

**THE SHORTHAND REPORTER. AN
EXPOSITION OF THE ART OF PHONETIC
SHORTHAND WRITING. ESPECIALLY
PREPARED FOR SCHOOLS AND
COLLEGES AND SELF-INSTRUCTION**

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The shorthand reporter. An exposition of the art of phonetic shorthand writing. Especially prepared for schools and colleges and self-instruction by W. E. H. Searcy

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W. E. H. SEARCY, LL.B.

THE
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AN EXPOSITION OF THE ART OF

PHONETIC SHORTHAND WRITING.

ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND
SELF-INSTRUCTION.

By W. E. H. SEARCY, LL.B.,
Official Court Reporter.

"Shorthand, on account of its great and general utility, merits a much higher rank among the arts and sciences than is commonly allotted to it. Its usefulness is not confined to any particular science or profession, but is universal; it is therefore by no means unworthy the attention and study of men of genius and erudition."—
DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

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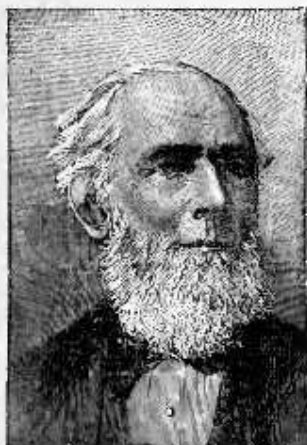
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PREFACE.

PHONOGRAPHY was invented by Isaac Pitman, of Bath, England, in 1837. To him belongs the honor of inventing this useful and beautiful art.



SIR ISAAC PITMAN
(*Inventor of Phonography*).

"Shower on him your sweet-
est flowers,
Let the air resound with his
praise."

Next to Isaac Pitman the phonographers of America are indebted to Benn Pitman, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He came to this country in 1854, bringing with him his brother's invention, and has devoted nearly his whole life to beautifying, improving, and perfecting it.

If we examine the systems of Andrews and Boyle, Andrew J. Graham, Elias Longly, Andrew J. Marsh, James E. Munson, Charles T. Platt, D. L. Scott-Brown, Elden Moran, Isaac S. Dément, and others less prominent, we will find that they all present the Isaac Pitman system of phonography, with such changes and modifications as these respective authors have been pleased to make. We do not underrate the efforts they have made, for they have added valuable improvements and presented systems of great usefulness and merit.

Each system of phonography has its advocates and friends, but to one who has studied all of them, and understands the art fully, they are found to be so

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nearly alike (with the exception of a few improvements) that they may be called simply different styles of the same method of writing. If there was perfection in any human invention, we might well plead for a uniform and permanent system of phonography; but when we can find nowhere perfection in any human creation, it is unreasonable to seek for or expect it in this. Improvements are from time to time made in all the arts, and the spirit of the age demands that we adopt them, and thus ever progress toward the perfect ideal.

But what have we to offer in this system we now present?

1. We present the same old phonography of Isaac Pitman in a new dress, and have rearranged it so that the art can be more easily taught in our commercial colleges, public schools, and literary institutions, and more easily learned without the aid of a teacher. We accomplish this by asking questions to bring out each feature of the art, just as a good teacher would ask them, and then each question is answered just as a good teacher would answer and explain it. There can be no better way to present any subject.

2. There are a few useless principles in phonography, and where found they have been eliminated.

3. We have added such improvements as we have found to be worthy and useful in an experience of over thirty years as a reporter and teacher.

4. We have solved what is called the aspirate problem, by providing a suitable sign for the sound "h." This is the lightest sound in our language, and requires, under the principles of phonetic representation, a simple light sign.

5. We have given a clear exposition of the sounds used in speaking the language, and how to ascertain and note them. This is the very foundation of the art, and is one of the most important details in it. The

failure to master these sounds at the beginning causes many failures, and always results in a defective manner of writing. The effort that is being made to ignore a correct knowledge of the sounds, and hasten the pupil forward to writing by sound without a knowledge of the sounds, cannot be the proper and correct method of teaching the art.

6. We present the subject of shorthand in the most logical form yet presented. The whole subject is comprehended under two distinct heads: First, the student is taught that writing phonographically is writing the sounds of the words of the language with new letters provided for that purpose, and that the combining of these letters into words is just as simple as writing the English words with the letters of the English alphabet. Secondly, when any word can be written phonographically, then the pupil is taught that in order to report verbatim he must learn to contract the phonographic forms. For this purpose a given number of principles of contraction are provided, which, when mastered, lead to the highest possible perfection in writing the art.

7. In teaching to write phonographically, we explain minutely, with full illustrations, each step to be taken, which is a great advantage to one who studies without the aid of a teacher, while those who have a teacher may progress more rapidly and understandingly, and with the least possible labor to the teacher and themselves. This minute explanation of the process of word-building enables the mind to fully perceive and quickly comprehend the phonographic method of writing. Then the progress is rapid and accurate.

8. We provide fuller instruction as to law-reporting than any other system. The author has been an official court reporter for sixteen years, and gives the result of his long experience.

9. The lessons here taught have been given for many

years by mail, and have been mastered without difficulty by students who have never seen the author. The method is preserved in this book, and faithfully followed, which makes it even more useful than if presented in concise and terse language. We have sacrificed everything to simplicity of statement, with the honest and sincere desire to present the subject in such a way as to bring the art within the comprehension of all who have mastered the elementary principles of the English language.

As the author has given the result of his experience in law-reporting, sermon-reporting, in reporting political speeches, and in newspaper work generally, and in teaching, he feels that those who study his book can do so with the assurance that they will find here the best and most approved method of writing phonography—a system not made in the shop and composed of impractical ideas, but one written during many years of practical work with the art.

THE AUTHOR.

GRIFFIN, GA., March 8, 1901.