience as the collation of the marginal references in Bagster's Bible. Some twelve years previously Mr Pitman had carefully written out all the words in the Shorthand Dictionary not exceeding in outline three consonant strokes (and in Phonography very few ordinary words require more), and had them cut up and sorted according to the Phonetic Alphabet. From this extensive list all the words containing the same consonants were classified, first according to their forms, and secondly according to their position as determined by the principal vowel. The list was designed to bring before the reporter all the words occurring under any particular combination of consonants as to the meaning of which he might be doubtful in his work of transcription; thus, under *p-s-tion* he would see *apposition, opposition, possession,* (*com*)*position*; and under

p, t, r, n, pattern (written by *pt, rn*), patron (*p, trn*), upturn (*p, t, rn*). He would thus be shown the best way of differentiating these words either by position or outline, the system admitting, to a greater extent than any other, of two or more varieties of form for the same consonants, thus rendering the insertion of vowels almost superfluous.

The weight of the MS. of this work is 16 lbs. It was prepared by writing the words in shorthand, with the consonants in longhand underneath, on thin card. The words were then cut up, sorted into basins, as to their first consonant, then as to the second, and again as to the third, etc., in accordance with the Phonetic Alphabet, and pasted in a folio blank book. From this a fair copy was made, and published in a lithograph edition, 1867, under the title of "The Reporter's Assistant." In a second edition the shorthand outlines were printed from metal types.

There is nothing of any moment to record in connection with Mr Pitman's work during the next few years. His shorthand instruction books were remodeled, and several standard works, including Milton's "Paradise Lost," and Swedenborg's "Heaven," were produced in lithographed shorthand. At this period, Mr J. R. Lloyd wrote on transfer paper for the lithographer, in Mr Pitman's office, "John Halifax, Gentleman," together with some other books. The continued experiments with phonetic printing types, the weekly publication of the Journal, and a constant correspondence with spelling reformers throughout the world, kept Mr Pitman, as usual, incessantly occupied. He rarely left Bath except for a short summer holiday with his family, and though he enjoyed this brief respite from his labors, he was eager to return to his quiet task and resume the work to which he had consecrated his life. But with

all his ingenuity and order he was unable to find sufficient accommodation for himself and his workmen in the wretched offices in Parsonage lane. His lease of them expired in 1873, and he was exceedingly anxious to provide himself with more commodious and healthy quarters. His desire was to build an Institute that should be worthy of the "Reform," and he accordingly made a public appeal for assistance in carrying this object into effect.

"The Phonetic Institute," he said, "is a single spacious room on the second floor above the ground floor of a large building formerly used as a brewery, in Parsonage lane, Bath, and is reached by a dreary staircase of fifty steps. It is exposed to the extremes of heat and cold, being under the roof, and the walls only six inches thick. Two smaller rooms at the end serve for storing paper and books in sheets. Close to the street entrance is a slaughter-house, and underneath and round about the building are the necessary appliances for keeping, killing, and cutting up sheep and cows for a large butcher's business. A more unsavory entrance to business premises, I think, does not exist in the city. Although the refuse from the slaughtered animals is usually removed every three or four days, it is sometimes allowed to accumulate for a longer period, and the smell thence arising is extremely offensive. I have occasionally been driven from my desk by its pungency,—compelled to relinquish my work and take a walk till the cause of the offence had been kindly carried away by the general purifier, the air. The dampness of this office has several times been the cause of loss in the damage of books by mildew. The roof is repaired almost every year, yet a violent storm or snow-fall always sends the water through the ceiling."

Then followed the description of a site which could be obtained in Manvers street, near the Great Western Railway Station, on which a building could be erected for £2,500 or £3,000; and an appeal to members of the Phonetic Society and others for subscriptions. Mr Pitman continued:—

"I should not mention the following facts in my personal history in any other connection than the present: they seem to be appropriate here. From the year 1837, when Phonography was invented, to the year 1843, when I gave up my private day-school in order to live for and by the Writing and Spelling Reform, I occupied all my spare time before and after school hours, in extending Phonography through the post, and by traveling and lecturing during the holidays. In this period I gained nothing by my system of shorthand, but spent all the proceeds of my books in extending their circulation. From 1843 to 1861, I labored at the cause from six o'clock in the morning till ten at night, and literally never took a day's holiday, or felt that I wanted one; and I worked on till 1864 without the assistance of a clerk or foreman. During this period my income from the sale of phonetic books, after paying the heavy expenses connected with the perfecting and extension of 'Phonetic Printing,' did not exceed £80 per annum for the first ten years, £100 for the next five years, and £150 for the next three years. During the first of these periods I was twice assessed for the income-tax. I appealed, and proved that my income was under £100. The commissioners appeared surprised that I should carry on an extensive business for the benefit of posterity. From 1861 to the present time my income from Phonography has been sufficient for the expenses of my

increased family, but not more. If phonographers think that this labor, extending over the best part of a life, has been productive of pleasure and profit to them, and to the world at large, they have now an opportunity of placing me in a position to carry on the work of the Reading Writing and Spelling Reform more effectually. That which is done promptly is generally done well. Let us all labor in the eye of the motto—The Future is greater than the Past."

He further stated that he would give to the new building fund the £350 presented to him in 1862. The subscription list was headed with this amount, and it was followed by £100 from Sir Walter Trevelyan, and many smaller amounts from other persons, making a total sum of upwards of £1,000. But the question of a site was not so easily arranged. Difficulties cropped up in connection with the Manvers street site, and for many months Mr Pitman endeavored, without success, to negotiate for a convenient spot on which to build. He was at length compelled to look about for premises of a suitable character which he could hire or purchase. In the month of April, 1874, an extensive sale of house property belonging to the Earl of Manvers was announced. The houses were situated between the Abbey and the Great Western Station, and they realized at the sale that took place in May about £44,000. They included a block of houses known as Kingston buildings, and two of these, Nos. 6 and 7, were bought by Mr Pitman, with the proceeds of the new fund, at the low figure of £600.

"By expending," he said, "about £500 upon them, (the precise sum cannot be ascertained till estimates are received,) they may be made into a commodious and

beautiful Institute, or printing office, in the very heart of the city, in what may be called the south side of 'St. Paul's Churchyard' of Bath. The block of buildings, five storeys high, faces the north, and has seven windows, at uniform distances, on each floor. At present nine of them are blocked up,—a reminiscence of the hateful window-tax. No. 6 being a corner house, facing Church street on the west, has also windows on that side, and No. 7 is lighted both front and back. We propose to throw the whole length, 55 feet, into one room, except on the first floor, where three rooms for storing books will afford more wall space for shelving than a single large room. The houses are only one room in breadth, from front to back. They were originally built as one house, whose spacious hall and staircase, 12 feet wide, now belong to No. 6. This house is 30 feet by 16 feet 4 inches, and No. 7 is 25 feet by 20. The top storey is at present of little value, being very low and formed under the roof, which is old and out of repair. The walls are 20 inches thick, and the floors are in good condition. We propose to raise the walls to the extent of 9 feet, and put on a new roof. The stone of our Roman Doric portico, (purchased for £25, at the demolition of the church of St. Paul, in Queen square, when the Midland Railway was brought to Bath,) which weighs from 90 to 100 tons, mostly in large blocks, will more than suffice to build the walls of this additional room. No loss has therefore been incurred by its purchase. The extent of floor space in the new building will be 1,000 feet on each floor, giving a total of 5,000 feet. This is the space we proposed to obtain in a new building 100 feet long and 50 feet broad. We have arranged with the present tenants to take possession at the end of this month. The alterations, it is

supposed, may be completed in three months, and the next three months would suffice to get the Institute into working order—to place a boiler, engine, and printing machine in the basement, and the different departments of the business in the several rooms above, with the necessary fixtures and furniture. Our friends proposed not only to build a Phonetic Institute for the promotion of the Writing and Printing Reform, but also to put in it a small steam engine and a machine for printing the *Phonetic Journal*, on which there is no profit that could be appropriated to this purpose."

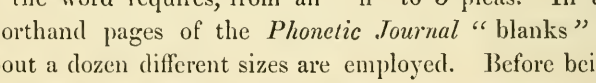
CHAPTER IX.

During the time that Mr Pitman was engaged in seeking new premises he met with an accident that confined him to his bed for five weeks, and he then required another five weeks to recover his strength. He was accustomed to take a Turkish bath every week, and on the 28th February, 1874, while in the hottest room, he burnt his right hand and parts of his body so much that he was unable to resume his daily labors. His general health was not affected by the accident, but he was compelled to keep his bed until the healing of the flesh wounds was completed. This may be considered to be the only serious interruption to his work which he has experienced during his long and laborious life. At the time of this accident he was engaged, among other things, in lithographing a third shorthand edition of the Bible, which was being issued in parts as a Supplement to the *Phonetic Journal*. He could not continue the work until his right hand was healed. The Bible was commenced in 1872. The New Testament was finished, and the Bible was done as far as Psalm 33. The accident in 1874 put a stop to the work, and owing to the increase in the phonetic business, Mr Pitman has since been unable to continue his labors with the lithographic pen, and this third edition of the Bible in shorthand must now remain unfinished.

In 1872 the shorthand portion of the weekly *Phonetic Journal* was engraved on metal "quads," and set up as ordinary type. There are now two engravers constantly

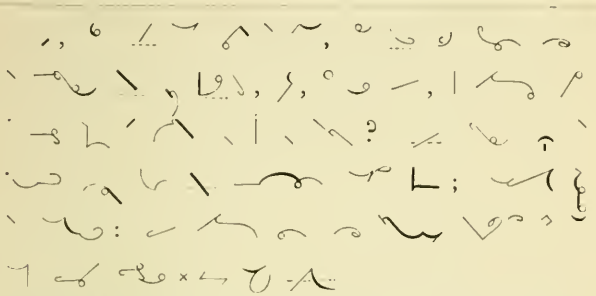
engaged on this work at the Phonetic Institute. Twenty years before this period, a shorthand fount was cast by Messrs V. and J. Figgins, type founders, London. It was cut on a pica "body." The shorthand letters were also cast on a brevier body, the perpendicular and sloping strokes overhanging a six-to-pica lead at top and bottom. This fount served for setting the consonants and vowels, and could be intermixed with ordinary type, of either pica or brevier size. Complicated forms were engraved on "blanks." Before the casting of this fount, the shorthand illustrations in the phonographic instruction books were cut on wood. In 1873 the price of the *Phonetic Journal* and lithographed Supplement was reduced from 3*d.* to 1*d.*, and two pages of shorthand printed from metal types, engraved by Mr John Saunders, then a clerk at the Phonetic Institute, were introduced.

Each page is made up of separate words, on a "pica body," but each word is not made up of separate letters, except in a simple word like *eat*, *toe*, *ache*, *cow*. The plan of forming words by combining the several parts was at this time the subject of many experiments at the Phonetic Institute, but it was found less practicable than engraving the whole word on a "blank," as wide as the word requires, from an "n" to 3 picas. In the shorthand pages of the *Phonetic Journal* "blanks" of about a dozen different sizes are employed. Before being engraved they appear thus :—



Every week the five pages of shorthand of the present Journal are distributed into "cases," so arranged as to afford facility in finding any given word. But in the act of dis-

tributing, the types are not *thrown* into the "case" as ordinary printing letters are; they are *placed* in, showing their faces to the compositor. In setting a page of shorthand, such words as are not to be found in the cases are engraved on blanks. Thus the collection of shorthand types becomes more complete every week. This biography would hardly be complete without a specimen of Phonography printed from the metal type.



Key.—"Who, that is much in the habit of writing, 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 cumbersome 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."—*English Review.*

In the same year, 1873, Mr Pitman took occasion, in the first number of the Journal, to give a brief retrospect of the work already accomplished in the promotion of the "Reading Writing, and Spelling Reform," and an intimation of the results to which his future efforts would be directed. The article is here reproduced as a typical example of the Addresses which he was in the habit of issuing to his readers at the beginning of the year, or on the initiation of any new line of action. The first part is

presented in the "First Stage" of the Spelling Reform, and the second part in the "Second Stage," or full phonetic spelling, in accordance with the following alphabet:—

THE PHONETIC ALPHABET.

The phonetic letters in the first column are pronounced like the italic letters in the words that follow. The last column contains the names *of the letters.*

CONSONANTS.

Mutes.

P	p.....ro*pe*.....	pi
B	b.....ro*be*.....	bi
T	t .....fa*te*.....	ti
D	d ....fa*de*	di
Ꞓ	ç ....e*tch*.....	çɛ
J	j .....e*dge*.....	jɛ
K	k ... lee*k*	kɛ
G	g ....lea*gue* ..	gɛ

Continuants.

F	f.....sa*fe*.....	ef
V	v....sa*ve*.....	vi
Ħ	ŧ.... wrea*th*....i	iŧ
Ð	đ....wrea*the*...d	diˌ
S	s....hi*ss*	es
Z	z....hi*s*.....	zi
Σ	ʃ..... vicious.... i	iʃ
Ȝ	ʒ..... vi*si*on .... ʒ	iʒ

Nasals.

M	m...see*m*....am	
N	n...see*n*.....en	
Ŋ	ŋ...si*ng*.....i	iŋ

Liquids.

L	l....fa*ll*.....el	
R	r ...*r*are.....ar	

Coalescents.

W	w....*w*et.....w	wɛ
Y	y....*y*et.....y	yɛ

Aspirate.

H	h...*h*ay...ɛç *or* hɪ	

VOWELS.

Guttural.

A	a.....*a*m, f*a*r..at	
Ą	ɪ.....*a*lms.....ɪ	
E	e.....*e*ll.....et	
Ɛ	ɛ.....*a*le, *ai*r..ɛ	
I	i..... *i*ll.....it	
Ɨ	į.....*ee*l, f*ea*r...į	

Labial.

O	o.... *o*n, *o*r...ot	
Ɒ	ɒ.....*a*ll..... ɒ	
Ɔ	ɔ.....*u*p, c*u*r..ɔt	
Ơ	ơ.....o*pe*, o*re*..ơ	
U	u.....f*u*ll..... ut	
Ʊ	ʊ.....f*oo*d.....ʊ	

DIPHTHONGS: ei, iu, ou, ai, oi.
as heard in by, *new*, now, *ay* (yes) boy.

THE READING, WRITING, AND SPELLING REFORM IN 1873.

First Stage of the Spelling Reform.

Therti, or therti-three-yearz ar rekond a jenerashon. The year 1874 iz alredi noking at the gate ov leif, and wil soon be upon us. Leik flashez ov leitning do theze modern yearz run, and great events sukseed each uther with startling rapiditi. If we remain at our post til nekst Janiueri, therti yearz wil then hav past sins we set the teips ov the ferst two pajez ov fonetik printing that inaugiurated the prezent movement for a reformd orthografi. Sum previüs atempts had been made tu ekspres English fonetikali, thát iz, in an orthografi that reprezented the pronunsiashon, but they wer fantastik, fiu, and fitful. There iz more reazon for kongratiulashon at the progres that haz been made in the rekognishon bei the publik ov the nesesiti for a reformd speling, than for regret that so litel haz been dun. Sum ar dis-hartend bei the niumerus skemez that ar put forth, but tu us, everi note ov diskord ov this keind soundz leik sum instrument beïng brought intu harmoni for the grand konsert ov hiumaniti for which all men and all nashonz ar preparing, when the Lord the Savior shal be known throughout the erth, and hiz wun name shal be spoken bei all peepel,—when the sciens ov langwaje beïng plased on the same shure basis ov fakts in natiur az the kindred seiensez ov numberz and miuzik, the fasilitiz for akweiring a nolej ov the English tung, and for reiting it, wil be such that it wil bekum the langwej ov the hole erth. Do you not see that each miuzishan iz modiulating tu the key-note, and thát note *truth in speling?* And whot if sum ov them shud *not* get their instruments in tiun? In the overwhelming bodi ov harmoniüs soundz, their litel diskordz wil not be herd.

We hav just reseevd the "Report ov the Komiti ov the Ediukashonal Institiut ov Scotland, on Improovment in Inglish Speling," prepared bei the "Konvener" ov the

Komiti, Mr MacArthur, a teacher at New Monkland, Airdrie, Scotland. We hope soon tu reseev the report ov the Inglish komiti, apointed bei the Inglish "Nashonal Union ov Elementari Teacherz," in which Mr E. Jones's skeme wil be embodid.

Theze two komitiz start with the same fundamental eidea, nameli, tu reform the speling without inkreasing the number ov leterz in the alfabet; but az soon az they set about the wurk they divérj, and maintain opozit prinsipelz on the important subjekts ov the usez tu which *c, g* (in konekshon with *j*), *s*, and the feiv vouel teips *a, e, i, o, u*, ar tu be put. The lein ov akshon laid doun bei the two komitiz—the reformashon ov Inglish speling without enlarjing the alfabet—we regard az untenabel; and we think that the teim spent upon the projekt wil be lost, eksept so far az the ajitashon ov the subjekt wil serv tu keep the nesesiti ov the Reform before the publik eí. The teim iz not yet for kritiseizing the detailz ov the two skemez. We must await the publikashon ov the Inglish komiti'z report, and wil then notis the two reports tugether. We may, houever, obzerv that the ferst maksim laid doun bei the two komitiz iz "Reform not Revoliushon." Bei the freitful term "revoliushon" they mean the fonetik speling ov this Jurnal. If enithing short ov a komplete reform, on the basis ov the prezent alfabet, iz intended, then whot iz left unreformd must be reformd at a fiutiur day. Ther iz, in truth, more intended tu be left untueht than the two komitiz aim tu akomplish. They kall it revoliushoneri tu atempt tu introdiús niu leterz intu the alfabet. Iz it Revoliushon or Restorashon tu bring bak the two Sakson leterz for the two soundz ov *th?* Our emploiment ov niu leterz iz, in fakt, les revoliushoneri than iz the Skoch komiti'z atempt tu alter the speling ov hundredz ov wurdz, and thus turn reit intu rong, tu siut their own kompleks rulez, which ar renderd neseseri bei the absens ov niu leterz. Witnes *verry, habbit, rappid* (and *rapidity*), *Addam, boddy* (and *nobody*), *cir, cee, Accirian* (sir, see, Assyrian), *cister, himcelf, won* (one), *thiss* (tu mach *bliss*,

bekauz *s* feinal iz aloud tu be uzed for *z*), *incapassity, guivving* (giving)!

"Like the leevs of the forrest when summer is green,
That hoast with its banners at sunset was seen;
Like the leevs of the forrest when autumn has blone,
That hoast on the morro lay withered and strone."

Second Stage of the Spelling Reform.

Ðiz speliŋz ar from de Skoç report. De Iŋgliſ komiti, wi fil serten, wil repiudiet dem az enerjetikali az wi du. Stil it iz a gret point gend for de Reform when tiçerz demselvz admit dat our heterojiniss speliŋ myst bi korekted. If our atempt iz mor revoliuſoneri, or reformatori, or komplit, dan sderz, so myç de mor efektiuali wil de roŋfulnes ov our Iŋgliſ speliŋ bi delt wid. Our pol-star in dis Reform haz bin whot de komitiz regard az der sekond moto,—"De maksimym ov advantej wid de minimym ov çenj." Bst wi interpret de moto in a weid, and de in a restrikted, sens. It iz indid kepabel ov eni interpreteſon, from de mir remuval ov de trsbelssm *o, u, g, h,* and liviŋ everi sder wsrd speld az it iz non, sp tu de introdskſon ov Mr Melvil Bel'z alfabet ov niu karakterz. Wi ðiŋk dat de "maksimym ov advantaje" wil bi found in de adiſon ov az fiu niu leterz az posibel tu de alfabet, and de "minimym ov çenj" in konfeiniŋ everi old leter tu de yus whiç it jenerali servz in de prezent speliŋ.

Wi psrposli avoid peti alfabetikal ditelz hir. Wi rejois in de fakt dat de neſon haz awok tu an aknolejment ov de importans ov ediukeſon for ol, and tu a persepſon dat de gret stymbliŋ blok whiç barz de we, iz our reged orðografi.

When wi komper de fonetik teip in whiç ðis artikel iz printed wid de fonetik alfabet dat woz emploid at de komensment ov de Reform, wi ar gretful tu de Giver ov ol gud and ol truð, and tu de niumerss frendz ov de Reform, for de progres dat haz bin med in de koz, and de enteir efiſensi ov de instrument.

Bɤt wheil wį hav outgrɷn đe krųd formz in whiç our fɷnetik printiŋ ferst apįrd, wį hav not outgrɷn đe sentiments eksprest in it. Đɛ sįm tu bį įven mɷr aprɷpriet nou đan đɛ wer in 1844. Đer iz wɤn sentens in đɷz tų kwɛnt-lukiŋ pɛjez đat stil riŋz in our įrz leik sɤm hevenli çeim. "Nɤŧiŋ whotever iz mɷr tu bį dezeird, or mɷr deleitful, đan đe leit ov trųŧ; for it iz đe sɷrs ov wizdom. When đe meind iz harast wiđ obskiuriti, distrakted bei douts, renderd torpid or sadend bei ignorans or folsitiz, and trųŧ emérjez az from a dark abís, it ʃeinz fɷrŧ instantɛniɤsli, leik đe sɤn dispersiŋ mists and vɛporz, or leik đe dɷn dispeliŋ đe ʃɛdz ov darknes."

Đis ferst nɤmber ov a niu sįriz ov đe *Fɷnetik Jɤrnal* ʃal tel its ɷn tɛl. Wį hav proveided đe mįnz for isiuiŋ, wįkli, spesimenz ov Fɷnografi, leik đɷz on pɛjez 4, 5; a kį tu whiç wil bį found in đe presįdiŋ and sɤbsekwent pɛjez. Wį kongratiulɛt our sɤpɷrterz on đe poziʃon tu whiç đɛ hav rɛzd fɷnetik speliŋ, and wį ernestli solisit reniud eforts ŧrų đe prezent yįr; and for our prezent nįdz, az liberal a sɤbskripʃon az đɛr mįnz wil permit đɛr jenerositi tu bestɷ.

At the end of 1874, by the labor of masons and carpenters for six months, the new premises, two lodging-houses, Nos. 6 and 7 Kingston buildings, were transformed into a Phonetic Institute. The labor attending the removal of the plant from the high room in Parsonage lane, and making the necessary arrangements for the conduct of the business was very great, and pathetic appeals were made in the pages of the Journal to Mr Pitman's correspondents, whose communications were unanswered, to treat him with a little more consideration than they had usually bestowed upon him. Piles of letters and post-cards lay upon his table, and the accumulation was such that he declared that an army of clerks would soon be required to conduct the

correspondence of the Institute alone. "We have been compelled," he said, "to leave many letters unanswered, and they must remain so until we get fairly to work in the new Institute."

The Phonetic Institute, Kingston Buildings.

The "hands" employed at this time were about 18. In Parsonage lane, only hand presses had been used. On entering the new premises a second-hand "platen"

machine was bought for £100. It was capable of printing 600 sheets per hour, a great increase on the capabilities of the hand presses. This machine was driven by a two-horse vertical tubular engine, which was soon replaced by a four-horse horizontal engine. The compositors were placed in the top story, and the binding of the books was done on the ground floor, the intervening rooms being used for stock. The platen machine was erected in the basement. It was removed twice because the neighbors on both sides complained of the rumbling noise it made.

At the beginning of 1875 the Journal was to have been enlarged to sixteen pages, four in shorthand in metal type, (which had been introduced in 1873,) but some difficulty was experienced with the working of the machinery, and the enlargement did not take place until a later period. Some idea may be gained of the troubles experienced in the printing department by an editorial notice in the Journal of May 8th. "The friends of Phonetic Spelling who see this Journal have sympathized with us in our trials for the past six months with respect to the labor we have undergone, the great expense we have incurred, and the annoyances to which we have been subjected, in our attempt to introduce into the Phonetic Institute a steam-engine and printing machine. These troubles have arisen from two sources, first the difficulty of getting our machine to work at all, through our having been deceived in the purchase of an engine and boiler that eventually proved not worth the cost of erection; and, secondly, after we had had a new boiler and engine made, the machine was pronounced a 'nuisance' to our neighbors. We removed it to another part of the building, to pacify the neighbor on one side, and then found that its sound could just be

heard by the neighbour on the other side, who is much more exacting in his demands. Nothing less than 'a payment of £150 cash, and the engine to be entirely stopped between the hours of 12 noon and 1 p.m. each day'; or still more severe terms in our taking off his hands the lease of his house, will satisfy him. 'These are the only terms which can be entertained,' says his solicitor. Of course *we* do not entertain them, but stopped our machine immediately on receipt of his solicitor's letter, and just as this Journal is going to press. The masons have now (1 May) been working two months in laying down the new boiler, removing the machine, and making the necessary alterations in the premises, and will finish their work in another day; and the engineers were employed three weeks after the engine was made; and just as the work is finished we find that all the labor and money is thrown away—for the present. We shall now have to print a Journal of eight pages at a hand-press, as formerly, till something shall turn up, either here or in some other premises, so that we can employ steam power, and it will not be voted a legal nuisance. We regret to have to say that it is utterly impossible for us to print 10,000 copies of this Journal, containing sixteen pages, at a hand-press in the time in which it must be produced. If the circulation should suffer in consequence, we must bide our time till we have the means of issuing sixteen pages. But one, or at the utmost two, columns will be given to advertisements, and these will be inserted *Times* fashion, without 'display.'"

In addition to the subscriptions to the Institute and the General Phonetic Fund received during the year 1875, Mr Pitman received from Mr Coltman, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a sum of £300 for the printing and issue of a series

of tracts and leaflets (chiefly reprints of articles that had appeared in the Journal) on the subject of the Spelling Reform. The money was applied in the manner desired by the donor, and some hundreds of thousands of tracts and leaflets were distributed far and wide. "Phonography can support itself," said Mr Coltman, "but the Spelling Reform needs pecuniary aid."

During his long residence in Bath Mr Pitman has rarely taken part in any public movements; he reserved his energies for what he considers his life-work; but in 1875 he joined Mr J. W. Morris and other citizens, who formed themselves into a committee, in an effort to establish a Free Library for the city. This effort was so far successful that a library was formed and was maintained by a small voluntary subscription for six years. It contained about nine thousand volumes, of which two thousand were presented by Mr Pitman. It came, however, to an untimely end. Suitable freehold premises had been purchased by Mr C. W. Mackillop, and these, with all the furniture, and Reading and Reference Libraries, were offered in free gift to the city on the one condition of the Free Libraries Act being adopted by the burgesses. This would have involved a half-penny rate, and the adoption of the Act was negatived by a large majority.

The failure of this effort, when success seemed so nearly assured, and the consequent dispersion of the valuable collections which had been got together with so much judgment and diligence, have deterred the most earnest advocates of educational advance from any further attempt at reversing the decision of the majority. The day, however, cannot be far distant when this question will be re-opened. The citizens of Bath will not always be content to lack the

advantages which other and smaller towns so highly prize. The efforts in which Mr Pitman took so large a share will then be referred to with advantage, showing, as they do, that a library circulation of 20,000 volumes *per annum* can be worked in Bath for a rate of one halfpenny. The citizens who rejected the generous gifts then offered for their acceptance because of this insignificant charge, were, it is generally understood, much misled by those interested in the rejection of the Act. The idea prevailed that the halfpenny rate was but the thin edge of the wedge, and that a much larger rate would follow; while the hope was widely expressed that so noble an Institution would never be closed by those who had carried on its work so well and so long. The opponents were, unhappily, successful, and the city is poorer thereby in everything but experience. When next the vote is taken, will there be a Mackillop, a Morris, or a Pitman to lead the way?

During the six years of this promising experiment, Mr Pitman collected eight thousand books to be added to the library when it should be accepted by the city, and supported by a rate. On the collapse of the scheme, he sent to the Free Libraries throughout the kingdom, then about 110, a catalogue of the ten thousand volumes, and offered to send them any that they might select, to the number of about a hundred volumes to each library. The books were thus speedily dispersed, and many libraries are now the richer for the niggardliness displayed by the burgesses of Bath.

During the following year, 1876, public attention was called in various directions to the necessity of some improvement in the method of teaching children to read, and to an entire reformation of English orthography. A vigorous article on the subject, from the pen of Professor

Max Müller, appeared in the April number of the *Fortnightly Review,* in which a Spelling Reform was strongly advocated, and great sympathy was expressed with the efforts made by Mr Pitman and his friends. In the course of this article Professor Max Müller wrote :—

"What I like in Mr Pitman's system of spelling is exactly what I know has been found fault with by others, namely, that he does not attempt to refine too much, and to express in writing those endless shades of pronunciation, which may be of the greatest interest to the student of acoustics, or of phonetics, as applied to the study of living dialects, but which, for practical as well as for scientific philological purposes, must be entirely ignored. Writing was never intended to photograph spoken languages: it was meant to indicate, not to paint, sounds. If Voltaire says, 'L'écriture c'est la peinture de la voix,' he is right; but when he goes on to say, 'plus elle est ressemblante, meilleur elle est,' I am not certain that, as in a picture of a landscape, so in a picture of the voice, pre-Raphaelite minuteness may not destroy the very object of the picture. Language deals in broad colors, and writing ought to follow the example of language, which though it allows an endless variety of pronunciation, restricts itself for its own purpose, for the purpose of expressing thought in all its modifications, to a very limited number of typical vowels and consonants. Out of the large number of sounds, for instance, which have been catalogued from the various English dialects, those only can be recognized as constituent elements of the language which in, and by, their difference from each other convey a difference of meaning. Of such pregnant and thought-conveying vowels, English possesses no more than twelve. Whatever the minor shades

of vowel sounds in English dialects may be, they do not enrich the language, as such ; that is, they do not enable the speaker to convey more minute shades of thought than the twelve typical single vowels."

In the London School Board a movement in the same direction was inaugurated by Dr Gladstone, Dr Angus, and other spelling reformers. Great dissatisfaction had been expressed at the results obtained in Board Schools in regard to the teaching of reading and spelling, and attention was directed to the subject at various meetings of the Board. A proposal was made for a memorial to the Government requesting the appointment of a Royal Commission, and a circular was sent to the School Boards throughout the country requesting their opinion as to the propriety of such a step. The majority of the 277 Boards appealed to were against the proposal, but 100 were in its favor—a remarkable evidence of the extent to which the Spelling Reform had gained adherents among the educationalists of the country. Notwithstanding the adverse replies of the majority of the country School Boards, the London School Board, on the 14th March, 1877, passed a resolution, proposed by Dr Gladstone, for the nomination of a Select Committee to draw up a memorial for the appointment of a Royal Commission. The Committee met in due course, and drew up a memorial, which was adopted at a meeting of the School Board on the 25th of July. In this memorial it was recommended that the Government should be moved to issue a Royal Commission for considering the best method of reforming and simplifying English spelling. It was urged that the results of primary education in England and Wales were far from being satisfactory, and that several of Her Majesty's Inspectors

had attributed this poor success in a great measure to the difficulties caused by our present unsystematic spelling. Many eminent scholars, many of the leading philologists of England and America, and the National Union of Elementary Teachers had all affirmed the necessity of some change. Italy and some other countries had long had very simple systems of spelling; and others, such as Holland and Spain, had recently effected great reforms. In Germany the report of a conference on spelling reform, convened by Dr Falk, the Minister of Public Instruction in Prussia, was being circulated. The time, therefore, seemed to have come for inquiry whether something could not be done in the same direction for English speaking children.

This memorial was signed by J. H. Gladstone, Chairman of the Committee, Joseph Angus, and John Rodgers.

In the same year, 1877, an important Conference was held at the Rooms of the Society of Arts, London, on the 29th May, on the subject of Spelling Reform, the Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Philology, Oxford, presiding. The primary object of the Conference was to support the request of the London School Board for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of English Spelling. It was stated by Mr Edward Jones, the hon. secretary, that the idea of such a Commission had been mooted ten years previously by Mr Russell Martineau, at a meeting of the Philological Society, and had been supported by the Rev. J. Rice Byrne, M.A., one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and that from that time the idea had gained general acceptance with the Society of Arts and other educational institutions. Among the letters read at the Conference was one from the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, which appeared to be a reply to a question

put by Professor Max Müller—" Is there no statesman in England sufficiently proof against ridicule to call the attention of Parliament to what is a growing national misfortune?" "I am not afraid of ridicule," said Mr Lowe, " and I have a strong opinion on the spelling question. . . . There are, I am informed, 39 [40] sounds in the English language. There are 24 letters. I think that each letter should represent one sound, that 15 [16] new letters should be added, so that there be a letter for every sound, and that every one should write as he speaks." The Bishop of Exeter also wrote expressing sympathy with the movement, but suggesting that there should be a minimum of change with no new characters, and only the introduction of a few diacritical marks. Mr Pitman was one of the earliest speakers at the Conference. He said,—

" Nothing that can occur this day can possibly afford me more gratification than the letter of Mr Lowe, which our Hon. Secretary has just read. I feared there was not a man among the 650 members of the House of Commons that would lead us on to victory; but Mr Lowe is the man; and without meaning any disrespect to Bishop Temple, I must say that Mr Lowe's letter, when weighed against the letter of the Bishop of Exeter, makes the latter kick the beam instantly. You would observe that there are two distinct opinions expressed in those letters. The Bishop of Exeter says: 'Introduce no new letters, but use diacritic marks:' we should want fifteen marked letters. I will venture to say that the bishop has never written a single page with the diacritic marks which he thinks might do. Mr Lowe, on the other hand, takes the common-sense view of the question, and says that as there are fifteen sounds without representative signs, they must have them as a

matter of course. I shall not say a single word on behalf of any particular alphabet—the question of signs for the sounds is tabooed for the day. All that we have to do to-day is to state our case—to show the reason for the Spelling Reform movement, and back up the London School Board in their application to Government for a Royal Commission of inquiry; and I certainly think that our Government will be unable to refuse the application. The topic given me to consider is 'the loss of time caused by the current spelling.' Now that loss of time occurs both in learning to read, and to spell and write. I want to lay before you, in the ten minutes allowed to me, the grounds of the difficulty in the two arts of reading and spelling, and why the spelling is so much more difficult than the reading.

"Everybody knows that we have six vowels (including *y*,—*a, e, i, o, u, y*,—and these six vowels represent, in the present spelling, twenty-eight sounds. *A* represents six sounds, four of them in large classes of words; *e* represents four sounds, two of them in very large classes of words; *i* represents four sounds; *o* represents seven sounds, four of them in large classes of words; and *u* represents seven sounds. Now, if we add to these the sounds represented, not by single letters, but by two put together, such as double *a* in my own name, *Isaac*; *ao* in the word *gaol*; *ea, ee, ei, ae, au,* and so on, we get, with the twenty consonants and six vowels, a total of 108 letters, which represent 269 different sounds in the various words of the language; so that there is a choice of about three sounds for every letter, between which the pupil has to choose before he can pronounce a word. I will only take one out of the long list before me as an illustration of this. I will take that

very common combination *ea*. The child, in reading, comes to the word *head*. Well, we will suppose he knows the word to be pronounced *hed*. Perhaps in the very next line he comes to the same combination of letters, but with a *b* instead of *h*, and, of course, he calls it *bed*, but is corrected instantly, 'No, it is *bead*.' Then he comes upon another word, *l-e-a-d*, but does not know what to call it, whether *leed* or *led*. Then he has to be told that it is sounded *leed* in one sense and *led* in another. He must say 'a pound of *led*,' but 'I *leed* you.' Now remove the *l* from the word, and put *m* instead; what must he say—*med?* no, *meed*. Now put *st* in place of *m*, and it is changed to *sted*. Put an *r* at the commencement of *ead;* now he has two sounds again for two different words—*read*, as a verb in the present tense, *read* (red) in the past tense. And he must commit all these to memory. Next take the letter *t* as a final sound, and put *ea* before it—*eat;* prefix *h*—that is regular; now instead of *h* put *thr*—*threet?* no, *thret*. Now take another termination, *th*, as in *death*, a word which he knows very well; remove *d* and put *wr*—*reth?* no, *reeth*. Now take away the *wr*, and put *br*—*breeth?* no, *breth*. Thus the pupil is tossed backward and forward with almost every word in the language. Take the termination *st*, as in *beast;* put an *r* after the *b*—*breest?* no *brest*. *H-e-a-r-d*, heard (pron. *herd*); take away the *h*, and put *b*—*berd?* no, *beerd*. Take the word *heart;* remove the *t*, and put *d*—*hard?* no; the Scotch may say, 'I *hard* such a thing;' but we say, 'I *herd* such a thing.' I select only a few examples to show where the difficulty lies. Take the word *earth;* put the aspirate before it, and it is not *herth*, but *harth*, a fire-place. We will suppose the pupil now to meet with the combination *ea* in a word

of two syllables, as in *real.* He then meets with *realm,* and probably calls it *ree-alm.* It is the reproach of our language that no man, however educated he may be, is able to pronounce a single word of English on seeing it in a book, if he has never heard it pronounced. I have only to-day become acquainted with the sound of the name of this gentleman, (Mr Croad), whom I have known by correspondence for some time. I could write his name but I could not speak it. I called him Mr Crow-ad, just as we sound *oa* in *Moab,* thinking it more aristocratic to give him two syllables than one. I now learn that his name is Mr Crode.

" The converse of the statement which I have made as to reading and pronunciation is true as to writing—that no person can spell an English word, however well he knows the sound, if he has never seen it written. The truth is, we are, as to letters, *blind,* and as to sounds, *deaf.* We see the letters with the outward eye, but we do not see anything with the inward eye corresponding to them. We hear the sounds of a word with the outward ear, but we do not hear inwardly and associate the real sound of the word with its representation. This one combination, or letter, *ea,* followed by a consonant in the same syllable, which I have instanced, occurs in 140 of our monosyllables. In how many other words it occurs I cannot say. But the pronunciation of every one of these words, and of every other word in the language, has to be fixed in the memory before the child can read. That is one illustration of the fact that the letters of our alphabet represent 269 sounds which is an average of three to each letter. I have excluded all single anomalous words. Now I must take two minutes for the spelling question, although my ten minutes are

up. The phase of the question I have previously considered is, the difficulty of reading. The difficulty of spelling is not as three to one, but as seven to one. Thus, there is the sound *u* in the familiar word *beauty*, a word which we will suppose the child knows, and he wishes to spell it. Well, he has to choose between seven modes of representation existing in other words bearing the same sound of *u*. Of course, he will begin by trying to spell it with the single letter *u*, as *buty*. No. In the next place he may try *beuty*. "No, you are wrong; such spelling will not pass." He knows the word *dew*. "I think I have it now," *bewty*. "No, it won't do, try again." *View* may occur to him, so he tries *biewty*. "No, try again; don't give it up." A *suit* of clothes suggests *buity*. "No, wrong again." Then the teacher has to tell him *b-e-a-u-t-y*, beauty; and that way of spelling the word has to be fixed on the pupil's memory. Such is a very familiar illustration of the difficulty, first of learning to read—that is, in choosing between the different sounds which the letters represent in other words—and the difficulty of learning to spell,—that is, in choosing between the different representatives in other words of the very same sound that is required to be expressed. I will conclude by giving you the mathematical proof of my statement, that the difficulty of reading is as 3 to 1 that is, of choosing between three sounds as to which must be employed in interpreting every letter of the alphabet; and the difficulty of spelling is as 7 to 1 as to every sound in the language. I gave you the number of letters: 20 consonants, 6 vowels, and 82 additional letters represented by combinations—total, 108 signs. Divide the 108 signs by the 38 sounds of the English language and the quotient

will be 3 within a fraction. Now for the spelling. The dividend here must be the *meanings* or *pronunciations* given to these 108 letters; and we find that they have 269 meanings, which, divided by the 38 real sounds of the language, gives the quotient as 7."

Among the other speakers were Mr H. H. Butterfill, the Rev. R. Wells Whitford, Sir Charles Reed, Mr Hale, Dr Richard Morris, the Rev. Castle Clery, Mr Tito Pagliardini, Mr W. Storr, Dr Gladstone, and the Rev. John Curwen. A public meeting was held in the evening, which was addressed by well-known spelling reformers, at which resolutions were passed in favor of an improvement in English orthography.

These were not the only public proceedings in connection with the Spelling Reform movement, in 1877; for at a meeting of the Social Science Association, held in London, on the 5th February that year, papers on the subject were read by Mr E. Jones and Mr W. Storr. These proceedings were reported at considerable length in the newspapers of the day, and many leaders and magazine articles were devoted to the subject. Many of the leading newspapers spoke favorably of the movement, and even the *Times* went so far as to recommend that children should be, at any rate, taught to read and write in the first three standards on "the easy phonetic plan."

CHAPTER X.

It was not until early in the following year, 1878, that the Spelling Reform question in connection with Board School teaching was brought before the Government. On the 18th of January, the Lord President of the Council (the Duke of Richmond and Gordon) and Viscount Sandon received a deputation at the Privy Council from the London and many other School Boards, and another from the Society of Arts. The deputations consisted of about a hundred gentlemen from different parts of the country, and representing various educational bodies. Mr Pitman, his brother Frederick, Mr Ellis, Sir Charles Reed, Dr Gladstone, Mr Rathbone, M.P. (representing the School Board), and Mr Richard, M.P. (who expressed the bewilderment of the Welsh people on the subject of English spelling) were among the company present. The various speakers were listened to with great attention, and the Lord President promised, in the stereotyped form, but with great courtesy, that he would lay before the Cabinet the views that had been communicated to him. Nothing further came of the matter. No Royal Commission was appointed; but the subject had been thoroughly ventilated, and a great deal done to clear the ground for future action in the same direction.

In the meantime, Phonography was making headway among educationalists and the general public. The value of shorthand in commercial life was becoming daily more and more recognized. The Society of Arts in 1876 had

introduced it in its annual programme of examinations, held simultaneously at different centres throughout the country, and appointed Mr Frederick Pitman as examiner. No special system was prescribed. The candidates were permitted to use any system, but were recommended to learn Phonography. The subject still forms part of the examination for which Certificates are given by the Society, and it is one of the most popular among candidates, book-keeping being the only subject for which there are more annual entries. Phonography is also a subject of examination with the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes and the Yorkshire Union of Institutes. With the candidates for examination by the former, it is the most favorite subject, the entries for examination in 1890 being 708.

The presentation of the memorial to the Lord President was soon followed (in 1879) by the formation of the Spelling Reform Association in London, under auspices which seemed to promise a successful result. Mr Pitman, of course joined its ranks, and occasionally assisted in its deliberations. Among the other well known men who allied themselves with the Society were Lord Tennyson, Professor Max Müller, Professor Sayce, Dr. J. H. Gladstone, Mr A. J. Ellis, Charles Darwin, Dr. R. G. Latham, Professor Skeat, Mr Westlake, Q.C., Dr. Charles Mackay, Professor Candy, M.A., Rev. John Rodgers, Dr. Hunter, etc.

It is not necessary to write the history of the Spelling Reform Association in connection with the biography of Mr Pitman; but it cannot be passed over. Its career, which promised to be a brilliant one, was short and unsatisfactory. During the first year or two of its existence it was the means of drawing a good deal of attention to

the question of a reformed orthography. It published a number of pamphlets and leaflets, and held a few public meetings at which addresses were delivered by men of great distinction. But its efforts were a good deal frittered away in academic discussions on the minutiæ of Phonetics, instead of being directed to more practical work. As in the case of most reforms, great differences of opinion existed as to the precise manner in which phonetic spelling should be carried out; and notwithstanding the appointment of endless sub-committees with the view of reconciling these differences, no definite line of action was taken; and, after a few years of fitful and spasmodic effort, the Association collapsed. Though several attempts were made to galvanize it into renewed activity they were wholly unsuccessful. Meanwhile Mr Pitman was devoting a considerable proportion of the increasing profits of his shorthand works to the advocacy of phonetic spelling, and further experiments with new and old types; gratuitously distributing an immense quantity of literature on the subject from his own press. In 1879 he lost the benefit of the co-operation of Sir Walter Trevelyan, who died at the ripe age of eighty-two, having been President of the Phonetic Society and an ardent supporter of Mr Pitman for a period of twenty years.

In the following year, 1881, in his Annual Address to the Phonetic Society, Mr Pitman drew attention to the increasing public interest manifested in the reform, and even took encouragement from the adverse criticisms of his opponents, whose very violence he regarded as an indication of the importance of the movement. The *Spectator* had just published a splenetic article on the subject, in which it declared that Mr Pitman and his followers were

"guilty of as flat burglary as ever frighted Dogberry," "Nothing," said the writer, "has ever astonished us more than the fact that the foremost philologist in England, Professor Max Müller, should find it in his heart to thrust the ægis of his great name and authority in front of this forgetive felony." These and similar absurdities only stimulated Mr Pitman to renewed exertion, in which he found abundant support from other quarters. In *Scribner* and the *Century*, for example, several articles appeared strongly advocating phonetic spelling; and a number of American newspapers had adopted the "five rules" (for the omission of silent letters, etc.) recommended by the American Spelling Reform Association and the American Philological Society.

The rules were these:—

Rule 1.—Omit *a* from the digraph *ea* when pronounced as *e* short, as in *hed, helth*, etc.

Rule 2.—Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *hav, giv, liv, definit, forbad*, etc.

Rule 3.—Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet, fantom, camfor, filosofi, telegraf*, etc.

Rule 4.—When a word ends with a double letter, omit the last, as in *shal, wil, clif*, etc.

Rule 5.—Change *ed* final into *t* when it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht, imprest, fixt*, etc.

Mr Pitman, while willing to accept these rules as far as they went, considered them insufficient even as a preliminary step, and proposed their expansion in this form:—

Rule 1.—Omit *a* from the digraph *ea* when pronounced as *e* short, as in *hed, helth*, etc.

Rule 2.—Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *hav,*

giv, liv, definit, forbad, etc. Change *done, love,* etc., to *dun, luv.* Also omit silent *e* after a LONG vowel that is expressed by a digraph; as, *leav, weav, cheez, breez.*

RULE 3.—Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet, fantom, camfor, filosofi, telegraf.*

RULE 4.—When a word ends with a double consonant, omit the last, as in *shal, wil, clif,* except in words ending in *-all, -oll*; as, *tall, toll.*

RULE 5.—Change *ed* final into *t* when it has the sound of *t,* as in *lasht, imprest, fixt.*

RULE 6.—Change *ie* and *ei* to *ee,* when pronounced *ee*; as *preest* (priest), *seez* (seize), *greev* (grieve), *beleev* (believe), *reseev* (receive), *reseet* (receipt). Change *prove, move, remove, bosom, lose,* to *proov, moov, remoov, boozom, looz*; and correct any other anomalies in the spelling of words containing long vowels that will not lead to a mispronunciation; as, *peeple* for *people.*

The "rules" have at length, after seven years' experience, and a vast amount of practice, taken the following form:—

RULE 1.—The letters *c, q, x* are rejected as useless, and every other consonant is confined to the representation of one sound; as every figure represents one number.

RULE 2.—*A, e, i, o, u* represent the short vowels in *pat, pet, pit, pot, put*; and *u* represents, in addition, the vowel in *but, double.* The diphthongs in *bind, boy, bound, beauty,* are written by *ei, oi, ou, iu*; and the open diphthong in *naïve, Kaiser,* by *ai.* (*I,* in preference to *ei,* is allowed to represent the first personal pronoun.)

RULE 3.—*Th* represents the two sounds in *breath, breathe,* (called, as single letters, *ith, thee,*) and the re-

cognized digraphs *ch, sh, ng,* (called, as single letters, *chay, ish, ing,*) represent the sounds heard in *much, wish, sing. Zh (zhee)* is introduced for the voiced *ish* in *vision* (vizhon). Insert a hyphen in *pot-hook, mis-hap, hogs-head,* etc.

RULE 4.—In monosyllables, and sometimes in polysyllables, *n* represents *ng* before *k* and *g,* as *think* (thingk), *anger* (ang-ger).

RULE 5.—The spelling of the LONG vowels is not altered, except in cases of gross irregularity, such as *beau* (bo), *cocoa* (koko), *receive* (reseev), *believe* (belecv), because any system of digraphs that might be adopted to represent the long vowels would prejudice the reform. Every letter of the old alphabet is used UNIFORMLY, ONLY for the representation of consonants, short vowels, and diphthongs.

No change is at present proposed in the spelling of proper names, whether of persons or places. This department of orthography, of right, belongs to the owners of the names, and the inhabitants of the places.

In the year 1884 Mr Pitman paid a third visit to Edinburgh, where, to use his own words, he "deposited the first seeds of phonetic reform" in the summer of 1841. There was a strong and interesting contrast between the two visits. On the first occasion he was a young man lecturing on what was regarded as almost a new art, and distributing a few copies of the Penny Plate and the 8*d.* octavo edition of Phonography. Shorthand, even for professional purposes, was hardly known in Scotland at that time; but the seed was sown in a congenial soil, and it quickly sprang up, and the plant grew apace. On the occasion of the 1884 visit he was the venerable and honored guest of the Scottish Phonographic Association, the largest society in the kingdom devoted

to the cultivation and promotion of phonetic shorthand. It was opening its twelfth session in the Oddfellows' Hall, which was crowded to excess in the expectation of hearing an address from the now celebrated inventor of Phonography. The chair was taken by the Lord Provost, Sir George Harrison, who was deeply moved and gratified by the enthusiastic reception given to one who had done so much, as he said, "to increase the sum of human knowledge." Mr Pitman's address was a characteristic one. He avowed himself "terribly in earnest" about the phonetic movement, and described it, *more suo*, as "a holy crusade against ignorance." "In this age," he said, "of railways and tramways, and exhibitions, and the Suez canal, and the Mersey and Severn tunnels, and a dozen more good things projected, it cannot be that people will go on writing with the stammering pen of longhand, when they may write with the fluent phonographic pen, with all the rapidity of speech, and with more than the ease of speech." Nor was the spelling question overlooked. "All the efforts of teachers and committees of School Boards are baffled by our barbarous and inconsistent spelling, which 'no fellow' can master, except some of the teachers, and some writers for the press, editors, proof-readers, and compositors. Only a portion of the writers for the Press are what are called good spellers. There is a chorus of lamentation from the Inspectors that the reading taught in the Board Schools is non-intelligent. The Inspectors say that the children read in a senseless manner. They pronounce the words, but in such a way that a listener cannot understand what is read. The main cause of this is that they have been taught to read and spell mechanically, and by 'cram,' without the use of their reasoning powers. The memory

alone has been exercised, and not the judgment." He then quoted Mr Gladstone's denunciation of English orthography, and Professor Lounsbury's indictment,— "that, considering the difference of circumstances, there is not amongst the most savage tribes any fetishism more senseless and more stupid than that which, with educated men among us, treats as worthy of respect or reverence the present orthography of the English tongue." In reply to a cordial vote of thanks, Mr Pitman said he had been amazed at the manner in which Phonography had been received by the public in Scotland, and assured his hearers that he should return to Bath with the determination for the remainder of his days to work harder than ever.

A few weeks after this visit Mr Pitman was plaintiff in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in the case of Pitman *v.* Hine, an action for the infringement of his copyright in the Phonographic Teaching Books. The case was tried before Mr Justice Mathew, without a jury; Mr Pitman's counsel being Mr Charles, Q.C. (now Mr Justice Charles), and Mr Shortt (instructed by Mr E. B. Titley, of Bath). The defendant's counsel was Mr R. T. Wright.

For two days the Court was occupied with the details of the construction of Phonography and its principles of contraction as laid down by Mr Pitman in his books, and as employed by the defendant in the publication which was the subject of the action. The principal witness was, of course, Mr Pitman himself, and his appearance in the box excited a good deal of interest and curiosity among the many reporters and shorthand writers always frequenting the Courts, most of whom, though writers of his system, had never seen the inventor in the flesh. The

case which he sought to establish against the defendant was, that in his published list of "Contracted Outlines" he had availed himself of the rules contained in the "Teacher," the "Manual," and the "Reporter's Companion," simply varying the illustrations; some of his examples, however, being identical. Mr Pitman gave his evidence very clearly with the assistance of a black-board, which, covered as it was with shorthand symbols, gave the Court the appearance of a large phonographic class. Confirmatory evidence was given by the Hon. Ion Keith-Falconer, by the writer of this memoir, and by Mr T. Hill. The defendant's case was that there was originality, not only in the rules laid down in his book, but in the selection and classification of the examples, independently of Mr Pitman's rules. But he failed to convince the Judge on these points.

Mr Justice Mathew followed the explanations with great care and minuteness, and on the morning of the third day of the trial he delivered judgment at great length, declaring that the evidence led to the "irresistible conclusion that the defendant had been copying the plaintiff's book; and the only reason why he can say he has not done it is, that he has illustrated the plaintiff's system by different words from those that the plaintiff has used." He concluded by saying, "The defendant felt his way very carefully in commencing his publication. He published first a small pamphlet, which was printed [chromographed], and against that the plaintiff protested, but he thought it a small matter, and he probably hesitated (either from his own good sense, or from the excellent advice he may have had) about commencing a Chancery suit in reference to that. The defendant, emboldened perhaps by the plaintiff's neglect, at a certain interval afterwards printed [lithographed] what he

had previously put forward in a different form, and then again the plaintiff protested. In the year 1880, when this publication was brought to his knowledge, he protested against it and pointed out once more that it was an infringement of his copyright, but he took no proceedings. Again the defendant made a further experiment, that expanded work No. 2, and the work the subject of the present proceedings. He expanded the 'Contracted Outlines' from 600 to 1,000, and then once more the plaintiff protested. He did allow unquestionably nearly a year to go by, and then, when the defendant had sent him a copy of his book requesting that he would insert an advertisement of it in the *Journal*, of which the plaintiff was the publisher, the plaintiff determined to bring the matter to an end, and a correspondence commenced, which certainly in the first instance exhibited proper feeling on the part of the defendant; and the plaintiff would be justified in expecting from that correspondence that the matter might be amicably settled. The correspondence went on for a considerable time, until it was clear that the defendant would not admit what the plaintiff considered his rights in the matter, and then these proceedings were commenced. Now it certainly throws a flood of light upon the plaintiff's conduct in the matter, as we have been informed, in the course of the proceedings, that the defendant is defending this action *in forma pauperis*. It is perfectly evident that a plaintiff would hesitate a long time before he would attack a man who could not pay damages. Subsequently he was driven to take the course he has taken. Now it is said, 'You ought to give the plaintiff damages; you ought not to give him an injunction.' That would be denying him all remedy, for the defendant is a man who

cannot pay damages. What is proposed is, that the defendant should be suffered to go on to publish this work, which I hold to be an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright, the plaintiff being at liberty to sue him from time to time for damages, which he would never recover. If ever there was a case in which the powers of the Court ought to be exercised, as asked by the plaintiff, it seems to me that this is that case. I therefore grant the injunction asked for by the plaintiff. I direct the copies of his book now in the defendant's possession either to be given up to the plaintiff, or such an arrangement to be come to between the parties as would preclude the possibility of the work being further published. I further give a formal direction that the plaintiff shall have his costs at any time should the defendant be in a position to pay him."

In the latter part of 1885 Mr Pitman drew together a large audience, consisting chiefly of young men, assembled to hear him deliver a lecture in Exeter Hall under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. It will be remembered that thirty-four years before, the highly conservative authorities at Exeter Hall had hesitated to allow a phonetic meeting, in connection with the first great Exhibition of 1851, to be held within those severely respectable walls, and that some pressure and insistence were needed to convince them that the new crusade was a genuine educational movement, with nothing heretical or otherwise dangerous lurking behind it. Now, not even the rigidly orthodox conductors of the Y.M.C.A. suspected a taint of heresy in Mr Pitman's shorthand programme, and he was cordially invited to give their members a public exposition of his system in the Lower Hall, in which the phonetic gathering of 1851 had assembled. Though a

spacious hall, it was found insufficient to accommodate the many hundreds of young men who had come to listen to the now venerable but still hale and hearty inventor of Phonography. The audience was densely packed, and, on Mr Pitman's appearance, it cheered him to the echo.

Not quite knowing the kind of assembly he was addressing —whether it consisted chiefly of phonographers who had come out of curiosity to see him, or of the outside public who desired to be instructed—he called for a show of hands from those who were acquainted with Phonography, and discovered, perhaps to his surprise, that the large majority of his hearers were already his disciples. This, as he remarked, enabled him the better and the sooner to get in touch with them, and rendered needless any such minute explanation of the system as he might otherwise have given. He rather dwelt on the principles underlying the construction of his alphabet; and (the traditions of Exeter Hall notwithstanding) he could not refrain from throwing in a small modicum of Swedenborgian philosophy and applying it to his subject. The masculine and feminine element, said by the Swedish seer to pervade all things in nature, he applied to the consonants and vowels respectively; and in the pairing of the consonants themselves, as shown in the arrangement of the phonographic symbols, he found another illustration of the same all-pervading dualism. The "reading reform" was also advocated with the lecturer's accustomed earnestness and energy; and some striking illustrations were given of the inadequacy of the common spelling to convey the sounds of the words represented.

The year 1886 is rendered noteworthy, in Mr Pitman's history, by several events public and domestic. In the first number of the "Journal" he concluded his Annual Address

to the members of the Phonetic Society by announcing that he had taken into partnership his two sons (Alfred, born in 1862, and Ernest, born in 1864), who for some years had rendered him valuable assistance in various departments of his business; and that thenceforward the title of the Bath firm would be "Isaac Pitman and Sons."

Later in the year—Nov. 21st—his youngest brother, Frederick Pitman, who had acted as his publisher in Paternoster row, died at the early age of fifty-eight. Frederick's early education was undertaken by his brother Isaac (his senior by fifteen years); he afterwards went to a school in Bradford, and then returned to his brother, who had settled in Bath. He was there articled to a solicitor, but not taking kindly to the legal profession, he joined his brother Joseph and the author in their early phonographic campaign. A year or two later he entered upon his publishing duties in the little shop in Queen's Head Passage, and, by his good business talents and energy, soon became an important factor in the phonetic propaganda. He was also a contributor to Phonographic literature, editing for many years *The Shorthand Magazine* and the *Phonographic Lecturer*. A skilful note-taker, he often accepted reporting engagements; and he devoted a great deal of his spare time to teaching Phonography, both privately and in class. He became known, too, as a music publisher. The phonographic publishing was, at his death, transferred to the present depôt at Amen Corner, Messrs Isaac Pitman & Sons acting from that date as their own publishers, the business being managed, on their behalf, by Mr Guilbert and Mr Clarence Pitman (sons of Mr Joseph Pitman), who had previously assisted their uncle Frederick at No. 20 in "The Row."

CHAPTER XI.

The following year, 1887, the Jubilee year of Phonography, was an eventful one in Mr Pitman's personal history as well as in the history of his system—indeed of shorthand generally. In view of the wide diffusion of the system throughout Great Britain, and every other English-speaking country, the occurrence of the jubilee year could hardly be allowed to pass without a public celebration, which took place under the most favorable auspices. It was suggested in the beginning of 1886, if not at a still earlier period, that steps should be taken to commemorate the event by a public gathering of phonographers and the friends of phonetic spelling, in London; and by the presentation of a suitable testimonial to Mr Pitman as a recognition of his life-long labors. The project was readily taken up, and a committee was formed for its execution. The movement, however, very soon entered upon a wider phase, and became associated with another celebration, that of the Tercentenary of the introduction of modern shorthand by Timothy Bright, in the reign of Elizabeth. The actual date of the publication of Bright's famous book (of which only a single copy is known to exist, that in the Bodleian) was 1588, but a manuscript had been unearthed in the British Museum, by Dr Westby-Gibson, showing that Bright was writing his system as early as 1586; and, taking the mean of these two dates, the Tercentary of modern shorthand was made to fall in 1887, thus happily

coinciding with the Jubilee of Phonography, and naturally suggesting a joint celebration.

At a meeting of the Council of the Shorthand Society (a body representing all systems of shorthand) held on March 3rd, 1886, the following resolution was passed :— That this Council having heard from Mr T. A. Reed a statement as to the proposed Jubilee of Phonography, in 1887, and a public recognition of Mr Pitman's labors, desire to express their entire sympathy with the object, and request Mr Reed to represent them on any committee that may be formed with a view to its promotion." And this was followed by another resolution, moved by Dr. Westby-Gibson, and seconded by the writer, " That it is desirable that advantage should be taken of the Phonographic Jubilee of 1887 to hold in London an international gathering of shorthand-writers of all systems, in celebration of the Tercentenary of the origination of modern shorthand by Dr Timothy Bright, 1587." The following " Preliminary Announcement," issued in the month of May, will best explain the objects of the Congress, and the methods proposed for their attainment :—

THE PHONOGRAPHIC JUBILEE AND TERCENTENARY OF SHORTHAND.

(Preliminary Announcement.)

It is proposed to hold in the Autumn of 1887 an International Congress of Shorthand Writers of all existing systems, and of persons interested in shorthand generally, to celebrate conjointly two events of importance. (1) The Jubilee of the introduction of Mr Isaac Pitman's system of Phonography, marking as it does an era in the development of shorthand on scientific principles. (2) The Tercentenary of Modern Shorthand originated by Dr Timothy Bright about 1587, continued by Peter Bales (1590), John Willis (1602), Edmond Willis (1618), Shelton

(1620), Cartwright (1642), Rich (1646), Mason (1672), Gurney (1740), Byrom (1767), Mavor (1780), Taylor (1786), Lewis (1812), and many others in past generations, and finally by Mr Pitman and other English and Continental authors of the present day. It is hoped that the combined movement will bring together a large assembly of shorthand writers, professional and otherwise, who will be willing to work fraternally and earnestly in the interests of the science-art which has for three centuries been a power in the world and a blessing to mankind.

1. The Phonographic Jubilee.

The year 1837 will always be regarded as an era in the history of shorthand. Before that date very little had been done to popularize the art; nearly all the instruction books devoted to it were expensive, and the systems expounded were wanting in many of the features which are essential to a shorthand method applicable at once to the needs of the professional reporter and to the requirements of every-day life. It is no exaggeration to say that the appearance of the little work, "Stenographic Sound-hand," in 1837, inaugurated something like a shorthand revolution. The phonetic basis of the system and the ingenuity of its construction soon attracted adherents not only among the general public, to whom shorthand was a mystery, but among the writers of other systems, many of whom, at no little sacrifice of time and labor, abandoned their old methods, and willingly, even eagerly, adopted the new one. The energy and industry with which Mr Pitman threw himself into the work of developing the system, aided by the efforts of a band of enthusiastic disciples, had their natural effect. Successive editions of the system were published, embracing the improvements suggested by the experience of the author and his friends, and before the first decade of its history had expired it had obtained a commanding position among professional reporters, while among amateur stenographers and the general public it had practically superseded all its competitors.

Like so many other inventions, Phonography, as it came to be called, appeared at a time when it was specially required. The rapid development of the newspaper press created a demand for shorthand work which had never before existed; and a still wider and more general field was opened in large commercial and legal offices, where the value of skilled phonographers was gradually recognised, to such an extent indeed that their employment is now regarded as a matter of absolute necessity. Increased facilities were offered to students for reporting lectures and copying extracts; and for friendly, social and intellectual

intercourse the new medium of communication was hailed with gratitude by thousands. It is needless to add anything as to the position which the system now holds in every English-speaking-and-writing community. Not only our own country but the world has been the gainer by the invention, and in view of the jubilee of its introduction, it is not too much to ask its hundreds of thousands of adherents who have derived practical benefit from it to unite in testifying their obligations to the inventor and presenting him with some mark of their appreciation of his life-long labors.

Every lover of phonetic spelling will readily recognise the services which Mr. Pitman has rendered in that direction through the medium of his system. In no more effective way could the phonetic principle be applied than in a system of shorthand daily and hourly used throughout the country. No longer the dream of the philologist or the educationalist, the principle has received practical embodiment and application in Phonography, and the attention of the public has thus been aroused, to an extent that could hardly have been attained by any other agency, to the defects and inconsistencies of English orthography, and the necessity of removing them. It is believed, therefore, that all phonetic reformers will willingly join in some enduring memorial which it is proposed to make in honor of Mr Pitman.

2. International Congress and Tercentenary of Modern Shorthand.

In this portion of the celebration it is intended to commemorate an event of paramount importance in the history of shorthand—its origination by Dr. Timothy Bright in 1587, the 300th year happily co-inciding with the Jubilee of Phonography. A Congress will be held in London at which papers will be read and discussed dealing with the history, development, and literature of shorthand from Bright's days to Pitman's; also with matters of a more practical nature bearing upon the present and future uses of shorthand, and the prospects of the art generally. In connection with the Congress it is proposed to hold an Exhibition of shorthand works of every description, including books written and printed in shorthand, stenographic curiosities, and other objects of interest. There will also be opportunities of social intercourse; and every effort will be made to render the occasion a memorable one in the history of the art. Resolutions have been passed unanimously in favor of the movement by the Councils of the Shorthand Society; the Shorthand Writers' Association, Westminster; the London Phonetic Short-

hand Writers' Association; and the Manchester Shorthand Writers' Association. A Committee has been formed, in a thoroughly cosmopolitan spirit, of gentlemen who are writers of various shorthand systems, but who are all desirous of doing honor to Mr Pitman while seeking to advance the interests of shorthand throughout the world. The co-operation of all persons interested in shorthand is earnestly sought.

Whatever funds may be collected will, after paying the expenses of the Celebration, be devoted primarily to some method of recognizing and perpetuating Mr Pitman's name and services, his own wishes being consulted as to the precise mode of application. It is understood that Mr Pitman would prefer the initiation of some large scheme of usefulness in the promotion of shorthand study to any mere personal gift to himself, and it will be the endeavor of the committee to give the best effect they can to this disinterested desire on his part.

Remittances can be made to the Treasurer, at 37 Cursitor street, Chancery lane, London, E.C.

For further information, letters may be addressed to the Chairman at the same address; or to Dr. Westby-Gibson, 10 Great Coram street, Russell square, London, W.C.

THOMAS A. REED (Chairman and Treasurer).
JOHN WESTBY-GIBSON (Hon. Sec.).
A. W. KITSON, A. W. REED (Joint Secretaries.)

May, 1886.

A large and influential Committee was formed, aided by local Committees, to carry out the above objects.

It was feared by some timid or over-cautious phonographers, as well as by certain writers of the earlier systems, that a joint celebration of this character could not be carried out without an amount of friction which would seriously imperil its success. Nor was the apprehension altogether groundless. At an early stage of the deliberations some important divergences of opinion arose as to the relative claims of the two branches of the celebration, and as to the disposal of any funds which might remain after defraying the expenses of the Congress. Phonographers,

who constituted by far the largest proportion of the subscribers, were naturally desirous that their own system, the most popular in the country, should stand in the fore-front of the movement. The majority of the writers of other systems were perfectly willing to concede this reasonable claim, but others were less compliant, and it was not without some difficulty that a satisfactory *modus vivendi* was arrived at. The problem was ultimately solved by the appointment, by the General Committee (a large and influential body, comprising a number of public men who, though not writing shorthand, recognized its value and sympathized with the celebration) of two sub-committees (1) the Jubilee Committee, presided over by the author, and (2) the Tercentenary Committee, whose president was Mr W. H. Gurney-Salter, the shorthand writer to the Houses of Lords and Commons, and the official representative of the Gurney system. To the first were delegated the arrangements for the Phonographic Jubilee, and to the second the arrangements for the more general part of the programme, dealing with topics of interest to the writers of all systems of shorthand. It was further arranged that after all expenses had been defrayed, two-thirds of the surplus should be handed over to the Jubilee section of the Committee for appropriation as it might deem fit, and the remaining one-third to the Tercentenary section.

Every effort was made, and no expense spared, to make the Congress a success, the Committee believing that no better appropriation of the funds could be made, in the interests of Phonography and the art of shorthand generally, than by calling public attention, in Great Britain and other countries, to this gathering of the stenographic clans, and giving it all the *éclat* which its promoters desired. It was

decided by the Jubilee Committee at an early stage of the arrangements that its share of the surplus, or whatever portion of it might be required, should be applied to defraying the cost of a marble bust of Mr Isaac Pitman, to be presented during the sittings of the Congress. The execution of the bust was entrusted to the well-known sculptor, Mr Thomas Brock, who succeeded in producing an admirable likeness and a highly valued work of art, which was exhibited at the Academy in the following year.

The Congress was held during the week beginning September 6th, at the Geological Museum, Jermyn street, London, which was lent by the Lords of the Council for the occasion. It was a large and, up to that period, a unique assembly, comprising representatives of shorthand systems throughout the world. France and Germany were the principal continental countries from which delegates were sent. The large majority of the English members were, of course, phonographers, but some of the older systems—chiefly Gurney and Taylor—were well represented. Five of the six days were devoted to topics of general stenographic interest, and one day—Wednesday—was appropriated exclusively to the Jubilee of Phonography. At the opening meeting Lord Rosebery, who had accepted the office of president, delivered the inaugural address. It was a brilliant and masterly composition, and eloquently enforced the importance of the cultivation of shorthand not only for professional and literary purposes, but for the ordinary affairs of life. Of any knowledge of the art itself his lordship avowed himself "absolutely innocent and guileless;" but, he humorously added, having read that between the time of Willis and Pitman 201 systems had been published, and 281 since, it was almost a relief to feel

ISAAC PITMAN.

From a Marble Bust by Thomas Brock, Esq., R.A.

that one was utterly ignorant of each and all of these methods. Dealing with the public uses of the art, he inquired how, if by any autocratic power shorthand were to be suspended throughout the world for a week, the universe could possibly get on during that time. "My imagination," he said, "does not reach to it." One of the strongest points in his speech was that relating to the use of shorthand in public offices—a use which he had himself, when in office, endeavored to promote. The telegraph, the telephone, the postal card, were nothing, he said, but the signals of distress of an overstrained civilization. "Our first economy should be in the direction of a much greater employment of shorthand in our public offices. In these days of rigid and anxious competition in commercial matters we must make it understood by all growing lads that a knowledge of shorthand is indispensable to a mercantile career, and we must also bring this fact home to all who aspire to secretarial and clerical posts."

The following day was devoted to the first Conference, at which a number of papers were read and discussed, Lord Rosebery attending and taking part in the deliberations.

The Phonographic celebration occupied the whole of Wednesday, and it was perhaps the most important public event in the history of Mr Pitman and his system. There was a Morning Conference, presided over by Dr. J. H. Gladstone, an old phonographer and spelling reformer. Mr Pitman read a short paper on "The Spelling Reform, and How to Get it," and other communications bearing on the development and dissemination of Phonography were presented. Similar papers were read and discussed at the Afternoon Conference, Mr Pitman's contribution being on "The Genesis of Phonography." He gave some

interesting details (already set forth in these pages) of his early labors in the construction of the Phonographic Alphabet, but said he had not a scrap of record of the numerous shorthand alphabets which he had invented and used throughout the memorable six months during which the system was "on the anvil." The exact date of the publication of his "Stenographic Soundhand" he was able to fix by a letter written by himself to Mr Bagster, on the 14th of November, 1837, and sent with a consignment of 200 copies, out of the 3,000 of which the edition consisted. The parcel was received in London on the next day, and the book was thus published on the 15th of November.

The chief feature of the Jubilee celebration was the evening gathering in the Theatre, which was crowded with phonographers from all parts of the country, as well as the writers of other systems at home and abroad, who desired to join in the congratulations to be offered to the venerable guest of the evening. It had every appearance of a pleasant family gathering, with a few welcome visitors who had dropped in to offer their felicitations. Mr Pitman was accompanied by Mrs Pitman and his two sons, Alfred and Ernest, his brother Henry, from Manchester, two of his sisters, Miss Rose Pitman and Mrs Webster, and his nephews, Harry, Guilbert, and Clarence, sons of Mr Joseph Pitman. Dr J. H. Gladstone was among the visitors; and Mr Brock, the sculptor, was present throughout the proceedings, and received many a compliment on the successful and highly satisfactory completion of his marble bust, which was on the platform ready for the process of unveiling. For a second time the author, as an old friend and fellow-worker with Mr Pitman, and a representative phonographic practitioner, had the honor of being selected

as the medium for the presentation of a memorial of gratitude and esteem from his many disciples throughout the world. After an opening address, in which he endeavored to set forth Mr Pitman's claims to this public recognition of his services during the long period of fifty years, he made the presentation in the following terms:—"Now, Mr Pitman, I have to discharge what is perhaps the pleasantest duty that has ever devolved upon me, that of asking you to accept for your family from the phonographers of Great Britain and Ireland this marble bust. It will be to them a constant reminder of the regard and affection entertained towards you by those who have known best how to appreciate your labors; and it will, at the same time, be an acceptable legacy to posterity. Not that it is needed to secure you a place in the recollection of your countrymen. Your *work*, far better than even Mr Brock's faithful chisel, will keep alive your memory in the future; but all the more will those who fill our places in the coming years be grateful to us for having preserved to them the lineaments of a man to whom they are so deeply indebted for the services he has rendered and the example he has set."

The bust was then duly unveiled amid the enthusiastic greetings of the assembly. Then followed congratulatory addresses which had been forwarded from Adelaide and Sydney, and another from the phonographers of Carlisle. Besides these an album of photographic views had been sent from Rome, and an announcement was made that a gold medal was being struck in the United States in commemoration of the Jubilee. Various telegraphic congratulations were also handed in, including one from the venerable stenographer (of the Stolze school), Dr Michaelis, of Berlin. In response to these, Mr Pitman, who was, of

course, greeted with a hearty outburst of cheering, said: "Mr Chairman, and my dear and affectionate friends: There is a passage in the Divine Word that has rested upon my mind for a month or two as one that I could use on the present occasion. It is a Divine inquiry submitted to us to institute a kind of self-introspection or self-examination. It runs thus: 'Seekest thou great things for thyself?' If we put that question to our own hearts, I think there are very few of us who can say that we do not. The inquiry is followed by a positive command from the Maker of the Universe, 'Seek them not.' I have quoted this portion of the Divine Word for the purpose of saying that, consciously, that passage has been my guide from my youth up. To-night instead of feeling that I am a kind of Roman citizen, and that you have placed a civic crown upon my brow, I rather feel in the condition of a criminal arraigned before this Court on the charge of having sought great things for myself. I fancy to myself somehow that our venerable chairman is the judge. If he were but bewigged, which would well become him, he would be an admirable judge—a very Portia. And my friends upon the front row seem to me to be the jury—the grand jury; and the seats behind filled with the public, are the audience: and now I stand before you in some sense as a criminal arraigned before the world for having sought great things for myself; and I must from my heart declare myself 'Not guilty.' If you, in your clemency, come to the same conclusion, I shall go from this meeting a happy man. And then to turn to this bust, a doubt is suggested to my mind somehow, and I cannot get rid of it. I have some hesitation in deciding which is the man and which is the image. I must really appeal to Mr Brock. (Mr Brock

answered with a smile.) I think this (pointing to the bust) must be the man, such as he ought to be for purity and beauty, and this (pointing to himself) the imperfect image. I only wonder how my friend Mr Brock could have made such an image from such a subject." Then, passing from himself to his subject, he narrated, as an illustration of what can be accomplished by writing, and the astonishment it creates among those unaccustomed to it, the familiar story of the Missionary Williams and the chip, which did such excellent service as an introductory paragraph in the addresses of the young phonographic lecturers in the early days of their crusade. "My object in life," he added, "has been to make the presentation of thought as simple of execution, and as visible to the eye, as possible. Fifty years are a long time in the life of a man, and I have prosecuted my labors for that length of time, and though I cannot say that we have got in Phonography the best shorthand outline for every word, I do maintain that we are not very far from it. I think that the only thing that remains to be done is, to select any words that are not facile and beautiful in form, easy of execution by the reporter's hand, consider them and put them in the best possible form, and then we shall have completed our work." Then, after an allusion to the many indications of the daily increase in the popularity of Phonography, Mr Pitman glanced at the question of the Spelling Reform, and extracted an additional plea for it from the manner in which Lord Rosebery, in his inaugural address, had pronounced the word "tercentēnary," accenting the ante-penultimate, and making the *e* long. "His lordship," he said, "has not noticed a law of orthoëpy that runs through the language, namely, that all long

words that end in *ary, ery, ory,* are accented on the fourth syllable from the end, or what scholars term the pre-antepenultimate. If Lord Rosebery's attention were called to that little law, he would speak of the *Tercéntenary* of the introduction of shorthand into England. There are similar variations with other words. Phonetic spelling will direct to the right accent, when the accented syllable contains a long vowel." After this little criticism on Lord Rosebery's orthoëpy, which gave rise to some newspaper correspondence as to the proper pronunciation of the word in question, Mr Pitman again assumed the *rôle* of a prisoner arraigned at the bar of justice and awaiting the verdict. The chairman, thus finding himself suddenly invested with judicial functions, submitted the case to the audience as the only jury capable of deciding it. A hearty burst of cheers and laughter followed, which the chairman interpreted to mean a verdict of "Not guilty," adding, according to the customary formula, that the self-arraigned prisoner "left the court without a stain upon his character." This little interlude ended, Mr Pitman said: "Well, my friends, I accept these beautiful gifts, including the bust, with the deepest and most affectionate gratitude of which my nature is capable. They shall be a stimulus to me to work on in the same line, but, if possible, with increased diligence and faithfulness." Mr Ernest Pitman also, in behalf of the family, returned thanks "for the cordial way in which phonographers had shown their appreciation of his father's labors in the shorthand world." In behalf of the foreign visitors, Dr. Dreinhöfer moved a congratulatory resolution, which was seconded by Dr Gladstone, and supported by Mr Crump, Q.C., an old phonographer; Dr Gantter, a representative of the Gabelsberger system, in Germany;

Dr Weber, who represented the French stenographers; Mr J. H. Gurney-Salter; Mr J. C. Moor, of Sunderland; Mr J. B. Lawson, of Edinburgh; and Professor Bridge, of the "Chatauqua University," who spoke in behalf of the phonographers of America.

Thus ended the Jubilee celebration, but not the encomiums showered on Mr Pitman. He was the principal guest at the luncheon given to the members of the Congress at the Mansion House, by the Lord Mayor, Sir Reginald Hanson, who had previously assisted in promoting the study of Phonography at the City of London School. In proposing the toast of the "International Shorthand Congress," the Lord Mayor coupled with it several well-known names, the foremost being that of Mr Pitman, with which, he said he had been familiar from boyhood. There was no difference of opinion, he thought, as to Mr Pitman being the most eminent living inventor of shorthand in England; and it had been a matter of pleasure to him to follow the expressions of sympathy and good feeling from those who had studied his system, and had presented him with a testimonial of their esteem.

The proceedings of the Congress and the Jubilee celebration were very fully reported in the *Times*, which devoted several columns to them daily, and in the other London and provincial journals, and a great stimulus was thus given to the cultivation of shorthand (Phonography in particular) for educational, commercial and professional purposes. Among many other persons of distinction whose attention was thus specially directed to the subject, may be mentioned Viscount Bury, who was abroad at the time, and who was so much interested in the reports which reached him of the proceedings in Jermyn street that he

forthwith ordered a set of Mr Pitman's books, and has since become a proficient phonographer. Lord Rosebery did not follow his example; but he has not ceased to take an interest in the art, which he did so much by his presidency of the Congress to encourage. He took an early opportunity, after the Congress was ended, of calling on Mr Pitman and expressing his deep sense of the value of his labors.

But the inventor of Phonography had other honors awaiting him. Shortly after the Jubilee celebration he gave an address to some of his co-religionists and fellow-townsmen in Bath, on "The Origin and Progress of the Writing and Spelling Reform." It was on the 15th of November, that being the very day on which, fifty years before, the first edition of Phonography was published by Samuel Bagster and Sons. At the close of the address a handsome miniature portrait of Mr Pitman, on ivory, painted by Mrs Harbutt, was presented to him by the chairman, the Rev. John Martin, who said he had been commissioned to assure him that it represented "a wealth of affection and personal regard which no words of his could adequately express." Mr Pitman was greatly touched by this gratifying testimony of the kindly sentiments cherished towards him by those to whom he was best known. Chivalrously handing the portrait to his wife, to whom, he said, rightfully belonged the results of whatever wisdom, or tact, or business capacity he possessed, he acknowledged the gift on her behalf and his own, but regretted the inadequacy of his words to express the gratitude he felt. The portrait was exhibited at the Royal Academy of 1888.

The American gold medal which was struck to commemorate the Phonographic Jubilee was not received until February, 1888. It was accompanied by an address, which

indicated the high estimate formed in the United States of Mr Pitman and his labors. Writing in behalf of the subscribers, the committee say :—

But very few of the number who, in America, are now practising the art which your patient study of the principles that should govern the creation of written language enabled you to present to the world, know the early history of your work. Before your text-books were printed, shorthand writing was looked upon as a mystery, and the man who could, by its use, reproduce the utterances of a speaker, was a phenomenon of dexterity, and was regarded as little less than a nine days' wonder. And there was reason for the belief. Those who have compared the lessened lengths of forms in Phonography with the cumbrous outlines of the systems of Gurney, Taylor, Harding, Byrom, Gould and others, marvel much that with them the requisite skill could be acquired to successfully report words uttered with the rapidity of colloquial speech. 'Stenographic Sound Hand,' as given by you to the world a half-century since, was the prophecy and promise of a new revelation in the art that was realised in 1848. For Phonography was a system of shorthand founded on scientific principles and unfolded in systematic arrangement and analogic harmony. It was the first in which the simplest signs were employed; the first in which cognate sounds were represented by cognate signs; the first in which those elementary sounds admitting of classification in groups were represented by groups of analogous symbols; the first in which the attempt was made to give circles, hooks, and loops distinct offices for efficient service in the stenographic art. By it the language was for the first time successfully presented in shorthand on a phonetic basis, and one who could read it could hardly fail to know the spoken words.

But the medal which you now have is not a tribute to your inventive genius alone. The evolution of a new idea is but half the work. It is not alone the inventor who accomplishes great purposes. As much credit is due to him who brings the improvement before the world with strength of purpose to command attention. And when the inventor and adapter combines persistence with creative talent to the extent that the

world recognizes the truth of his statements and acts upon them, then more than double credit is due. In America, in nearly every commercial house, corporation, and public journal, in our commercial and manufacturing centres, in our Courts of law and equity, and in deliberative bodies; indeed, in every place where much writing is done, the stenographer is a needed adjunct, and his presence was made possible by your work. Phonography came to us unheralded to meet a then unvoiced demand. With a status secured it created a further demand for its application in spheres of usefulness for which scarce any had thought it available.

With few exceptions, American writers who have presented the system have frankly acknowledged their indebtedness to you as its discoverer and inventor. In so doing they have but followed the lead of the distinguished pioneers, Stephen Pearl Andrews and Augustus F. Boyle, who in their text-books published forty years ago, used these words:

"A system of writing, to be perfect, should have one uniform method of representing every sound of the voice that is uttered in speaking, and which is obviously distinct. In the next place it is desirable for practical purposes to obtain the greatest possible brevity, and therefore the characters or letters by which these sounds are represented, should be the simplest in their form that can be found. And in the third place, in order to facilitate the learning and use of them, they ought to be selected and arranged in strict correspondence with the nature and order of the sounds which they represent; thus, sounds which are related to each other by similitude of organic formation, should be represented by signs having in their forms a corresponding resemblance; in other words, the best system of writing will be (1) true; (2) brief; and (3) analogical. These properties are admirably combined in the system of phonetic shorthand—the production of the genius and labors of Mr Pitman."

It only remains for us to wish you health, happiness and prosperity during the remainder of your career on earth, and that your life may be spared as long as existence shall be a pleasure to yourself and add to the happiness of others.

We are, respectfully yours,

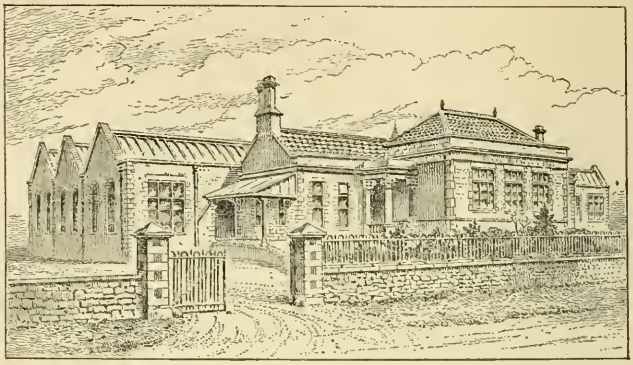
EDWARD F. UNDERHILL,
ELIZA B. BURNZ,
JAMES E. MUNSON,
} *Committee.*

In the next year, 1889, Mr Pitman was the recipient of another testimonial from his fellow-citizens in Bath. Closely following upon the national recognition of his services, an effort was made to commemorate them in his own adopted city. At a meeting held at the Guildhall, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr H. W. Freeman, he was presented with a replica of Mr Brock's Jubilee bust, accompanied by an appropriate address. "As an old inhabitant of Bath," said Mr Murch, in making the presentation, "representing the friends whose names are inscribed in this book, and indirectly a much larger number, I beg to offer your bust for your acceptance. We have heard of your kind intention respecting it. We are glad to know that it will find a congenial home within those walls where we have so often met you. We hope it will be generally thought that the sculptor has shown his accustomed skill and increased his well-known reputation. We believe that to your fellow-citizens, to the young especially, it will be a valuable memorial of one who, through a long and useful life, has gained their sincere respect and set an admirable example of intelligent, benevolent perseverance. May you still be blessed with health and strength for many years to continue that example, to share the well-earned pleasures of old age with those who are near and dear to you—'love, obedience, honor, troops of friends,' and to benefit mankind by hastening the time when knowledge shall cover the earth as waters cover the channels of the deep." In acknowledging the testimonial, Mr Pitman said:—"If I were a Stoic, a neat sentence of thanks might suffice for acknowledging this beautiful gift. But I am not a Stoic. I am indeed deeply moved by the kindness of the friends who have subscribed to this testimonial. I

am especially indebted to Mr Tyte, who originated the subscription, and to Mr Murch, who completed it. Whatever of honor there may be in this presentation, I refer it not to myself, but render it to the Lord, to whom alone all honor belongs. The Literary Institution has kindly offered to accept the bust, and to place it in the Reading room, and I have much pleasure in asking Mr Murch, as the representative of the Institution, to accept it. I like to think of English literature under the form of a vast temple, with a portico supported on two pillars, on one of which is inscribed the single word 'Letters,' and on the other 'Numbers.' The temple is adorned with the statues of the men, English and American, who have made the literature, the science, and the art, that now illumine, beautify, and bless the world. No one is permitted to pass the portico of this temple who is ignorant of letters and numbers, and their combinations. These little marks, 'a, b, c,' and '1, 2, 3,' that seem in themselves to have no more meaning than the marks of birds' feet in the snow, are really the foundation of our civilization. There can be but little trade and commerce, and no literature, without these seemingly insignificant signs. In the use of figures we are consistent, but in the use of letters we are inconsistent. Figures always represent certain quantities or numbers, but letters are used arbitrarily; and long and weary is the task to find out what they mean." Mr Pitman spoke a good word for Spelling Reform, showed the inconsistencies of our orthography, and demonstrated what Max Müller calls its "unteachable" character. For the sake of the rich, who learn it to a marvelous degree of accuracy, after years of toil; and for the sake of the poor, who cannot learn it, he wished the Spelling Reform all success.

This, however, was not the end of the second series of Jubilee celebrations, for a few weeks later, on the 7th of March, an English gold Jubilee Medal was presented to Mr Pitman at a public dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant, under the presidency of the Hon. Viscount Bury, who, as already stated, had recently become a student of Phonography. "Fifty years ago," said his lordship, "Mr Pitman found shorthand in a very chaotic condition; and a man who, out of such elements, could evolve a system which was brief, rapid, legible, and easily acquired, and which had so quickly taken the foremost place among shorthand methods, must be a remarkable man. But he had done more than that, for by his indomitable energy he had brought his system to such a position that the little seedling which he sowed fifty years ago was now spreading its branches over the civilised world." Again Mr. Pitman was called upon to express his acknowledgments. In the course of his speech he was able to announce that Phonography had been adapted to the Malagasy language, by the Queen's Private Secretary, who reported the speeches of the House of Representatives in Madagascar, and was holding weekly classes for instruction in shorthand. He also alluded to the adaptation of Phonography to Spanish and Dutch, and was sanguine enough to avow his belief that his system would eventually be adapted to all languages, being founded on principles of universal application.

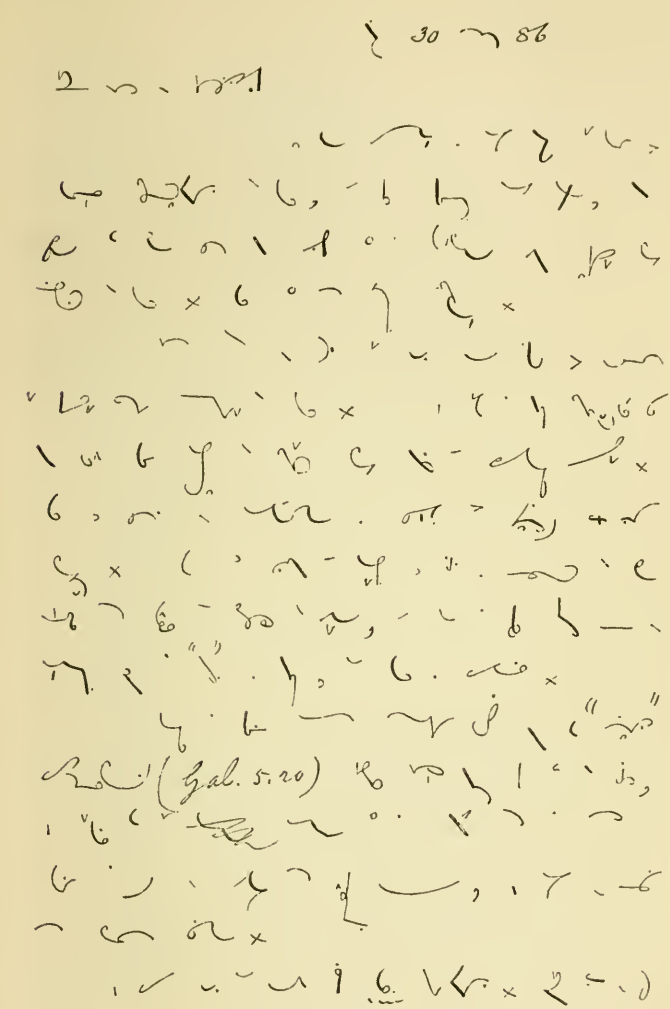
Curiously enough on the very day on which this concluding Jubilee gathering, as it may be called, was held, Mr Pitman and his sons were taking possession of a new Phonetic Institute in Bath, the premises near the Abbey being found inadequate to meet the increasing necessities of the business.



The New Phonetic Institute, Bath.

The building is situated near the Great Western Railway and the Midland Railway Goods Stations, and a mile from the centre of the city. It is a one-storeyed building, giving the maximum of light and the firmest foundation.

Much of the work of the Phonetic Institute is now taken off Mr Pitman's shoulders, but he still carries on an extensive correspondence, edits his weekly journal, and takes a leading part in the issue of the many publications that pass through his press. On small slips of paper, which are always by his side, he writes in Phonography half a dozen letters while most men would be laboring through one. The author has received hundreds of such letters from him, (many of them discussing minutely the details of his system,) which in all probability would never have been written if longhand had been the only available channel of communication. The following letter will be of interest as revealing a noteworthy trait in Mr Pitman's character.



Bath, 30th March, 1886.

Isaac Pitman to Thomas Allen Reed.

You have removed the only objection I felt to the vigorous prosecution of the Jubilee of Phonography, and its advocacy in the *Phonetic Journal*, by suggesting that whatever sum be raised as a thank-offering should be utilized for the extension of Phonography. This has my hearty approval.

I am happy to say I need no addition to the income I derive from the copyright of Phonography. But I think a better appropriation of the funds will be found than the institution of prizes for the best and swiftest writers. This would seem to involve the holding of the championship gold medal for the year. Think what labor and anxiety would attend the examination of several hundreds or thousands of specimens of writing, and after a decision had been come to, nobody would be a "pin" the better, not even the winners.

If it is a defect in my mental constitution to be without "emulation" [or jealousy] one of "the works of the flesh" (*Gal.* 5. 20), I suppose I must bear it with all contentment, but I confess that I never, as a boy or a man, felt a wish to rival or outstrip another, but only to excel my former self.

But we need not now consider this part of the Jubilee. I shall be glad to assist in any way I can, with the Journal at my back. Farewell.

The proceedings of the Congress were published in an 8vo volume of 460 pages, entitled, "Transactions of the First International Shorthand Congress, held in London from September 26th to October 1st, 1887." An Appendix of 48 pages was added giving a Catalogue of 1,451 volumes of shorthand systems, pamphlets and periodicals, etc., on the history, use, and extension of shorthand, in English, French, and German. These volumes were exhibited at St James's Hall Restaurant, Piccadilly. The book was speedily out of print. The proceedings of Wednesday have since been published separately.

Mr Pitman is now (1890) in his 78th year. Rising generally between half-past four and five o'clock, he reads as part of his morning devotion, a portion of Swedenborg's exposition of the Spiritual Sense of the Scriptures, then walks a mile to his office, and arrives there at six o'clock. He continues his labors, with brief intervals for breakfast, lunch and half-an-hour's siesta, until half-past-five. Sometimes he goes out to an evening meeting or a concert. He takes a great interest in all the public movements of the day, especially such as relate to educational and social advancement, but is too much absorbed in his own special sphere of labor to take any prominent part in their promotion. He has often been solicited to join the municipal body; and a pressing invitation was given to him last year, in order that the Town Council might offer him the mayoralty. But he has had no ambition in that direction, and has contented himself with the position of a private citizen.

Speaking in 1848, in Nottingham, he said, "I am now 35 years of age. My father, an eldest son, is 61, and is scarcely past the prime of life; and his father, who is 81, gives promise of a few more years in this world. And I have further to add that when I was seven years of age I attended my great-grandfather's funeral. I hope, then, that through the Divine mercy, I may reach the age of 80, and in the 45 years of this period yet to come I fully expect to see phonetic printing so far established that a return to unphonetic spelling will be impossible." As far as age is concerned he has nearly realised his expectation, and still possesses an amount of mental and bodily vigor which gives ample promise of its complete fulfilment. If in regard to phonetic spelling his anticipations have hardly

been fulfilled, he has lived to see his ideas adopted by the greatest philologists of the age, and may look forward with a well-founded confidence to their general acceptance at no distant period. As a shorthand inventor it would be difficult to imagine a more complete triumph than that which he has achieved, and he still pursues the even tenor of his way. "Mr Pitman's personal character," says the *Echo*, "almost unique in its modest bearing and endeavor, the Franklin-like simplicity of his mode of living, with other cognate traits of character, combine to distinguish him as one of the most remarkable, as he has been one of the most useful, men of his generation."

CHAPTER XII.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF PHONOGRAPHY.

This memoir would be incomplete without a brief statement of the position at present attained by Mr Pitman's system of Phonography, and the extent to which it is taught and practised throughout the country. The object for which Isaac Pitman published his little "Stenographic Soundhand," namely, that every boy in the land should have an opportunity of acquiring the art, has been practically realised. His system of Phonography is to-day universal in English-speaking countries, and such are the changed conditions of society, that not only has every youth a chance of learning shorthand, but he is almost driven by circumstances to learn it. "The invention of Phonography," it has been said, "deserves to rank, and does rank in the minds of those who know its uses, with the great inventions of the nineteenth century, along with the steam engine, the telegraph, the sewing machine, and the telephone. Not indeed so potent in its influences on the welfare of humanity as some of these, it is yet unquestionably one of the greatest mental triumphs which are the principal causes of civilization." To-day, Phonography is virtually doing the shorthand writing and reporting of the English-speaking world, and there is no other stenographic system that can approach it in the extent to which it is taught and used. The last few years, dating perhaps from the celebration of the Phonographic Jubilee

and the International Shorthand Congress, have witnessed the most rapid strides in this direction. Lord Rosebery's opinion as to the absolute necessity of shorthand in the clerical work of the future has been unhesitatingly accepted, and the signs of its acceptance are visible on all hands. Not only is the art extensively taught in the public and private schools of the country, but in every large town, and in many of the smaller ones, colleges and schools have been formed for the express purpose of facilitating its acquisition. From the high-class foundation schools, like Rugby and Malvern, to the humble Board School evening classes, where the teaching is gratuitous, or given at merely nominal fees, there exists a chain of educational institutions which practically places a knowledge of Phonography within the reach of everyone who wishes to acquire it.

Under the new Education Code of 1890, shorthand forms one of the fifteen "Specific Subjects," any two of which can be taken by the scholars in Standards V., VI., VII., in any of the 20,000 Board Schools of Great Britain. A grant is given of 4*s*. per head per annum, and the study is spread over a period of three years. In practice the time is not so long, as most of the scholars leave before the completion of the three years. Grants of 2*s*. per head are also given in Board School evening classes, which are a Continuation scheme of Education for scholars who have left the Board School day classes. The Technical Instruction Act of 1889 provided for instruction in commercial subjects, including shorthand, but very few towns availed themselves of its provisions; and there was no contribution from the Imperial Treasury in aid of local effort. Now, however, grants are given in addition to the local sums expended; and Sheffield, one of the first towns to

avail itself of the provisions of the Act, has included Phonography as a form of instruction required in that district. Shorthand also finds a place as an optional subject in the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations, and though no specific system is prescribed, nearly all the candidates are writers of Phonography. The subject, too, is included in the programme of the Society of Arts, and while the writers of all systems are admitted to these examinations, Phonography is specially recommended to the candidates, and the recommendation is almost universally adopted.

From the most recently compiled statistics it appears that the number of persons receiving professional instruction in Phonography throughout the kingdom in February, 1890, was 37,767, of whom 34,739 were males. These students were taught in 1,260 colleges, schools, institutions, and private classes, by 875 teachers, 111 of whom teach in London. The number being taught for the *whole* of the previous year was 44,730. These figures do not include a very large number of persons who receive instruction gratuitously from the members of the Phonetic Society, or from private friends, or are self-taught; and who, if added to the returns, would raise the total to a much higher figure. A better estimate can be gained of the number of persons actually learning the system from the fact that 150,000 copies of the elementary instruction book, the "Phonographic Teacher," are purchased every year.

An interesting feature in connection with Isaac Pitman's Phonography is the extent and variety of its literature. The instruction books and shorthand reading books number 84; and including all that have been issued from the commencement, many of which are now out of print, the total would exceed 150. Among the works printed entirely in

Phonography may be mentioned the "Bible," (lithographed four times), "Æsop's Fables," "Bacon's Essays," "Blackie's Self-Culture," the "New Testament" and the "Book of Common Prayer" in numerous editions, "Paul Clifford," "Narrative of the Pilgrim's Progress," "Life of Alexander the Great," the "Church Service," the "Ancient Mariner," the poetical works of Cowper, "John Halifax," the "Pickwick Papers," "A Christmas Carol," "Oliver Twist," the "Vicar of Wakefield," "Gray's Elegy," "Tom Brown's Schooldays," the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "Rasselas," "Macaulay's Biographies," "Paradise Lost," "Waverley," "Ivanhoe," "Gulliver's Voyage to Lilliput," "Thankful Blossom" (Bret Harte), and many smaller works. Of the "Phonographic Teacher," one million three hundred and seventy thousand copies have been issued. Large numbers of these books go to the Colonies and to America, and as Mr Pitman has recently established a branch of his publishing business in New York (3 East Fourteenth Street), the probability is, that an increasing number will find their way across the Atlantic. The periodical literature of the system is also considerable. There are two weekly shorthand magazines, (the *Phonetic Journal* having a circulation of 23,000,) and seven monthlies, the latest addition being a phonographic edition of *Tit-Bits*, issued by the publishers of that periodical.

There are 84 Shorthand Associations in the United Kingdom; and there has recently been established in London the "National Phonographic Society," intended to constitute a large central body to promote the culture of Phonography and to raise the status of its practitioners.

With reference to the professional use of shorthand, that is, for reporting purposes, Phonography is practically

the only system in common use. From a census taken not long since among the principal London and provincial papers and news agencies, it appears that of 607 journalistic writers of shorthand 569 (or 93 per cent.) use Phonography. In America the system is used by 97 per cent. of the shorthand writers and reporters, and in Australia by 96 per cent. Among shorthand clerks and amanuenses Pitman's is almost the only method employed, and its use is often made a specific condition of employment. The advantage of a uniformity of method among writers engaged in a common service is, of course, as obvious as that of a uniformity of gauge on lines of railway.

The system has now been before the public for fifty-three years, and it is probably an under-estimate to say that its practitioners in this country, in America, and in the Colonies, number half a million. It is not, of course, suggested that these are, in the ordinary sense of the term, shorthand writers, but a large proportion of them are earning their living, wholly or in part, by the use of Mr Pitman's invention, a competent knowledge of which is one of the most effectual passports to clerical employment and promotion. Many a young barrister, journalist, and litterateur, has been indebted to it, not only as a source of income in his earlier struggles, but as an instrument of training which has largely contributed to his ultimate success. And on these material grounds, scarcely less than on the many others set forth in this volume, the writer claims for his old friend and venerated chief a not inconspicuous position among the benefactors of mankind.

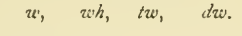
THE GROWTH OF PHONOGRAPHY:

Or, a Compendious Summary of Changes and Improvements in Pitman's Phonography since its Invention to the present time.

By James Singleton.

The First Edition, 1837, differs from the present edition in the following respects,

The letters were arranged in *a*, *b*, *c* order. *R* had only one sign, the upward stroke; which, when standing alone, was commenced with a tick



The straight letters were hooked initially for *l* and *r* as at present; but the other abbreviating principles were gradually introduced into the system, as will appear from what follows.

Second Edition, 1840, was a Penny Plate, published simultaneously with the introduction of the Penny Post, 10th January. In it the alphabet was changed to the present characters, with the exception of *r*, and (.) or *h*. There were no consonant signs for *w* and *y*.

Compound vowels, *ī*, *oi*, *ow*, *u*, *wi*, and *wou*. *we*, *way*, *wah*; *waw*, *wō*, *wōō*; *ye*, *yay*, *yah*; *yaw*, *yō*, *yōō*.

Final hooks for *l* and *r*, as, *cord*, *part*, *pelt*, *resolve*.

Initial hooks for *l* and *r* added to curved letters, as *vl*, *vr*, *nl*, *nr*, *ml*, *mr*; *hr*, *mp*, etc.

The halving principle adding *t* or *d*; with some irregulars, as *tn*, *dn*, *chn*, *jn*, *fn*, *vn*, *kn*, *gn*, *mt*, *md*.

The Third Edition was published in September, 1840; demy 8vo; and on two large sheets, one containing the System, and the other Exercises.

FOURTH Edition, 1841, a sheet of the system, in type and woodcuts.

FIFTH Edition, 1842 ; demy 32mo., pocket edition, roan, 2s., and school edition, paper covers, 3*d.* : people's edition, 8vo., 1*s.* New sign for *r*, in addition to and for *rl*.

SIXTH Edition, 1844, a sheet of the system, introducing the improvements of the seventh edition while the book was being prepared. In this edition the half-length letters were reduced to order, EVERY letter adding *t* or *d* on being halved.

SEVENTH Edition, 1845, *lr* represented by and ; and *rl* by

The final hooks for *r* and *l*, *rp*, *lp*, were changed to *n* and *tion* respectively. The large hook not yet introduced.

Loops for *st* and *str*, which had been introduced in the *Phonographic Journal* for May, 1843, page 49 ; by an allegory, reprinted on page 424 of the *Phonetic Journal* for 1885.

EIGHTH Edition, 1847, introduction of *n* hook before the treble consonants *spr*, *str*, *skr* ; as *inspiration*, *instru(c)tion*, *inscri(p)tion*.

NINTH Edition, 1852, new signs for *w* and *y* ; *y*, *wl*, *wr*, *wm*, *wn*, *mr*, *nr*.

Curved letters made double-length to express the addition of *thr*, *tr* or *dr*.

TENTH Edition, 1857, changed in the vowel scale from *ē*, *ā*, *ah*, to *ah*, *ā*, *ē*.

(downward) *h*.

Hook for *shon* (7th edition *tshon*) now made to represent *f* or *v* ; and *shon* represented by a larger hook.

ELEVENTH Edition, 1862, *w* represented by and ; *y* by and ; and *h* by and

Change in the initial hooks of *thl*, *thr*, *fl*, *fr*, now become and *thr*, and *thl* ; and *fr*, and *fl*. The two signs for *thl*, light and heavy, and the hooked right-hand curve for *fl*, have since been abandoned as useless.

In, prefix, before the upward and downward *h* represented thus, *inhabit*, *inhuman*.

TWELFTH edition, 1868, *wl*, *lr*, *rk*, *rg*.

1869, introduction of the new signs *kw*, *skw*, and ALONE for *w*, *y*.

1873, *wh*; *rch*, *rj*.

1884, further extension of double-length letters, under certain restrictions, to straight characters. See *Phonetic Journal*, 1884, pages 169, 205, 238.

1887, a large initial circle used for *sw*; thus, *swp*, *swk*; and *skw* expressed by

1888, the *rch*, *rj*, double consonant discontinued.

Note.—In the Third and Fourth Editions there were no important changes. The editions, or issues, of 10,000 copies at a time, about twice a year, ceased to have distinguishing numbers after 1868.

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