

# THE PHONETIC JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, DEVOTED TO THE PROPAGATION OF

## Phonetic Shorthand, and Phonetic Reading, Writing and Printing.

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### INTELLIGENCE.

Communications for this Department of the Journal, Notices of Evercirculators, etc., should be written separately from letters, and marked "Journal."

**NARRAGHMORE, co. Kildare, Ireland.** From *M. B. Stedmond*.—Having now been 12 months teaching Phonography to a small class in my school, I beg to report progress. There are 7 in the class, 4 of whom are able to read the Reporting Style in the Journal with ease, and are now learning the "Reporter." The other 3 have just finished the "Manual." We read a portion of the Journal every day.

I have found Mr Silver's "Exercises in Phonography" and "Reporting Exercises" very useful, and I beg to recommend them to teachers and students of Phonography. They make the study of the "Manual" and "Reporter" quite easy and pleasant, and when faithfully written through two or three times ensure a thorough knowledge of Phonography in all its details.

In addition to my school class, I have a very interesting class at the house of the Rev. Mr Twamley, of Ballytore. Four young people are there zealously engaged in acquiring Phonography. They have been induced to learn it by the success of my school class, and if they go on as they have commenced they will make excellent phonographers. There is an objection sometimes raised to learning Phonography, namely, that it injures the spelling. I am in a position now to state, after 12 months' experience, that *this objection is entirely unfounded*. My phonographic pupils are able to spell in the old way quite as well as any of the other children who are not learning Phonography, and have had the same advantages.

**WOLVERHAMPTON.** From *J. Elliott*, Librarian.—Phonetic shorthand will be taught this winter at the Free Library, in connection with our Science and Art classes connected with the Institution.

From *Alexander Marr*, Union works, Aberdeen.—Enclosed I beg to send you my collecting card for the new Phonetic Institute, with P.O.O. for £1 2s. I have had much pleasure in collecting for the building, and I may mention that a friend of mine one day asked for my card to show his employer, (who is not a phonographer,) and he was so much interested that he at once gave 10s., and said he was glad to have an opportunity of encouraging Mr Pitman, who had labored so hard for the good of his fellow-men, and wished him all success in his noble efforts. I do hope you will easily manage to get as much money as you need, and it is the duty of all phonographers to aid you as much as lies in their power. I am glad to see by the *Phonetic Journal* that the building fund is progressing favorably, but I should be glad to see the amount higher. I have no doubt that with patience and perseverance you will not only realise all you need, but much more. I am sorry that I have not managed to get more collected, but hope my mite will be acceptable, and may provide one stone for the building.

NEW SERIES, NO. 37

### ENGLISH.

The following admirable exposition of the means we propose for effecting a Spelling Reform appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* for July. The article is illustrated by the phonetic alphabet in two forms, first as it is presented on page 1 of this Journal, last January, and secondly the "View of the Phonetic Alphabet in various Styles of Writing and Printing." The latter alphabet includes the forms of the letters in Roman, Old English, Italic, Script, and Shorthand. There is also presented a specimen of phonetic printing, from *Luke* 6. 20-45.

English is spoken by 40,000,000 in the United States, by 50,000 in the republic of Liberia, by 31,000,000 British subjects in Europe, by 5,000,000 in America, by 2,000,000 in Australia, and by at least 1,000,000 more scattered over the various British dependencies in Asia and Africa, giving a grand total of 79,050,000.

From this it will be evident that English is at present the most widely spread of the languages of civilisation. But there is another point of importance which has been well put by M. de Candolle (1). Nations vary greatly as to the relative quickness with which they double themselves. He has worked out the problem, and has calculated the number of persons who will speak these languages in a century from now. Let us apply his method to figures of population, which sometimes vary from the estimates he has made, and see what will be the probable number of persons speaking the most important of the European languages at the end of the twentieth century.

In England the population doubles itself in every 56 years; in the New World the Anglo-Saxons double in every 25 years. The Dutch double in 106 years; the Turks in 555 years; the Italians in 135 years; the Swedes in 92 years; the Russians in 100 years; the Spaniards in 112 years; their South-American descendants in 27½ years. This last was Humboldt's computation, and has been adopted here, although it may be doubted if this rate of increase has not been considerably checked by the chronic anarchy to which they are subject. The North German people double in from 50 to 60 years, and the South Germans in 167 years, say 100 years as a mean for the entire race. The French populations take about 140 years in which to double.

We may estimate on this basis that in the year 2000 the most important languages will be spoken by the number of persons as under:—

Italian ... ..	53,370,000
French ... ..	72,571,000
Russian ... ..	130,479,800
German ... ..	137,480,000
Spanish—	
Europe ... ..	36,938,338
S. America ... ..	468,347,904
English—	505,286,242
Europe ... ..	178,846,153
United States and non-	
European British de-	1,658,440,000
pendencies ... ..	
	1,837,286,153

1. "Histoire des Sciences et des Savants depuis deux Siècles, suivie d'autres Etudes," par ALPHONSE DE CANDOLLE, Genève, 1873.